

# Secrets of the Heartlands

Join the Lion City Adventuring Club and take a journey back in time to see how the fascinating heartlands of Singapore have evolved.

Each chapter contains a history of the neighbourhood, information about remarkable people and events, colourful illustrations, and a fun activity. You'll also get to tackle story puzzles and help solve an exciting mystery along the way.

This is a sequel to the popular children's book, Lion City Adventures.

## THE 8 NEIGHBOURHOODS FEATURED

Toa Payoh	Yishun	Queenstown	Tiong Bahru
Kampong Bahru	Jalan Kayu	Marine Parade	Punggol



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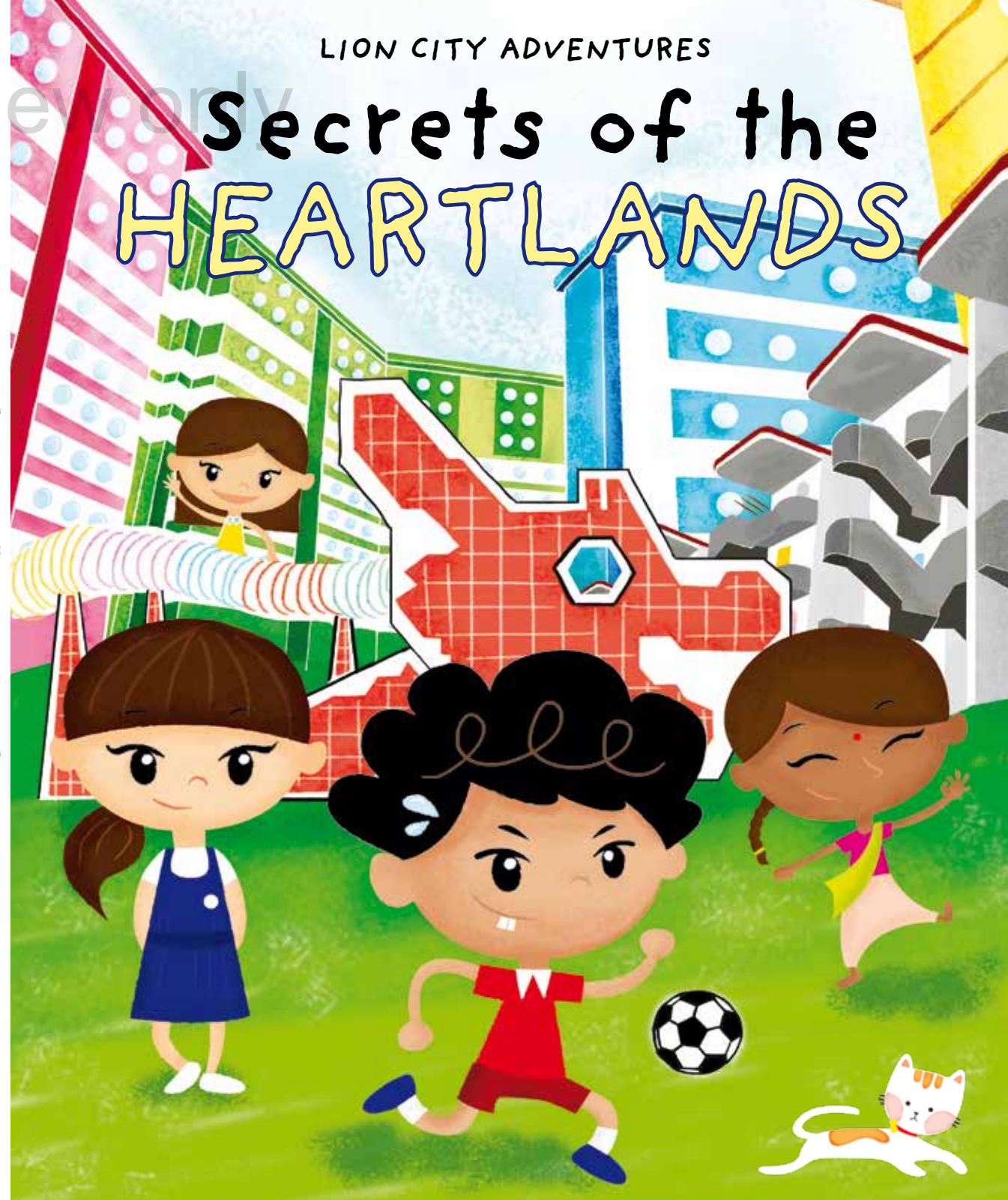
SECRETS OF THE HEARTLANDS

Marshall Cavendish Editions

DON BOSCO

LION CITY ADVENTURES

# Secrets of the HEARTLANDS



DON BOSCO

ILLUSTRATED  
BY SHARON LEI

For Review only

# LION CITY Adventures

DON BOSCO

ILLUSTRATED BY  
VISHNU N RAJAN



# For Review only

Now clap your hands and repeat this loudly:

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YOU,

\_\_\_\_\_,  
(write your name here)

are hereby invited to join the  
Lion City Adventuring Club

on a delightful adventure  
filled with fun and mystery

as we make our way all around Singapore  
and get to know the place much better.

Along the way, you will be invited  
to scribble, doodle and solve some mysteries.

If you enjoy yourself and  
complete your activities,  
there will be a special certificate  
waiting for you at the end.

And I will not stop until I am done!

I will enjoy myself, come rain or sun!

North, south, east and west! I am happy to do my best!



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## Map of Singapore



**Hello, young adventurer.  
Welcome to Singapore!**

THIS is a beautiful island with lots of fun things to do. And yummy stuff to eat. And nice people to make friends with. You will have an exciting time!

We, proud members of the Lion City Adventuring Club (LCAC), have put together this book just for you. We have picked some cool places for you to visit. And also prepared some activities for you to tackle.

When you are exploring each location, take your time and make sure you try all the delicious food that might be available there.

And then, once you are ready, think carefully about each activity and give it your best shot.

**Remember: nothing is what it might seem at first,  
and everything can be solved with some clever brain work.**



# A BIT OF HISTORY

BEFORE you set off, we must share with you the great legend of how Singapore came to be.

About 700 years ago, this island was known as Temasek. There were just a few small fishing villages on it.

One day, a prince from a nearby kingdom heard some stories about this place. His name was Sang Nila Utama, and he had a very cool nickname, The Lord of the Three Worlds. He was so curious that he decided to sail over with his men. They looked forward to a merry day of exploring and hunting. There were no supermarkets or restaurants back then, so the prince and his men had to catch their own food or they would be very hungry.

Anyway, this prince was near the Singapore River, when he suddenly saw a strange beast. It was mostly orange, with dark hair all around its head. The beast stared back at the prince. Then it turned around and ran off in the blink of an eye.

The prince asked his friends, “What on earth was this bold and majestic creature?”

There were many wise men in his group. They thought long and hard, sitting around and chatting as they had their meal. Finally, they decided that the animal was a lion.

A lion! The prince was happy beyond his wildest dream. In those days, people believed that lions only appeared to those who were destined to be great rulers.

Sang Nila Utama decided to make his home on this island. He felt it needed a new name. Most of the great cities around here back then were named in Sanskrit, a beautiful language from India. Sang Nila Utama put together the Sanskrit words for lion (“singa”) and city (“pura”), and called this place Singapura, or the Kingdom of Singapore.

**Sang Nila Utama ruled his new kingdom for almost 50 years, and very quickly it grew bigger and bigger.**



# Land of Mystery

THIS is a great and inspiring tale indeed. However, in more recent times, some experts have found fault with it.

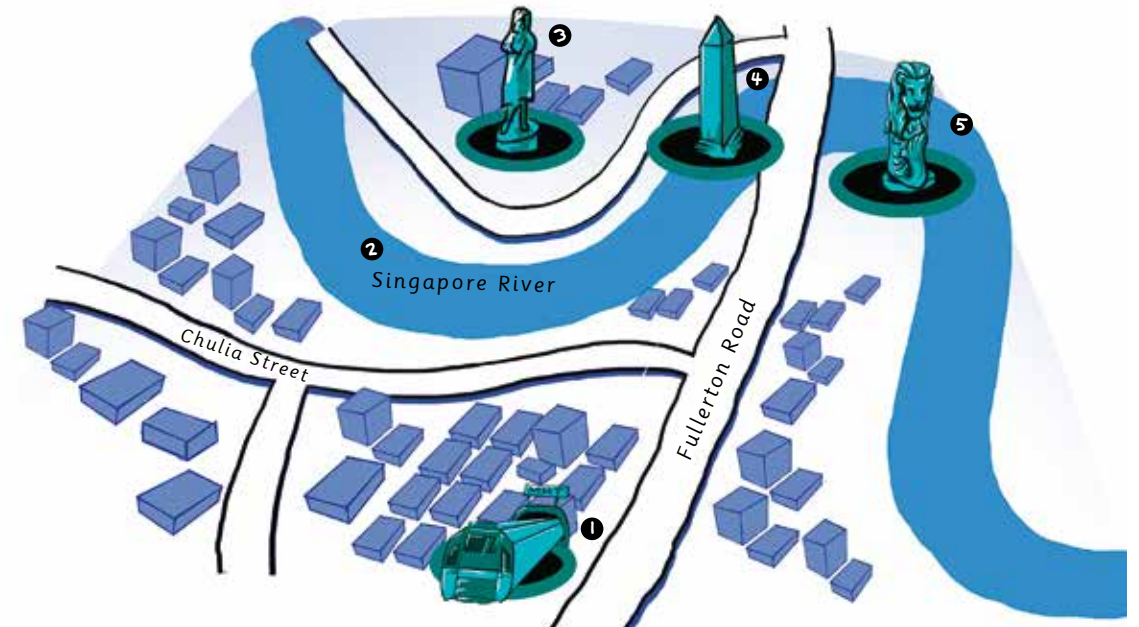
According to them, it was unlikely that there were any wild lions in this part of the world. And Sang Nila Utama could not have seen a tiger either. Tigers were common, and he would surely have recognised one immediately.

So what actually happened back then? What did Sang Nila Utama really encounter? What on earth was that mystery animal? We will never know. But that does not change the important message of the story: that Singapore welcomes new adventurers, and it will enchant you beyond your wildest dreams!

*The time has come, my adventuring friend,  
to go forth and explore  
the myths, the mysteries and miraculous marvels  
all over Singapore!*



# Let's explore: SINGAPORE RIVER



## FIND YOUR WAY AROUND

### 1. Raffles Place MRT Station

There are underground exits from the station to all the buildings nearby.

### 2. Singapore River

If anyone ever asks you how long this river is, the answer is 3.2 km.

### 3. Statue of Sir Stamford Raffles

The statue marks the spot where Raffles landed on his first visit here, on the 29th of January 1819.

### 4. Dalhousie Obelisk

This lovely monument was put up in 1850 when the Marquis of Dalhousie and his wife visited Singapore. As the Governor-General of India then, he was the person in charge of Singapore.

### 5. Merlion Park

Take photos with Singapore's most popular Merlion statue here.

# SINGAPORE RIVER

## Where it all started

This is where the legend started,  
and the prince's dream came true.  
If you're young, and you believe enough,  
you might find your dream here too!

WELCOME to the Singapore River! This is where Sang Nila Utama landed. For many centuries since then, this river has been a busy trading area. Singapore is naturally protected by many islands along its southern waters. This was therefore a place where ships could stop and be safe from the rough winds and powerful tides.

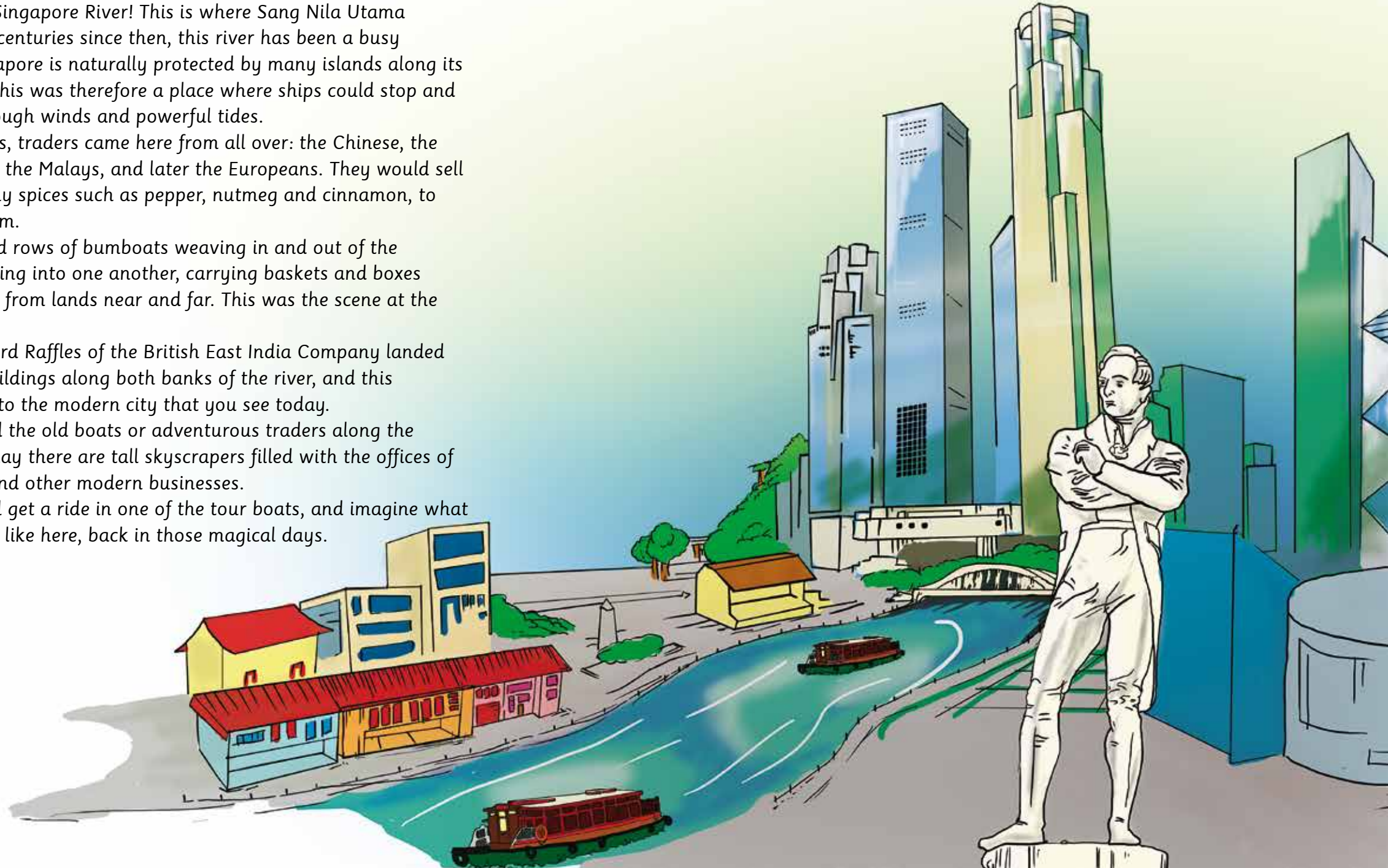
In the early days, traders came here from all over: the Chinese, the Indians, the Arabs, the Malays, and later the Europeans. They would sell their goods and buy spices such as pepper, nutmeg and cinnamon, to take back with them.

Picture rows and rows of bumboats weaving in and out of the river mouth, bumping into one another, carrying baskets and boxes of exciting goodies from lands near and far. This was the scene at the Singapore River!

In 1819, Stamford Raffles of the British East India Company landed here. He put up buildings along both banks of the river, and this eventually grew into the modern city that you see today.

You will not find the old boats or adventurous traders along the river anymore. Today there are tall skyscrapers filled with the offices of banks, law firms and other modern businesses.

But you can still get a ride in one of the tour boats, and imagine what it might have been like here, back in those magical days.

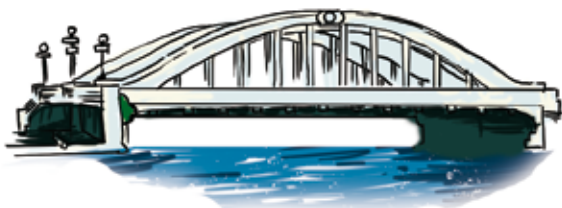


## INSTANT EXPERT

Share these facts with your friends and family!

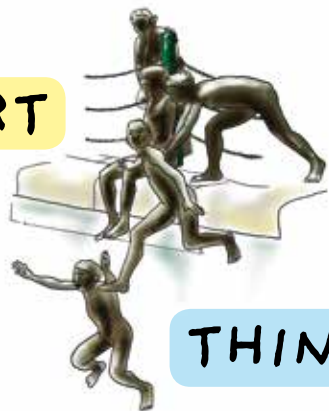
### Bridges

There are nine bridges across the Singapore River. They are the Esplanade Bridge, Anderson Bridge (shown below), Cavenagh Bridge, Elgin Bridge, Coleman Bridge, Read Bridge, Ord Bridge, Clemenceau Bridge, and Kim Seng Bridge.



### Legend

In 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles found a big stone at the mouth of the Singapore River. It was covered in an ancient writing which nobody could understand. This became known as the Singapore Stone. It was blown up in 1843 but parts of it were saved and can be seen at the National Museum of Singapore.



## THINGS TO DO

- Take photos with public sculptures such as First Generation by Chan Fah Cheong. The sculpture is located outside the Fullerton Hotel. It shows boys jumping into the Singapore River.
- Some old bumboats have been turned into river taxis. You can ride in one of them and explore the river.

## LEARN TO SAY

### Tongkang (tong-kang)

This is a small boat used to ferry people and goods along the river.

### Quay (key)

A quay is an area where boats can load and unload their cargo. In the past, this was the main activity at Boat Quay and Clarke Quay.

### Padang (pah-dung)

This is the Malay word for "field". The Padang is the field in front of the National Gallery where cricket, rugby and other sports are played.



## JOURNAL



What I did here:

I learnt something new:

Best thing I ate or drank:



# The Adventurers' First Outing

SOME members of the Lion City Adventuring Club had gathered on a Saturday morning. Cynthia, who was one of the older ones there, stood up excitedly.

**“Big news, everyone. We found an old report written by our founder Jayathri!”**

“Someone at the university found the report in their archives and sent it to us,” Cynthia explained. “Jayathri wrote about their first group outing. We now know the names of the members who were present, and what they ate for their afternoon snack.”

“That’s great. Why don’t we organise a trip to the same spot? It will be fun. And we can provide the same snacks too,” said Thomas.

Cynthia sighed. She shook her head. “There’s one problem. In Jayathri’s report, she did not reveal where they went. Instead, she left a short riddle.” Cynthia had brought along a copy of this riddle. She passed it to Cheng Choon, who was sitting next to her.

“I know you’re an expert on the history of Singapore,” she said to him. “Can you help us figure out the riddle?”

Cheng Choon read the riddle out loud for everyone: “We keep our money in buildings, but where do fish keep their wealth?”

He closed his eyes and thought for a bit. He was stumped. But he could sense that everyone was counting on him. At last he said, with some hesitation, “The riddle seems to be about a bank. And there’s only one that I can think of. Maybe Jayathri brought them to the General Post Office Building. It was built in 1877 by the British Colonial Government, and it also offered banking services.”

Cynthia scratched her chin. She was not convinced. “Yes, that would have been quite an educational trip. But I suspect that Jayathri would have preferred to go somewhere more exciting.”

Thomas, ever the eager one, got up from his seat and hurried over. He stood next to Cheng Choon and peered at the riddle. There was a sudden smile on his face, just before he cried out. “Wait, I know exactly where they went and it would have been a terrific place to explore!”

**What is the answer? Where do you think Jayathri took the members of the Lion City Adventuring Club?**

*Answer found on next page*



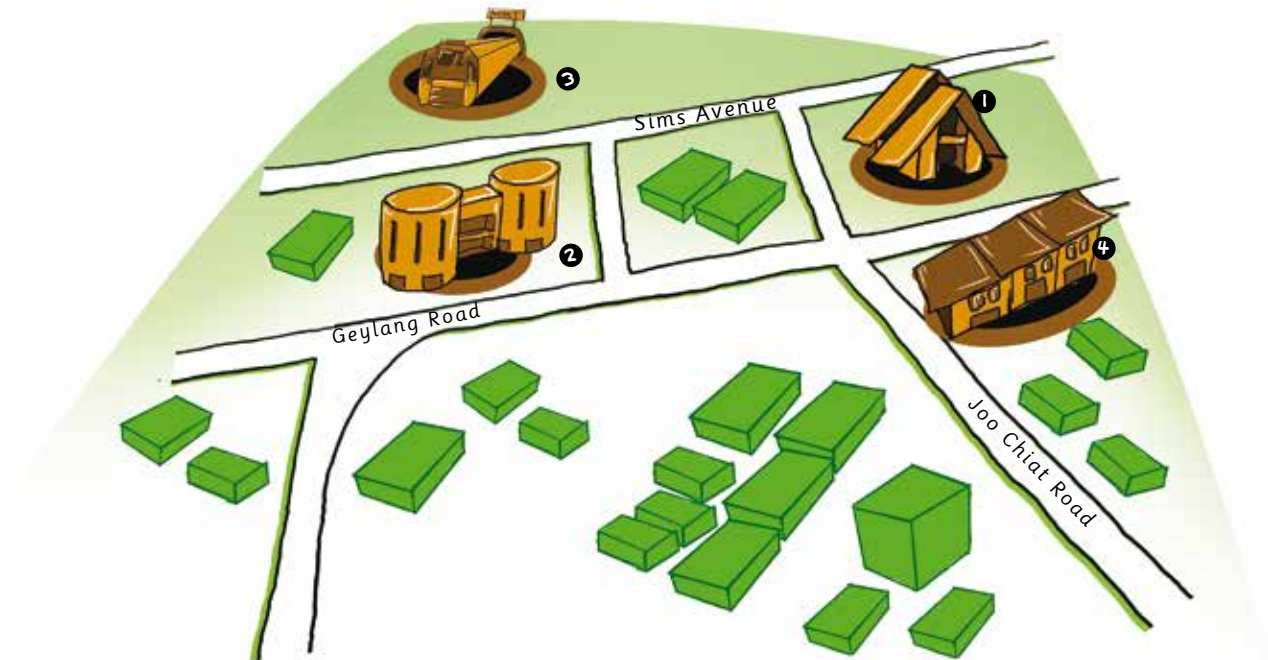
## SKETCHBOOK

See something interesting? Sketch it here.  
You can also stick any cool stuff or photos.

For review only

## CHAPTER 2

# Let's explore: GEYLANG SERAI



## FIND YOUR WAY AROUND

### 1. Geylang Serai Market

You can buy fresh spices and enjoy tasty Malay food here.

### 2. Tanjong Katong Complex

A neighbourhood mall with shops selling charming and unusual items.

### 3. Paya Lebar MRT station

A convenient way to get here!

### 4. Joo Chiat Road

This area has many old shophouses, and it feels like you have stepped back in time. Joo Chiat is also known for having good places to eat, especially if you like Peranakan food, which is a mix of Chinese and Malay cooking.

# GEYLANG SERAI

## The oldest Malay village

THERE have been Malay villages all over Singapore for a long time, and Geylang Serai is possibly one of the oldest.

The first Malay settlers here built their homes along the banks of the Geylang River. The Orang Laut people, or sea nomads, also made their homes near the mouth of this river.

For a long time, this was a famous trading destination for Malays from all around the region. Sometime in the mid-1800s, the Alsagoff family started growing lemongrass here on a large scale. These Arabs were very successful in creating a thriving business. Lemongrass was valuable because it could be used to make many things smell better, especially oil, soap and medicine. Lemongrass is called “serai” in Malay, and that’s how this area came to be called Geylang Serai.

The Orang Laut huts are gone,  
and you’ll find no lemongrass farms.  
But Geylang Serai still delights us all  
with its friendly, cosy charms!

