

# TEACHER'S GUIDE



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| <b>Suggested Level</b>               | Secondary 1-2 (7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade)   |
| <b>Length</b>                        | Approximately 55 minutes (1 period)  |
| <b>Subjects</b>                      | English, language of instruction   |
| <b>Broad Areas of Learning</b>       | Environmental awareness and consumer rights and responsibilities   |
| <b>Focuses of Development</b>        | Construction of a viable environment based on sustainable development  |
| <b>Educational Aim</b>               | To enhance students' awareness of the importance of international development projects and the impacts they might have on the populations of developing countries. |
| <b>Subject-Specific Competencies</b> | To read and listen to literary, popular and information-based texts  |
| <b>Cross-Curricular Competencies</b> | To use information<br>To exercise critical judgement.  |



## Background Information

Sri Lanka is an island located in the middle of the Indian Ocean, 50 km away from the southern most part of India, in Asia. Whereas in Canada about 80% of the population lives in cities, in Sri Lanka, slightly more than 80% of the people live in rural areas, far from big urban centers and public services.



## Instructions

The students are invited to read the text and then to answer various questions evaluating their depth of understanding.



## Answers to the Questions

1. Chandrawathi probably tried to use as little fire wood as possible in order to make the reserves last as long as possible. In this way, the frequency of the wood gathering trips is reduced and more time can be dedicated to other tasks.
2. To the family business of producing sour milk, and to the vegetable garden.
3. According to me, the solar oven is a necessity item. Without it, one of the following two imperatives is compromised: either Chandrawathi's ability to properly feed her children or her ability to generate sufficient revenues from the family business. In addition, the text indicates that fire wood has become harder to find. It can therefore be inferred that eventually rural families will no longer be able to rely on it for energy. If this was to occur, it would become nearly impossible to prepare balanced meals and the population's health would deteriorate.
4. Two of the following elements: the smoke produced by the combustion of wood, deforestation, cultivation of rice, raising of cattle.
5. The expression is referring to one's necessity to produce food for personal consumption. In rural areas, traveling within a reasonable amount of time to a market where food is sold is much harder, if not impossible. In Sri Lanka self-sufficiency is achieved through family farming. In more general terms however, to be self-sufficient implies the absence of any sort of dependence, at any level: with respect to food, energy, services, etc.
6. Two of the following elements: electricity, electrical appliances, anything requiring electricity to operate, grocery stores (as we know them), etc.

7. To the small local entrepreneurs who are now able to sell the solar ovens that they fabricate themselves, and hence generate additional revenues.

8. The expression means that in order to provide for one's own essential needs for food, clothing, lodging, etc. a larger amount of money must be spent during each subsequent month or year. Self-sufficiency allows a person or family to avoid spending money in order to fulfill some of the basic needs, and hence it contributes to reducing the cost of living for families living in rural Sri Lanka.

9. **Student's personal answer.** For most of us, everything is easily accessible and very simple gestures allow us to heat our homes, find our food, and cook it. We often tend to forget that all of these services and products which greatly simplify our daily life cannot be taken for granted as they come from very precious natural resources which will very quickly disappear or be contaminated if not managed very carefully. Every hot bath or shower consumes a little bit of our limited energy and water reserves; all of these products we use every day – pencils, plates, paper, computers, tables, chairs, etc. – come from primary materials extracted from the land and oceans of our planet. Typically speaking, our life style contains very few elements of self-sufficiency, which makes us, at different levels, dependant on the society in which we live.

▶▶▶ To learn more about the subject, you may wish to consult the following sources and propose them to your students:

To learn how to build a solar oven: [www.re-energy.ca/t-i\\_solarheatbuild-1.shtml](http://www.re-energy.ca/t-i_solarheatbuild-1.shtml)

In-Terre-Actif Network : [www.in-terre-actif.com/english/show.php?id=2722](http://www.in-terre-actif.com/english/show.php?id=2722)

Canadian International Development Association : [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca)



AN INITIATIVE OF THE  
In-Terre-Actif Network of the Comité de Solidarité/Trois-Rivières



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