

Grade 7

Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple
History and significance

Teacher's handbook



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Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple - History and significance

Students		Time duration	
Grade	: 7	Classes required	: 03
Class Strength	: 30 - 35	Class duration	: 35 min
		Field trip	: 04 hours

1. Objectives

Students should be able to –

- Identify the salient features of the temple
- Position the temple on the time-line of history of Kerala
- Describe the social and cultural significance of the temple
- Explain influence of the temple on the community in socio-cultural aspects
- Separate facts from fiction

2. Procedure

Class 1

Time duration		Materials required
Introduction	: 05 min	Student handout - Activity 1
History and origin	: 15 min	
Salient features	: 15 min	

Introduce the temple to students through the [story](#) as narrated in the Ananthasayana Mahatmya. Describe the [history](#) of the temple and its salient [features](#). Briefly discuss about the changes that the temple brought in [social](#) and [cultural](#) domains in and around Thiruvananthapuram. Ask the students to work on the Activity 1 at home and bring it for discussion the next day. Towards the end of the class, announce the half-day field trip for the next day, details of which should be explained only at the site of the trip.

Key points to emphasize

- Where the temple is positioned in the time-line of [history of Thiruvananthapuram](#)
- Influence of the temple on the community - festivals, rituals and belief
- [Temple Entry Proclamation Act](#) and why it is considered to be a milestone in history

Possible questions to ask

- What was Thiruvananthapuram earlier known as? Why?
- Who ruled Southern Kerala during the late 17th century and what is their connection with the temple?
- What was the need for Temple Entry Proclamation Act?
- Did the presence of the temple had a role in bringing up the culture in the locality? How?

Class 2 - Field trip

Time duration		Materials required
Task 1	: 60 min	Student handout - Activity 2
Task 2	: 60 min	
Break	: 30 min	
Task 3	: 90 min	

At the site, divide the class into group of 4 or 5 students.

Task 1

Ask them to fill the Activity 2 in group by spotting the [points of interests](#) in and around the temple that they remember from class 1, within one hour. Instruct them to come back to the assembly point decided.

Task 2

During the next 60 minutes, each group would guide the rest of the class to their findings and explain what more details they got from the site. Initiate and lead brief discussions on each point of interest about their distinguishing features and why they should be preserved.

Task 3

For the last 90 minutes, ask the students to mingle with the temple authorities and local residents to find out

- Temple's role in the development of surrounding areas socially and economically
- The cultural significance of the temple
- The attitude of the local residents towards the temple before and after the whole series of treasure revealing events
- Socio-economical changes that have been witnessed by the local residents and temple authorities throughout the years

At the end of the trip, ask the students to comprehend what they have done during the day and try to get an understanding of the current affairs regarding the temple.

Key points to emphasize

- How the Temple Entry proclamation act brought change
- How festivals, vedic and music classes organized by the temple affect the culture of the community
- The treasure unearthed in the temple and the story surrounding it and the variety of opinions regarding them

Class 3

Time duration		Materials required
Discussions	: 35 min	Student handout - Activity 1 Student handout - Activity 2

Initiate and lead a discussion on

- Why the temple is important in the history of Kerala
- Significance of the temple in social, cultural and economical aspects
- Current affairs - perspective of the students towards the whole event
- Stories and myths

3. Assessment

Critical evaluation of the activity sheets to ensure that the learning objectives are met. Level of participation in individual and group activities to gauge the ability of the student to comprehend, analyse and articulate the information they received throughout the lesson.

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Student's handout



Activity 1

Name

1. Find out more about Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple

- Watch five episodes of [video documentary](#) on Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple
- Architecture and [salient features](#) of the temple
- Ask your parents or relatives about stories related to the temple and their experiences if they had any
- [Archive](#) of history of Travancore
- [Temple Entry Proclamation Act](#)
- A [thread](#) on current affairs

2. Try to answer the following

1. Why do you think that Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple has a significant role in history of Thiruvananthapuram?

2. Did the temple brought any social, cultural, economic change in the community? If yes, explain how.

3. What is Temple Entry Proclamation act? What are your views on it?

Activity 2

Name

1. Identify and gather details on the following structures in and around the temple locality

You can ask anyone to help you out in this activity.

- Spot a lamp similar to the picture given below



What kind of lamp is it?

How old do you think it is?

- Locate the clock in the picture given below



What is the clock known as?

What mechanism does the clock use?

What stories do the residents have to say about the clock?

[Here](#) is an online simulation of the clock by CDIT

- *What is the speciality of the main idol?*

- *Where is Ottakkal Mandapam and what is its distinguishing feature?*

- *How many entrances are there for the temple? What do they indicate?*

Activity 2

Name

- *Where is Kulasekhara Mandapam? What is it known for?*

- *What makes Sreebalippura distinct?*

- *Where is the Gopuram situated? What does it signify?*

2. Talk to the temple authorities and local residents to try and answer the following

- *What are the social and economic changes that happened in the surrounding areas across time because of the temple?*

- *What is the attitude of the people towards the temple after the discovery of the treasure?*