



Our Cultural Heritage

Me and Myself

My Day

Today I feel

because

I am glad that

For the teacher: Ask the students to write briefly how they feel on this day and why. Ask them to think of something they are glad about, even if they do not feel happy, and write about it.

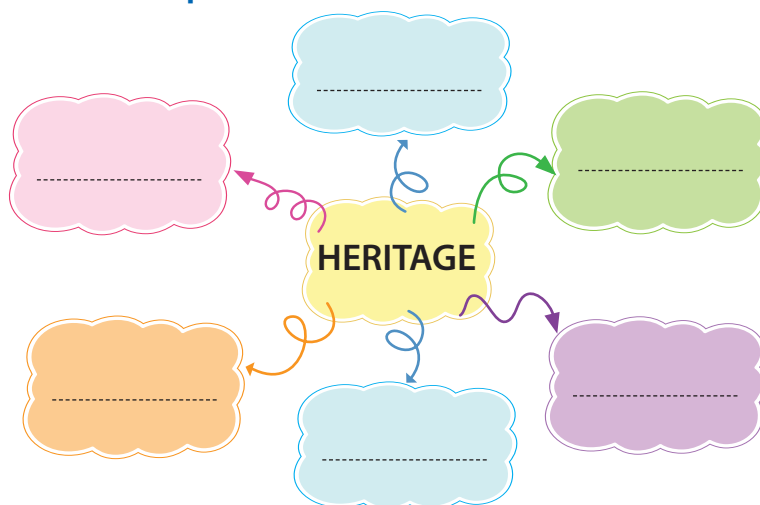


Warm up



What comes to your mind when you hear the word 'heritage'? What are the different things that make up a country's cultural heritage?

Discuss in class and complete this cluster.





Read and understand

Five more Indian languages get classical status

4 October 2024. Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit and Assamese have been added to the list of classical Indian languages, taking the number of such languages to 11.

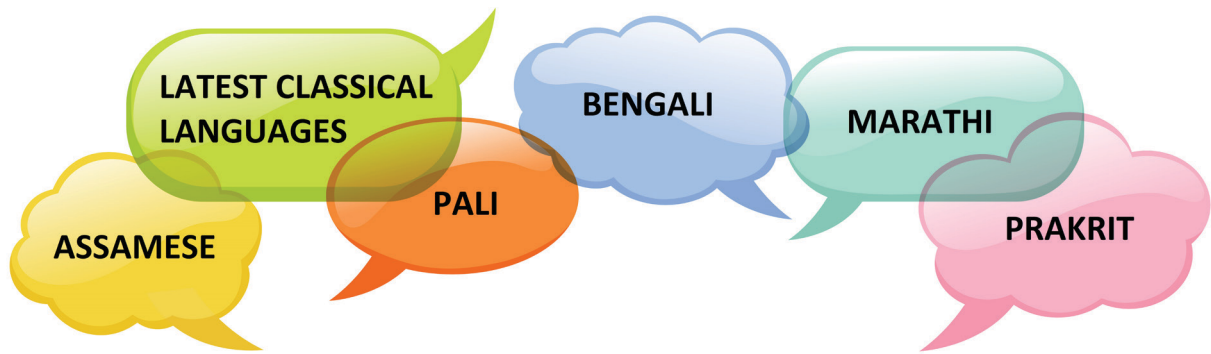
Identifying a language as classical officially recognises its rich cultural heritage, historical significance and literary contributions. The classical status is conferred on a language if it meets the criteria established by the Government of India. For example, to be recognised as 'classical', a language should be old and distinct; there should be a number of ancient and important texts in that language.

The Sahitya Akademi is an organisation that works to promote literature in Indian languages. A Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) was established by the Ministry of Culture under the Sahitya Akademi to examine the proposed languages for this prestigious status. Tamil was the first language to be declared India's classical language (2004). Odia, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam are the other languages in the list. Proposals were received from the Maharashtra Government as well

as Bihar, Assam and West Bengal for conferring the same status on Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali. The proposals were forwarded to the LEC. The Union Cabinet recently approved the status for these five languages too.

The Ministry of Education has taken various steps to promote classical languages. For instance, three Central Universities were established in 2020 for the promotion of Sanskrit. The Central Institute of Classical Tamil was set up to aid in the translation of ancient Tamil texts, encourage research and offer courses for students and scholars of Tamil. Many national and international awards also recognise and encourage achievements in the field of classical languages. Centres of Excellence for Studies in classical languages have been established to encourage advanced research.

Recognising certain languages as classical languages can create job opportunities too, especially in the field of education and research. Since the ancient texts of these languages need to be preserved and digitised, this generates jobs in translation, publishing, digital media and maintaining records.



Underline all the correct answers.

1. Why do you think the government is selecting and recognising certain languages as classical languages?
 - a. so that they are not forgotten or lost
 - b. to appreciate their historical and cultural importance
 - c. to create more job opportunities
2. What are some of the qualities of a classical language?
 - a. The language should be sufficiently old and distinct.
 - b. It should be taught in universities, translated and digitised.
 - c. It should have a substantial body of important texts.
3. Why do you think these criteria are important?
 - a. to have clear guidelines about how to select classical languages
 - b. to encourage classical languages over modern languages
 - c. to make sure that a language is worthy of being considered classical
4. How can translation and research help in keeping a language alive?
 - a. by maintaining records of the original language
 - b. by making texts in that language accessible to more people
 - c. by helping us learn more about the language
5. How do you think a language adds to the cultural heritage of a place?
 - a. through the texts written in that language
 - b. by creating job opportunities for people in that place
 - c. by capturing stories and histories of the place



Do it yourself

Read these lines. Find out how to say one of these lines in at least one of the classical languages mentioned in the text.

- Good morning.
- Nice to meet you.
- What lovely weather!
- Thank you very much.
- See you again.

Say the line in class and see if your classmates can identify the language(s) and understand the line.

For the teacher: You can help the students choose an example and a language without telling the rest of the class, so that there is variety. If they cannot find this out from inside the classroom, they can learn the line and speak it later.

Me and My Wellness

Like classical languages, **Ayurveda** has also been passed down through generations in India. It is a traditional system of medicine that has been practised here for thousands of years. It focuses on keeping our bodies and minds healthy by using natural methods like eating the right foods, doing yoga and using herbs.

Here are some herbs and spices that are said to have different benefits.

brahmi	cardamom	cumin	ginger
neem	triphala*	tulsi	turmeric

*a combination of *amla*, *bibhitaki* and *haritaki*

Choose any three ingredients from above and complete this table.

ingredient	how it may help you	how you can consume it

You can consult your elders or research online for help.

Me and My World

Work in groups. Prepare a presentation on a component of our cultural heritage.

- Each group can take up one of the topics mentioned in the Warm up.
- You can briefly perform a piece of music or dance, show certain textiles or art forms, or present a painting or a model of a monument.
- Pay special attention to examples from your town, city or state.
- Make sure to explain how this component contributes to the life of the community or society.
- Mention what you can do to respect and preserve these elements of our cultural heritage.



For the teacher: If any important component was left out during Warm up but occurred to the students later, that should also be included in this task.



Now I know



Tick (✓) the correct columns.	I understand this.	I need to think about this.
Different things contribute to the cultural heritage of my country.		
Certain languages have been given the status of classical languages because they meet specific criteria.		
Some herbs and spices have certain benefits and can be consumed in different ways.		
I can respect and help to preserve the cultural heritage of my country.		

21C Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity; **1L** Values—respect for tradition and heritage, India Knowledge