

**BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION
4TH ONE-PAGE COMPETITION, 2025
ENTRY APPLICATION FORM**

Name: Senula Ransith Udukumbura

Name as you want it to appear on your certificate (if different from above):

S.R. Udukumbura

City and country of residence: Kurunegala, Sri Lanka

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Age, if 17 or under: 13 years

Please include proof of age as a separate file

Exhibit title

1st exhibit:

Mysterious Rock Fortress- Sigiriya - Sri Lanka

2nd exhibit*:

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**Please note 2nd entries may not be accepted if more than 100 exhibits are received.*

How did you hear about this competition?

There is a philatelic society in our school. Our MIC

encourages us to prepare this exhibit

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Send exhibit and entry form to competitions@britishthematic.org.uk This form can be downloaded and completed electronically or printed out, completed by hand, and scanned.

Mysterious Rock fortress – Sigiriya -Sri Lanka



Upper palace

1. Introduction -Sigiriya well known as the Lion rock is a **UNESCO** world heritage site located in the central Matale district in Sri Lanka rising nearly 350m from sea level. This iconic rock fortress and palace is the testament to Sri Lanka is rich history, architectural ingenuity and artistic brilliance.

2. Historical Background – Sigiriya dates backs to the 5th century, king Kashyapa was the first ruler of it and ruled form 477 to 495 Century. Prince Kashyapa killed his father king Dathusena for the crown. Then kashyapa built this fortress to save his royal residence and protect himself from his brother Moggallana, Who sought to reclaim the throne. After Kashyapa's defeat fortress was abandoned and late used as a Buddhist monastery. In 1932 it was discovered by major Johnathan Fobis (British army officer) and Mr.H.C.P Bell Carried out further archeological affairs. Mr.Senarth Paranawithana who was the first archeological commissioner did an immense service to develop the Sigiriya.

3. Cultural and Historical Significance – Sigiriya is not just and architectural wonder. It is a symbol of Sri Lanka's cultural and historical richness. It reflects ancient traditions of urban planning, art and engineering.



4. Marvelous architecture – The design and construction of Sigiriya shows advanced engineering skills of that time. It is divided into two main sections as lower palace and garden at the base of the rock and the upper palace located on the Summit.

- Water gardens – Lower palace consists of symmetrical water gardens with pools. Fountains and terraces which show marvelous hydraulics in that era.
- Lion gate - Entrance to the upper place marked by the lion gate with two massive lion paws which gave Sigiriya its name.
- Summit palace -Top of the rock now we can see the remains of royal palace include foundations, cisterns and viewing platforms offering panoramic views of the country side.



5. Artistic Brilliance

Sigiriya frescoes are very famous all over the world painted on a sheltered rock face. They depict celestial maidens referred to as Sigiriya "Damsels". Another significant feature is the mirror wall, a polished surface covered with ancient inscriptions and poems written by visitors thousand years back.



How Sigiriya Stands with other icons in the world.

6. Modern day Significant

Now a day Sigiriya has become a most attractive Place for the travelers from around the globe. Climbing Sigiriya is a rewarding experience with stunning views and an opportunity to appreciate a master piece of human creativity.

It stands as a timeless symbol of Sri Lanka. It becomes as a must – visit destination for anyone exploring the island. So we should protect it for our future generation.



Lion gate



Priceless Sigiriya frescoes.