



10. A Place Fit for Gods to Marry

Name your favourite temple. Why is this temple your favourite ?

‘The City of Nectar’ or Madhurapuri is none other than Madurai, the oldest city of Tamil Nadu. There are hundreds of stories about Madurai. It is believed that some venom had fallen on Madurai, from Lord Shiva’s snake. So he put some nectar from his crescent moon to neutralize the poison.

One of the other myths about Madurai is that it is surrounded by a snake with its tail in its mouth. When someone comes to attack Madurai, the snake changes them into stone.

Mention two myths about Madurai.

The melodious sound of Madurai, the sweet-smelling jasmine strands, the windy entrances to huge temples, the politeness of the people - all these make Madurai a city of sweetness and nectar.

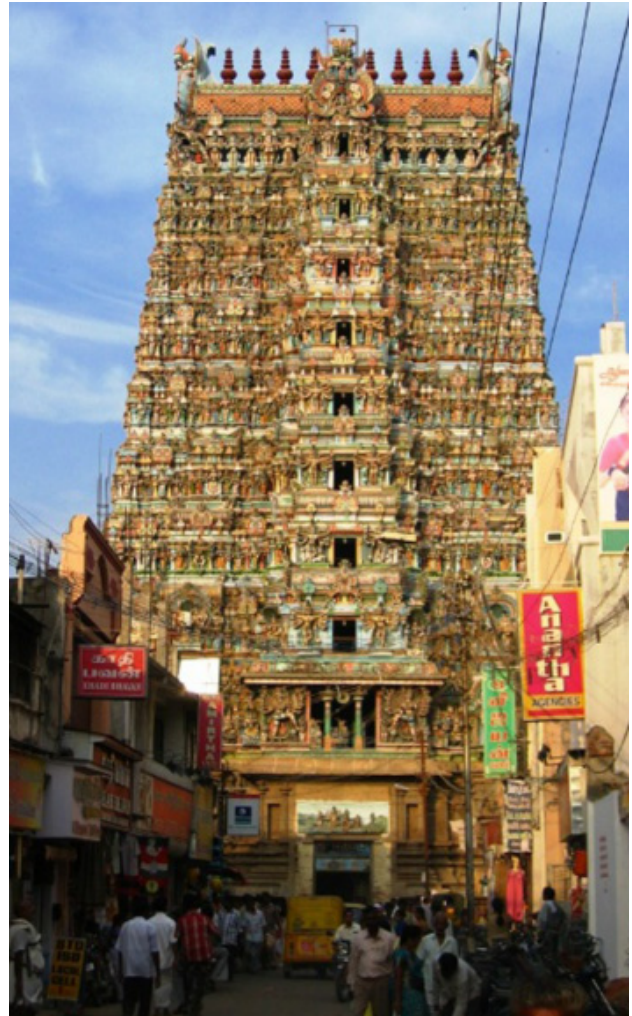
And it is in this ancient town that Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswara decided to marry. The wedding festival of the two is celebrated in the month of Chaitra (April-May) for twelve days. Huge royal umbrellas, fans, pipers, drummers, large lights, jewellery, silk, elephants are all summoned for this grand wedding ceremony.

Idols of some of the Gods from nearby temples are also brought to attend this wedding. Following the wedding, Idols of Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswara are taken out. Meenakshi is taken out in a palanquin while Lord Sundareswara is taken on a silver elephant.

The Meenakshi temple has a magnificent structure. It is filled with wonderful sculptures. There are dance halls and a thousand pillar-mandapam with musical pillars.

What do you like about madurai ?

A visit to Madurai would take you to the times of kings, queens, legends, festivity, thundering drums, chariots and nadaswaras and splendid temples. Madurai is indeed a place fit for Gods to marry.



Writers' group

Word Meanings

nectar	<i>amrit</i>
neutralize	not allow something to happen (to make something ineffective)
crescent	curved shape of the moon
poison	substance causing illness or death
melody	music
strand	flower-string to wear on hair
entrance	gate, door
myth	very old story (<i>Pauranik Gatha</i>)
turn	change
surround	to be on every side
idol	statue
palanquin	<i>palaki</i>
magnificent	wonderful
pillar	<i>stambh</i>
festivity	activities of festival
chariot	<i>rath</i>
nadaswara	a musical note of a musical instrument
splendour	beauty
venom	poison

Reading Comprehension**A. Answer the following questions:**

1. What was Madurai earlier known as?
2. Why is Madurai called the city of nectar?
3. Why did Shiva put nectar on Madurai?
4. How many legends about Madurai have you read in the lesson?
5. Which of the legends about Madurai do you find the most interesting? Why?
6. What do you like most about Madurai?

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. After the wedding Meenakshi is taken on a -----.
2. Lord Sundareshwara is carried on a -----.
3. Goddess Meenakshi's husband is -----.
4. The people of Madurai speak ----- language.
5. Madurai is in ----- state.
6. The moon on Shiva's head is ----- shaped.

Vocabulary

A. Given below are words followed by four meanings. Tick the meaning used in the text:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. melodious | (a) sad | (b) musical |
| | (c) merry | (d) happy |
| 2. neutralize | (a) to be filled with nectar | (b) to make something harmless |
| | (c) finish the value | (d) to make something look beautiful |
| 3. venom | (a) poison | (b) blessing |
| | (c) money | (d) honey |
| 4. nectar | (a) beauty | (b) bright light from heaven |
| | (c) poison | (d) drink of Gods |
| 5. attack | (a) to harm some one | (b) to argue with some one |
| | (c) to be friendly with some one | (d) to be angry with some one |
| 6. ancient | (a) attractive | (b) huge |
| | (c) new | (d) old |
| 7. summon | (a) tell someone to come | (b) tell someone to salute |
| | (c) tell someone to speak | (d) tell someone to sum up |
| 8. magnificent | (a) grand | (b) interesting |
| | (c) ordinary | (d) bright |
| 9. sculpture | (a) statue | (b) tombs |
| | (c) design | (d) pillars |

B. Pick out adjectives from the text and change them to nouns by adding ‘-ness’:

C. Match the adjectives in ‘A’ with their opposites in ‘B’:



A
polite
sweet
bright
neat
white
ugly

B
beautiful
rude
dull
bitter
dirty
black

Grammar

Study the price tags carefully and ask each other the following questions and answer them as in the example:

Work in pairs.

Example: Which item is cheaper than the chess-board?

Answer: A Ludo is cheaper than the chess-board.

Pictures:



1. Which item is the cheapest ?
2. Which is the costliest item?
3. Which items are cheaper than the bat?
4. Which items are as costly as the racquet?



Writing

A. Create an imaginary City. Write a proper noun next to each common noun:

city	-----
famous building	-----
river	-----
park	-----
mountain	-----
temple	-----

B. Use the words given in the box to describe the city you have created:

You can add more words.

big / small
famous
beautiful
tallest
magnificent
old
highest.

Begin your sentences as given.

The name of the city is -----.

It has a ----- .

Activity:

1. Listen to the announcement and complete the chart.
See Appendix-1 Lesson-10

Madai Mela Programme

Date	Name of Programme	Time	Group which will Perform

2. Tick the right option:

(i) Visitors at the mela should use dustbins for :

(a) keeping the venue neat (b) throwing the waste

(c) (a) and (b) (d) only (a)

(ii) The vehicles should be parked at the:

(a) parking street (b) shed

(c) parking space (d) outside the mela ground

B. Work in pairs:

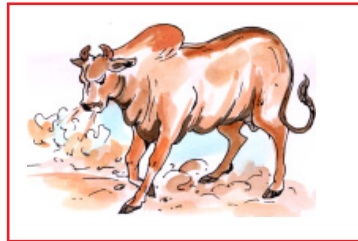
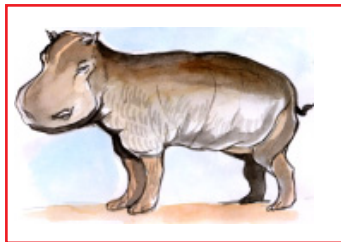
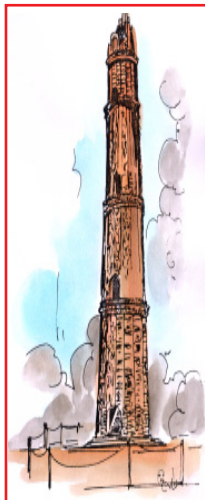
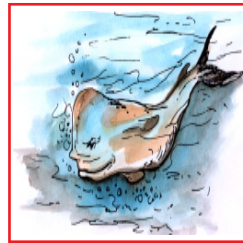
See the following pictures. Choose your words from the table given below to describe the pictures:

beautiful	tall	strange	angry	huge	nice	sweet
horrible	wonderful					

Example: How beautiful it is !

or

What a beautiful flower it is !



Project

Make a list of old temples and tourist places of your area and collect their pictures.

