

## CHAPTER THREE



Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman in

# RAMAYANA

## THE RAMAYANA

### Introduction

Valmiki is known as *Adi Kabi*, the first poet. He wrote an epic in Sanskrit, the Ramayana, which depicts the life of Rama, the hero of the story.

Sage Narada narrated the story of Rama to Valmiki.

Ramayana is divided into the following:

- Balakanda (*Book of Youth*) - Boyhood of Rama,
- Ayodhya Kanda (*Book of Ayodhya*) - Life in Ayodhya after Rama and Sita's wedding,
- Aranya Kanda (*Book of Forest*) – Rama's forest life and abduction of Sita by Ravana,
- Kishkindha Kanda (*Book of Holy Monkey Empire*) – Rama's stay in Kishkindha after meeting Hanuman and Sugriva,
- Sundara Kanda (*Book of Beauty*) – Hanuman's Prank-locating Sita in Ashoka grove, and
- Yuddha Kanda (*Book of War*) – Rama's victory over Ravana in the war and Rama's coronation.



The period after coronation of Rama is considered in the last book - Uttara Kanda.

### The feature story

Dasaratha was the king of Kosala, an ancient kingdom that was located in present day Uttar Pradesh. Ayodhya was its capital- located on the banks of the river Sarayu. Dasaratha was loved by one and all. His subjects were happy and his kingdom was prosperous. Even though Dasaratha had everything that he desired, he was very sad at heart; he had no children.

During the same time, there lived a powerful *Rakshasa* (demon) king in the island of Sri Lanka (Ceylon), located just south of India. He was called Ravana. He had ten heads. His tyranny knew no bounds; his subjects disturbed the prayers of holy men. He had a boon from Brahma that protected him from gods and demons. But he failed to protect himself from

humans. The devas (gods) appealed to Lord Vishnu to protect them from his tyranny. The Lord reassured them that he will soon incarnate as a human to vanquish Ravana.



The childless Dasaratha was advised by his family priest Vasishta to perform a fire sacrifice ceremony seeking the blessings of God for children. Lord Vishnu, the preserver of the universe, decided to manifest himself as the eldest son of Dasaratha in order to kill Ravana. While performing the fire worship ceremony, a majestic figure (angel) rose from the sacrificial fire and handed to Dasaratha a bowl of rice pudding (*kheer/payasa*), saying, "God is pleased with you and has asked you to distribute this rice pudding to your wives - they will soon bear your children."

The king received the gift joyfully and distributed the *payasa* to his three queens, Kausalya, Kaikeyi, and Sumitra. Kausalya, the eldest queen, gave birth to the eldest son Rama. Bharata, the second son was born to Kaikeyi and Sumitra gave birth to the twins Lakshmana and Shatrughna. (Rama's birthday is celebrated now as Ramanavami).

### **Bala Kanda**

The four princes grew up to be tall, strong, handsome, brave and intelligent. They learned the holy scriptures well. Of the four brothers, Rama was closest to Lakshmana and Bharata to Shatrughna. One day, the revered sage Vishwamitra came to Ayodhya. Dasaratha was overjoyed and immediately got down from his throne and received him with great honor.

Vishwamitra blessed Dasaratha and asked him to send Rama to kill the *Rakshasas* who were disturbing his fire sacrifice (*yagna/yaaga*). Rama was then only fifteen years old. Dasaratha was taken aback. Rama was too young for the job. He offered himself, but sage Vishwamitra knew better. The sage insisted upon his request and assured the king that Rama would be safe in his hands. Ultimately, Dasaratha agreed to send Rama, along with Lakshmana, to go with Vishwamitra. Dasaratha strictly ordered his sons to

obey *Rishi* Vishwamitra and fulfill all his wishes. The parents blessed the two young princes. They then departed with the sage (*Rishi*).

The party of Vishwamitra, Rama, and Lakshmana soon reached Dandaka forest where the *Rakshasi* (demoness) Tataka lived with her son Maareecha. Vishwamitra asked Rama to challenge her. Rama strung his bow and twanged the string. The wild animals ran helter-skelter in fear. Tataka heard the sound and she became incensed. Mad with rage, roaring thunderously, she rushed at Rama. A fierce battle ensued between the huge *Rakshasi* and Rama. Finally, Rama pierced her heart with a deadly arrow and Tataka crashed down to the earth. Vishwamitra was pleased. He taught Rama several *Mantras* (divine chants), with which Rama could summon many divine weapons (by meditation) in order to fight against evil.

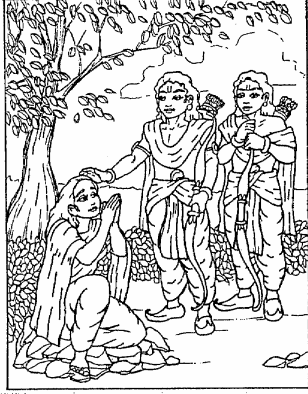


Vishwamitra then proceeded, with Rama and Lakshmana, towards his *ashram* (hermitage). When Vishwamitra and other *rishis* started the *yagna*, Rama and Lakshmana were guarding the place. Suddenly Maareecha, Tataka's ferocious son,



son, arrived with his followers Subahu and other *rakshasas*. Rama silently prayed and discharged the newly acquired divine weapons at Maareecha. Maareecha was thrown many, many miles away into the sea. All other *rakshasas* including Subahu were slain by Rama and Lakshmana. Vishwamitra completed the *yagna* and the *rishis* rejoiced and blessed the princes.

The next morning, Vishwamitra, Rama, and Lakshmana headed towards the city of Mithila, the capital of the kingdom of Janaka.



On their way to Mithila, they saw an *ashram* where Sage Gautama had once lived. The *rishi's* wife Ahalya was lying as a stone because of a curse. When Rama stepped into the ashram Ahalya got rid of her curse and came back to life. At that moment Gautama *rishi* also returned to the *ashram*. Gautama and Ahalya were re-united.

Vishwamitra, Rama and Lakshmana reached Mithila. King Janaka invited Vishwamitra to attend the great fire sacrifice ceremony that he had arranged. Vishwamitra had something in mind - to get Rama married to the lovely daughter of Janaka.

Janaka was a saintly king. He received a bow from Lord Shiva. It was strong and heavy.

He wanted his beautiful daughter Sita to marry the bravest and strongest prince in the country. So he had vowed that he would give Sita in marriage only to the one who could string that great bow of Shiva. Many had tried before. None could even move the bow, let alone string it.

When Vishwamitra arrived with Rama and Lakshmana at the court, King Janaka received them with great respect. Vishwamitra introduced Rama and Lakshmana to Janaka and requested that he show the bow of Shiva to Rama so that he could try to string it. Janaka looked at the young prince and assented doubtfully. The bow was stored in an iron box mounted on an eight-wheeled chariot. Janaka ordered his men to bring the bow and place it in the middle of a big hall filled with many dignitaries.

Rama then stood up in all humility, picked up the bow with ease, and got ready for the stringing. He placed one end of the bow against his toe, put forth his might, and bent the bow to string it-when to everyone's surprise the bow snapped in two!

Dasaratha was immediately informed. He gladly gave his consent to the marriage and





came to Mithila with his retinue. Janaka arranged for a grand wedding. Rama and Sita were married. At the same time, the three other brothers were also engaged. Lakshmana married Sita's sister Urmila. Bharata and Shatrughna married Sita's cousins Mandavi and Shrutakirti respectively. After the wedding, Vishwamitra blessed them all and returned to his *ashram*. Dasaratha with his sons and their new brides along with his entourage left for Ayodhya.

Halfway through their journey, Lord Parasurama appeared before them. He had a Vishnu bow in his hand. He challenged Rama if Rama could string the Vishnu bow, which is bigger and mightier than the Shiva bow. With a gentle smile, Rama picked up the bow very easily, fixed the arrow to it and asked Parasurama at what he should aim the arrow at. Parasurama was stunned with Rama's mastery over the weapon. It dawned upon him that Rama was no ordinary person. He bowed his head and said, "Rama, I am no match for you. Hence this mighty bow belongs to you." He then departed for the Himalayas to continue his penance.



King Dasaratha then continued his journey towards Ayodhya where people celebrated the marriage with great pomp and show.

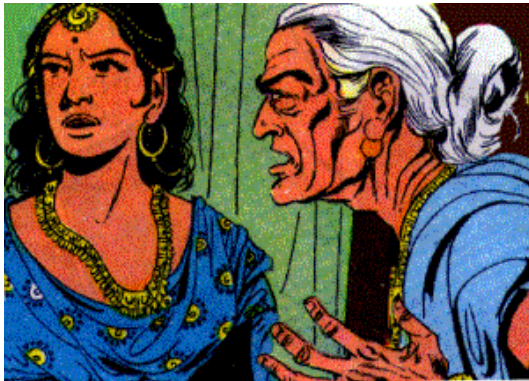
### **Ayodhya Kanda**

For the next twelve years Rama and Sita lived happily in Ayodhya. Rama was loved by all. He was a joy to his father, Dasaratha, whose heart nearly burst with pride when he beheld his son. As Dasaratha was growing older, he summoned his ministers seeking their opinion about crowning Rama as king of Ayodhya. They unanimously welcomed the suggestion. Then Dasaratha announced the decision and gave orders for the coronation of Rama. During this time, Bharata and his favorite brother, Shatrughna, had gone to see their maternal grandfather and were absent from Ayodhya.

Kaikeyi, Bharata's mother, was in the palace rejoicing with the other queens, sharing the happy news of Rama's coronation. She loved Rama as her own

son; but her wicked maid, Manthara, was unhappy. Manthara wanted Bharata to be the king so she devised a heinous plan to thwart Rama's coronation. As soon as the plan was set firmly in her mind, she rushed to Kaikeyi to tell her.

"What a fool you are!" Manthara said to Kaikeyi, "The king has always loved you more than the other queens. But the moment Rama is crowned, Kausalya will become all powerful and she will make you her slave."



Manthara repeatedly gave her poisoned suggestions, clouding Kaikeyi's mind and heart with suspicion and doubt. Kaikeyi, confused and distraught, finally agreed to Manthara's plan.

"But what can I do to change it?" asked Kaikeyi with a puzzled mind.

Manthara was clever enough to chalk out her plan all the way. She had been waiting for Kaikeyi to ask her advice.

"You may recall that long ago when Dasaratha was badly wounded in the battle field, while fighting with the demons, you saved Dasaratha's life by swiftly driving his chariot to safety. At that time Dasaratha offered you two boons. You said you would ask for the boons some other time."

Kaikeyi readily remembered.

Manthara continued, "Now the time has come to demand those boons. Ask Dasaratha for your first boon to make Bharata the king of Kosala and for the second boon to banish Rama to the forest for fourteen years."

Kaikeyi was a noble-hearted queen, now trapped by Manthara. She agreed to do what Manthara said. Both of them knew that Dasaratha would never fall back on his words.

The night before the coronation, Dasaratha came to Kaikeyi to share his happiness at seeing Rama as the king of Kosala. But Kaikeyi was missing from her apartment. She was in her "anger room". When Dasaratha came to her

anger room to inquire, he found his beloved queen lying on the floor with her hair loose and her ornaments cast away.

Dasaratha gently took Kaikeyi's head on his lap and asked in a caressing voice, "What is wrong?"

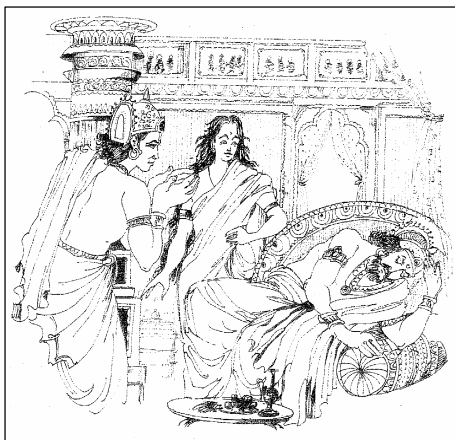
But Kaikeyi angrily shook herself free and firmly said; "You have promised me two boons. Now please grant me these two boons. Let Bharata be crowned as king and not Rama. Rama should be banished from the kingdom for fourteen years."

Dasaratha could hardly believe his ears. Unable to bear what he had heard, he fell down unconscious. When he returned to his senses, he cried out in helpless anger, "What has come over you? What harm has Rama done to you? Please ask for anything else but these."



Kaikeyi stood firm and refused to yield. Dasaratha fainted and laid on the floor the rest of the night. The next morning, Sumanthra, the minister, came to inform Dasaratha that all the preparations for the coronation were ready. But Dasaratha was not in a position to speak to anyone. Kaikeyi asked Sumanthra to call Rama immediately. When Rama arrived, Dasaratha was sobbing uncontrollably and could only utter "Rama! Rama!"

Rama was alarmed and looked at Kaikeyi with surprise, "Did I do anything wrong, mother? I have never seen my father like this before."



"He has something unpleasant to tell you, Rama," replied Kaikeyi. "Long ago your father had offered me two boons. Now I demand it." Then Kaikeyi told Rama about the boons.

"Is that all mother?" asked Rama with a smile. "Please take it that your boons are granted. Call for Bharata. I shall start for the forest today."

Rama did his *pranams* (salutations) to his revered father, Dasaratha, and to his stepmother, Kaikeyi, and then left the



room. Dasaratha was in shock. He painfully asked his attendants to move him to Kausalya's apartment. He was waiting for death to ease his pain.

The news of Rama's exile spread like a fire. Lakshmana was furious with his father's decision. Rama simply replied, "Is it worthwhile to sacrifice your principle for the sake of this small kingdom?"

Tears sprang from Lakshmana's eyes and he said in a low voice, "If you must go to the forest, take me along with you." Rama agreed.

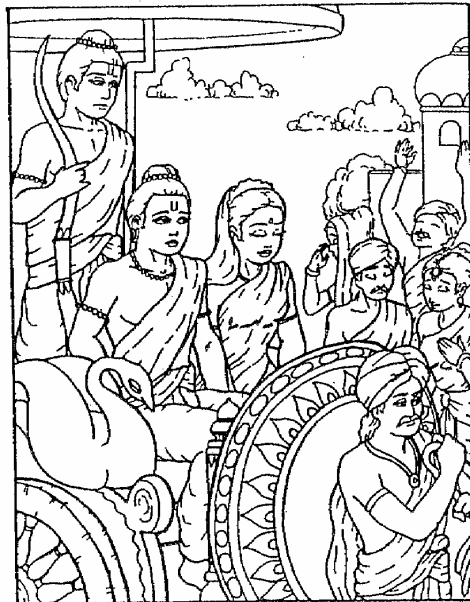
Then Rama proceeded to Sita and asked her to stay behind. "Look after my mother, Kausalya, in my absence."

Sita begged, "Have pity on me. A wife's position is always beside her husband. Don't leave me behind. I'll die without you." At last Rama permitted Sita to follow him.

Lakshmana's wife Urmila also wanted to go with Lakshmana to the forest. But Lakshmana explained to her the life that he plans to lead for the protection of Rama and Sita.

"If you accompany me, Urmila," Lakshmana said, "I may not be able to fulfill my duties. Please take care of our grieved family members." So Urmila stayed behind on Lakshmana's request.

By that evening Rama, Sita and Lakshmana left Ayodhya on a chariot driven by Sumanthra. They were dressed like mendicants (*Rishis*). The people of Ayodhya ran behind the chariot crying loudly for Rama. By nightfall they all reached the bank of the river, Tamasa. Early the next morning Rama awoke and told Sumanthra, "The people of Ayodhya love us very much but we have to be on our own. We must lead the life of a hermit, as I promised. Let us continue our journey before they wake up."





So, Rama, Lakshmana and Sita, driven by Sumanthra, continued their journey alone. After traveling the entire day they reached the bank of the Ganges and decided to spend the night under a tree near a village of hunters. The chieftain, Guha, came and offered them all the comforts of his house. But Rama replied, "Thank you Guha, I appreciate your offer as a good friend but by accepting your hospitality I will break my promise. Please allow us to sleep here as the hermits do."

Next morning the three, Rama, Lakshmana and Sita, said goodbye to Sumanthra and Guha, and got into a boat to cross the river, Ganges. Rama requested Sumanthra to return to Ayodhya and console his father.

After crossing Ganges, Rama, Lakshmana and Sita visited the *ashram* of Sage Bharadwaj. The sage blessed them and suggested them to stay in Chitrakut Mountain. They followed his advice and reached Chitrakut by crossing the river Yamuna. Rama liked the area very much. They decided to live there and Lakshmana set up *Parnakut*, a thatched hut.

In the mean time Sumanthra had returned to Ayodhya. Dasaratha died, crying until his last breath, "Rama, Rama, Rama!" Vasishta sent a messenger to Bharata asking him to return to Ayodhya without disclosing the details.

Bharata immediately returned with Shatrughna. As he entered the city of Ayodhya, he realized that something was terribly wrong. The city was strangely silent. He went straight to his mother, Kaikeyi. She looked pale. Bharata impatiently asked, "Where is father?" He was stunned by the news. Slowly he learned about Rama's exile for fourteen years and Dasaratha's demise with the departure of Rama.

Bharata could not believe that his mother was the cause of the disaster. Kaikeyi tried to make Bharata understand that she did it all for him. But Bharata turned away from her with disgust and said, "Don't you know how much I love Rama? This kingdom is worth nothing in his absence. I am ashamed to call



you my mother. You are heartless. You killed my father and banished my beloved brother. I will not have anything to do with you for as long as I live." Then Bharata left for Kausalya's apartment. Kaikeyi realized the mistake she made.

Kausalya received Bharata with love and affection. Addressing Bharata she said, "Bharata, the kingdom is waiting for you. No one will oppose you for ascending the throne. Now that your father is gone, I would also like to go to the forest and live with Rama."

Bharata could not contain himself any further. He burst into tears and promised Kausalya to bring Rama back to Ayodhya as quickly as possible. He understood the throne rightfully belonged to Rama. After completing the funeral rites for Dasaratha, Bharata started for Chitrakut where Rama was staying. Bharata halted the army at a respectful distance and walked alone to meet Rama. Seeing Rama, Bharata fell at his feet begging forgiveness for all the wrong doings.

When Rama asked, "How is father?" Bharata began to cry and broke the sad news; "Our father has left for heaven. At the time of his death, he constantly took your name and never recovered from the shock of your departure." Rama collapsed. When he came to senses he went to river, Mandakini, to offer prayers for his departed father.

The next day, Bharata asked Rama to return to Ayodhya and rule the kingdom. But Rama firmly replied, "I cannot possibly disobey my father. You rule the kingdom and I shall carry out my pledge. I will come back home only after fourteen years."



When Bharata realized Rama's firmness in fulfilling his promises, he begged Rama to give him his *padukas* (sandals). Bharata told Rama the *padukas* will represent Rama and he would carry out the duties of the kingdom only as Rama's representative. Rama gracefully agreed. Bharata carried the *padukas* to Ayodhya with great reverence.

After reaching the capital, he placed the *padukas* on the throne and ruled the kingdom in Rama's name. He left the palace and lived like a hermit (in a small village called Nandigram near Ayodhya), as Rama did, counting the days of Rama's return.

### Aranya Kanda

Rama decided to leave Chitrakut as the place reminded him of Bharata and his mothers. Rama, Lakshmana and Sita wandered through that huge Dandaka forest. They visited Sage Atri whose wife Anasuya was very kind to Sita. She gave Sita clothes and ornaments as token of her love. With the blessings of Sage Atri they all continued their journey following the directions given by the sage. They reached a place where many sages were living in that forest.

The *Rishis* who lived in the forest spoke of the horrors that demons had done. Rama and Lakshmana promised they would kill all these demons. They killed a demon by name Viradha.

Rama, Lakshmana and Sita spent the days, months and years among the *Rishis* in the Dandaka forest very happily. After passing ten years in the forest, Rama went to visit Sage Agastya. Agastya blessed Rama and asked him to move to Panchavati on the bank of Godavari River. It was a beautiful place. Rama planned to stay at Panchavati for some time. So, Lakshmana quickly put up an elegant hut and they all settled down.

*Rakshasi* Surpanakha, the sister of Ravana, lived in Panchavati. Ravana was then the most powerful *Rakshasa* king who lived in Sri Lanka. One day Surpanakha happened to see Rama and instantly fell in love with him. She requested Rama to be her husband.

Rama was amused, and smilingly said, "As you see I am already married. You can request Lakshmana. He is young, handsome and is alone without his wife."



Surpanakha took Rama's word seriously and approached Lakshmana.



Lakshmana said, "I am Rama's servant. You should marry my master and not me, the servant."

Surpanakha got furious with the rejection and attacked Sita in order to devour her. Lakshmana swiftly intervened, and cut off her nose and ears with his dagger. Surpanakha ran away, crying in pain, to seek help from her *Rakshasa* brothers, Khara and Dushana. Both the brothers got red with anger and marched their army towards Panchavati. Rama and Lakshmana faced the

*Rakshasas* and finally they were all killed.

Surpanakha was terror-stricken. She immediately flew to Lanka to seek her brother Ravana's protection. Ravana was outraged to see her sister mutilated. Surpanakha described all that happened. Ravana was interested when he heard that Sita is the most beautiful woman in the world. Ravana decided to abduct Sita.

Ravana made a plan and went to see Maareecha. Maareecha had the power of changing himself into any form he wanted, along with the appropriate voice imitation. But Maareecha was afraid of Rama. He still could not get over the experience he had when Rama shot an arrow that hurled him far into the sea. This happened in Vishwamitra's hermitage. Maareecha tried to persuade Ravana to stay away from Rama but Ravana was determined.

"Maareecha!" shouted Ravana, "You have only two choices, help me to carry out my plan or prepare for death." Maareecha preferred to die in Rama's hand than be killed by Ravana. So he agreed to help Ravana in the abduction of Sita.

Maareecha took the form of a beautiful golden deer and began to graze near Rama's cottage in Panchavati. Sita was attracted towards the golden deer and requested Rama to get the golden deer for her. Lakshmana warned that the golden deer might be a demon in disguise. By then Rama already started to chase the deer. He hurriedly instructed Lakshmana to look after Sita and ran after the deer. Very soon Rama realized that the deer is not a real one. He shot an arrow, which hit the deer, and Maareecha was exposed.

Before dying, Maareecha imitated Ram's voice and shouted, "Oh Lakshmana! Oh Sita! Help! Help!"

Sita heard the voice and asked Lakshmana to run and rescue Rama. Lakshmana was hesitant. He was confident that Rama is invincible and the voice was only a fake. He tried to convince Sita but she insisted. Finally Lakshmana agreed. Before his departure, he drew a magic circle, with the tip of his arrow, around the cottage and asked her not to cross the line.



"As long as you stay within the circle you will be safe with the grace of God," said Lakshmana and hurriedly left in search of Rama.

From his hiding place Ravana was watching all that was happening. He was glad that his trick worked. As soon as he found Sita alone, he disguised himself as a hermit and came near Sita's cottage. He stood beyond the protection line of Lakshmana, and asked for alms (*bhiksha*). Sita came out with a bowl full of rice to offer to the holy man, while staying within the protection line drawn by Lakshmana. The hermit asked her to come near and offer. Sita was unwilling to cross the line when Ravana pretended to leave the place without alms. As Sita did not want to annoy the sage, she crossed the line to offer the alms.

Ravana did not lose the opportunity. He quickly pounced on Sita and seized her hands, declaring, "I am Ravana, the king of Lanka. Come with me and be my queen." Very soon Ravana's chariot left the ground and flew over the clouds on way to Lanka.



Rama felt distressed when he saw Lakshmana. "Why did you leave Sita alone? The golden deer was Maareecha in disguise. "

Lakshmana tried to explain the situation when both the brothers suspected a foul play and ran towards the cottage. The cottage was empty, as they

feared. They searched, and called out her name but all in vain. Finally they were exhausted. Lakshmana tried to console Rama as best as he could. Suddenly they heard a cry. They ran towards the source and found a wounded eagle lying at the floor. It was Jatayu, the king of eagles and a friend of Dasaratha.



Jatayu narrated with great pain, "I saw Ravana abducting Sita. I attacked him when Ravana cut my wings and made me helpless. Then he flew towards the south." After saying this, Jatayu died on the lap of Rama. Rama and Lakshmana buried Jatayu and then moved towards the south.

On their way, Rama and Lakshmana met a ferocious demon, called Kabandha. When Kabandha tried to devour them with his hands, Rama and Lakshmana cut off his arms. Kabandha now disclosed his identity that he was cursed to be a monster. As per Kabandha's request Rama and Lakshmana burnt him into ashes, which brought him back his original and beautiful form. Kabandha advised Rama to go to the monkey king Sugriva, who lived in the Rishyamukha Mountain by the side of Pampa Lake, to get help in regaining Sita. He then got into a heavenly chariot and disappeared.

On their way to meet Sugriva, Rama and Lakshmana visited the *ashram* of an old pious woman, Sabari. She washed their feet, offered them the best nuts and fruits (berries) that she had collected for years. Then she took Rama's blessings and departed for heaven.



### **Kishkindha Kanda**

After a long walk, Rama and Lakshmana reached the Rishyamukha Mountain to meet Sugriva. Sugriva had a brother Vali, the king of Kishkindha (monkey kingdom). They were once good friends. This changed when they went to fight with a giant. The giant ran into a cave and Vali followed him, asking Sugriva to wait outside. Sugriva waited for a long time and then returned to

the palace in grief, thinking that Vali was killed. He then became the king upon the request of the minister. After sometime, Vali suddenly appeared. He was mad with Sugriva and blamed him to be a cheater. Vali was strong. He drove Sugriva out of his kingdom and took away his wife. Ever since, Sugriva had been living in the Rishyamukha mountain, which was out of bound for Vali because of a *Rishi's* curse.



On seeing Rama and Lakshmana from a distance, and not knowing the purpose of their visit, Sugriva sent his close friend Hanuman to find out their identity. Hanuman, disguised as an ascetic, came to Rama and Lakshmana. The brothers told Hanuman of their intention to meet Sugriva because they wanted his help to find Sita. Hanuman was impressed by their courteous behavior and removed his garb. Then he carried the princes on his shoulders to Sugriva.

There Hanuman introduced the brothers and narrated their story. He then told Sugriva of their intention to come to him.

In return, Sugriva told his story and sought help from Rama to kill Vali, otherwise, he could not help even if he wanted to. Rama agreed. Hanuman then kindled a fire to bear witness to the alliance made.



Sugriva informed Rama and Lakshmana, "We saw a woman being abducted by a *rakshasa* flying in the sky. And we heard her cry, 'Rama! Lakshmana! Please save me'. She also saw us and dropped some of her ornaments tied in a piece of cloth and I have collected them."

Sugriva asked one of the *vanaras* (monkeys) to fetch those ornaments. Rama knew for certain they belonged to Sita. Tears filled Rama's eyes. Sugriva consoled him.



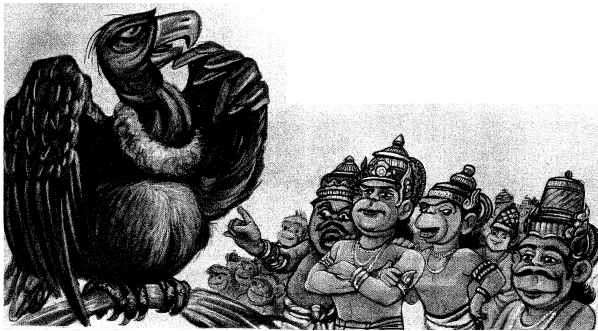
In due course, Rama killed Vali and Sugriva became the king of Kishkindha. Soon after Sugriva took over the kingdom of Vali, he gathered together bears and monkeys from everywhere. He divided his army into four groups and decided to send one in each direction in search of Sita. Each group had to finish the work assigned to it within one month.

Rama specially called Hanuman and gave his ring saying, "If any one finds Sita, it will be you Hanuman. Keep this ring to prove your identity as my messenger. Give it to Sita when you meet her." Hanuman most respectfully tied up the ring to his waist and joined the search party.

Sugriva ordered his army to proceed in the search of Sita. At the end of one month, three of the four groups returned with no word of Sita's whereabouts. Only Hanuman's group that proceeded south had yet to return.

### Sundara Kanda

When *vanarasena* (the monkey army) led by Hanuman reached the Mahendra



Hill, located on the south shore of India, they met Sampati, the brother of Jatayu. Sampati confirmed that Ravana took Sita to Lanka. The *vanaras* were perplexed, how to cross the huge sea that stretched in front of them.

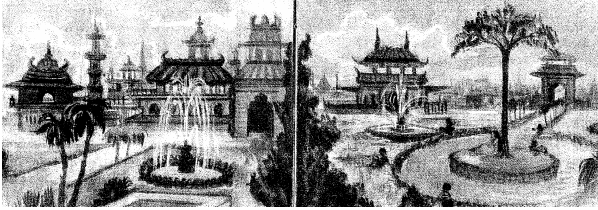
Angada, the son of Vali and Sugriva's heir-apparent, asked, "Who can cross the ocean?" Silence prevailed until Jambvan the bear turned to Hanuman and said, "Hanuman, You are the son of Vayu (the wind-god). You are superior to us in strength and intelligence. Didn't you jump to catch the sun in your childhood?" These words of Jambvan roused Hanuman's latent power.

Hanuman now got himself ready for the gigantic leap. With his peculiar power he enlarged himself to a huge size and took a jump to cross the ocean. After overcoming many obstacles, at last Hanuman reached Lanka. He soon contracted his body and alighted as a



tiny insignificant creature. He soon passed through the city unnoticed and managed to enter the palace quietly. He went through every chamber but could not see Sita.

Finally, Hanuman located Sita in one of the gardens of Ravana, called Ashoka grove (*Ashokavatika/Ashokavana*).



He saw her surrounded by the *Rakshashis* (she-demons) who were guarding her. Hanuman hid on a tree and watched Sita from a distance. She was in deep distress,

crying and praying to God for her relief. Hanuman's heart melted in pity. He took Sita as his mother.

Just then Ravana entered the garden and approached Sita. "I have waited enough. Be sensible and become my queen. Rama can not cross the ocean and come through this impregnable city. You better forget about him."

Sita sternly replied, "I have repeatedly told you to return me to Lord Rama before his wrath falls upon you."

Ravana got furious, "You have gone beyond the limits of my patience. You give me no choice than to kill you unless you change your mind. Within a few days I shall be back."



As soon as Ravana left, other *Rakshashis*, who were attending Sita, came back and suggested her to marry Ravana and enjoy the enviable wealth of Lanka. Sita felt miserable. Trigata, only good *rakshasi* among them consoled Sita.

Slowly the *Rakshashis* wandered away. Hanuman came down from his hiding place and gave Rama's ring to Sita. Sita was thrilled. She wanted to hear about Rama and Lakshmana. After conversing for a while Hanuman asked

Sita to take a ride on her back to return to Rama. Sita did not agree.

"I do not want to return home secretly," said Sita, "I want Rama to defeat Ravana and take me back with honor."

Hanuman agreed. Then Sita gave her *chudamani* (crown jewel) to Hanuman as evidence confirming their meeting.

Before departing from *Ashokavatika*, Hanuman wanted Ravana to have a lesson for his misconduct. He also wanted to ascertain the strength of Ravana's army. By showing his own strength he thought the female demons would not dare to harass Sita anymore. So he began to destroy the *Ashokavatika* by uprooting the trees. Soon the *Rakshasa* warriors came



running to catch the monkey but were beaten up. The message reached Ravana. He was enraged. He asked Indrajit, his able son, to capture Hanuman. A fierce battle ensued and Hanuman was finally captured when Indrajit used the most powerful weapon, the Brahmastra missile. Hanuman had Brahma's blessings that Brahmastra would not harm him. So he allowed himself to be tied by it. That way he thought he could atleast meet Ravana before leaving Lanka. Hanuman was taken to Ravana's court and the captive stood in front of the king.

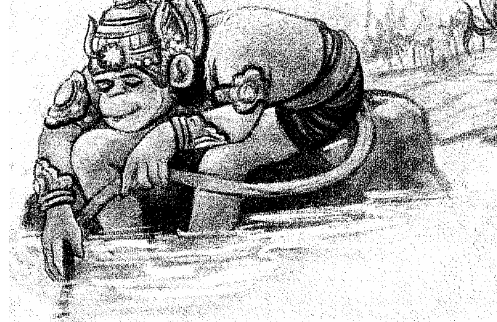
Hanuman introduced himself as the messenger of Rama. "You have abducted the wife of my all powerful master, Lord Rama. If you want peace, return her with honor to my master or else, you and your kingdom will be destroyed."

Ravana was wild with rage. He ordered to kill Hanuman instantly when his younger brother Vibhishana objected. "You can not kill a king's envoy," said Vibhishana. Then Ravana ordered Hanuman's tail to be set on fire.

The *Rakshasa* army took Hanuman outside the hall, while Hanuman increased his size and lengthened his tail. It was wrapped with rags and ropes and



soaked in oil. He was then paraded through the streets of Lanka and a big mob followed to have fun. The tail was set on fire but because of his divine blessing Hanuman did not feel the heat. He soon shrank his size and shook off the ropes that bound him and escaped. Then, with the torch of his burning tail, he jumped from roof to roof to set the city of Lanka on fire. People began to run, creating chaos and hideous cries. He did not spare any place except *Ashokavatika*. He made sure that Sita was safe. Hanuman did his *pranams* to Sita and left Lanka. He went to the seashore, put off the tail fire in the seawater and began his homeward flight.



### Yuddha Kanda

Hanuman received a great welcome from the *vanarasena*. Soon the army returned to Kishkindha.



Then Hanuman quickly went to Rama to give his first-hand account. He took out the jewel that Sita gave and placed it in Rama's hands. Rama burst into tears when he saw the jewel.

He addressed Hanuman and said, "Hanuman! You have achieved what none else could. What can I do for you?" Hanuman prostrated before Rama and sought his divine blessing.

Sugriva then discussed in detail with Rama their next course of action. On an auspicious hour the entire *vanarasena* set out from Kishkindha towards Mahendra Hill, located on the opposite side of Lanka. Upon reaching Mahendra Hill, Rama faced the same problem, how to cross the ocean with the army. He called for a meeting of all the monkey chiefs, and sought their suggestions for a solution.

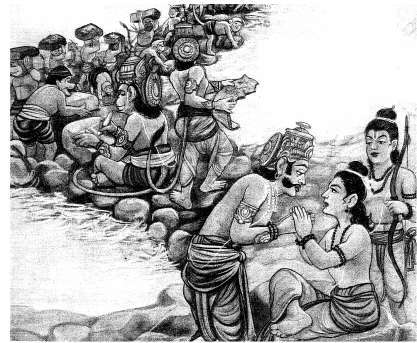
When Ravana heard from his messengers that Rama had already arrived at Mahendra Hill, and was preparing to cross the ocean to Lanka, he summoned his ministers for advice. They unanimously decided to fight Rama to his

death. To them, Ravana was indestructible and they, undefeatable. Only Vibhishana, the younger brother of Ravana, was cautious and opposed to this.

Vibhishana said, "Brother Ravana, you must return the chaste woman, Sita, to her husband, Rama, seek his forgiveness and restore peace."

Ravana became upset with Vibhishana and told him to leave the kingdom of Lanka.

Vibhishana, through his magical power, reached Mahendra Hill and sought permission to meet Rama. The *vanaras* were suspicious but took him to Rama as a captive. Vibhishana explained to Rama all that happened in Ravana's court and sought his asylum. Rama gave him sanctuary and Vibhishana became the closest adviser to Rama in the war against Ravana. Rama promised Vibhishana to make him the future king of Lanka.



To reach Lanka, Rama decided to build a bridge with the help of the monkey engineer Nala. He also summoned Varuna, the God of the Ocean, to



cooperate by staying calm while the bridge was in the making. Immediately thousands of *vanaras* set about the task of gathering the materials to build the bridge. When the materials were piled up in heaps, Nala, the great architect, started to build the bridge. It was a stupendous undertaking. But the entire *vanarasena* worked hard and completed the bridge in just five days. The

army crossed over to Lanka. They saw the city of Lanka on top of the Trikuta mountain. The army camped on the outskirts of Lanka.

In Lanka the *rakshasas* were equipping themselves with various weapons. Ravana sent two spies to assess the strength of Rama's army. They disguised themselves as monkey and bear and mingled with Rama's soldiers. But Vibhishana recognised them and



took them to Rama. Rama let them go back to Ravana. They went to Ravana and said that Rama's army was too big to count his soldiers and it was better to make peace with him rather than to fight. But Ravana got angry and disregarded their suggestion.



Rama made a last effort to compromise. He sent Angada to Ravana as a messenger. Angada went to Ravana's court and delivered Rama's message, "Return Sita with honor or face destruction." Ravana became enraged and ordered for the arrest of the monkey. The moment the soldiers came near Angada, he caught them in his two hands and jumped high in the air. From that height he released them and they were crushed to death. Then he climbed on the top of Ravana's main palace and destroyed it completely. Thus he proclaimed Ram's superiority and returned to his side.

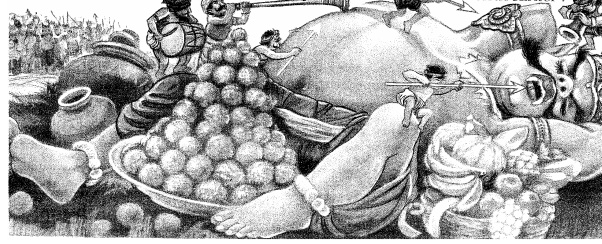
The preparation for the war began. The next morning Rama ordered the *vanarasena* to attack. The *vanaras* rushed forward and hurled huge boulders against the city walls and gates. The battle continued for a long time. Thousands were dead on each side and the ground soaked in blood.

When Ravana's army was losing, Indrajit, Ravana's son, took the command. He had the ability to fight while staying invisible. His arrows tied up Rama and Lakshmana with serpents. The *vanaras* began to run with the fall of their leaders. Suddenly, Garuda, the king of the birds, and the sworn enemy of the serpents, came to their rescue. All of the snakes slithered away leaving the two brave brothers, Rama and Lakshmana, free.

Hearing this, Ravana himself came forward. He hurled the powerful missile, Shakti, at Lakshmana. It descended like a fierce thunderbolt and hit hard at Lakshmana's chest. Lakshmana fell down senseless.

Rama wasted no time to come forward and challenged Ravana himself. Following a fierce fight Ravana's chariot was smashed and Ravana was sorely wounded. Ravana stood helpless before Rama whereupon Rama took pity on him and said, "Go and rest now. Return tomorrow to resume our fight." In the mean time Lakshmana recovered.

Ravana was shamed and called upon his brother, Kumbhakarna for assistance. Kumbhakarna had the habit of sleeping for six months at a time. Ravana ordered him to be awakened. Kumbhakarna was in a deep sleep and it took the beating of drums, piercing of sharp instruments and elephants walking on him to awaken him. He was informed of Rama's



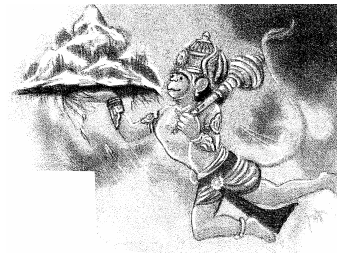
invasion and Ravana's orders. After eating a mountain of food, Kumbhakarna appeared in the battlefield. He was huge and strong. When he approached



the *vanarasena*, like a walking tower, the *vanaras* took to their heels in terror. Hanuman called them back and challenged Kumbhakarna. A great fight ensued until Hanuman was wounded. Kumbhakarna headed towards Rama, ignoring the attack of Lakshmana and others. The enraged Kumbhakarna challenged Rama and a fierce battle was waged. Rama finally discharged a powerful weapon. Kumbhakarna fell dead.

Hearing the news of his brother's death, Ravana swooned away. After he recovered, he lamented for a long time and then called Indrajit. Indrajit consoled him and promised to defeat the enemy quickly.

Indrajit began to engage in the battle safely hidden behind the clouds and invisible to Rama. Rama and Lakshmana seemed to be helpless to kill him, as he could not be located. Arrows came from all directions and finally one of the powerful arrows hit Lakshmana. Everyone thought this time Lakshmana was dead and Sushena, the physician of the *Vanara* army, was called. He declared that Lakshmana was only in a deep coma and instructed Hanuman to leave immediately for Gandhamadhana Hill, located near the Himalayas. Gandhamadhana Hill grew the special medicine, called Sanjeevini that was needed to revive Lakshmana. Hanuman lifted himself in the air and traveled the entire distance from Lanka to Himalayas and reached the Gandhamadhana Hill. As he was unable to locate the herb, he lifted the entire mountain and carried it to Lanka. Sushena immediately applied the herb and Lakshmana regained consciousness. Rama was relieved and the battle resumed.



This time Indrajit played a trick on Rama and his army. He rushed forward in his chariot and created an image of Sita through his magic. Catching the image of Sita by the hair, Indrajit beheaded Sita in front of the entire army of the *Vanaras*. Rama collapsed. Vibhishana came to his rescue. When Rama came to senses Vibhishana explained that it was only a trick played by Indrajit and that Ravana would never allow Sita to be killed.

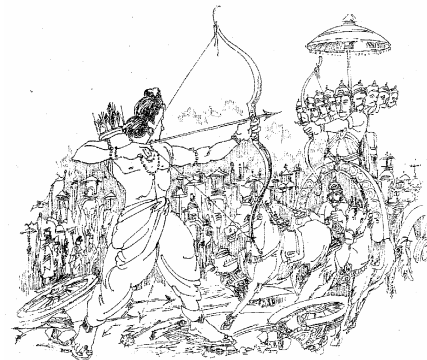
Vibhishana further explained to Rama that Indrajit was realizing his limitations to kill Rama. Hence he would soon perform a special sacrificial ceremony in order to acquire that power. If successful, he would become invincible. Vibhishana suggested Lakshmana should go immediately to obstruct that ceremony and slay Indrajit before he became invisible again.

Rama accordingly sent Lakshmana, accompanied by Vibhishana and Hanuman. They soon reached the spot where Indrajit was engaged in performing the sacrifice. But before the *Rakshasa* prince could complete it, Lakshmana attacked him. The battle was fierce and finally Lakshmana severed Indrajit's head from his body. Indrajit fell dead.



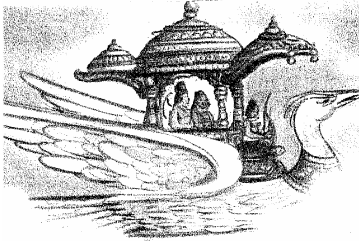
With the fall of Indrajit, Ravana's spirit was in complete despair. He wailed most piteously but sorrow soon gave way to anger. Ravana's wife and Lanka's queen Mandodari now fell at his feet and beseeched him, "Even now, please return Sita to Rama and make peace with him." But the intoxicated Ravana spurned her advice. He

furiously rushed to the battlefield to conclude the long drawn fight against Rama and his army. Forcing his way, past Lakshmana, Ravana came face to face with Rama. The fight was intense. Finally Rama used his Brahmastra, repeated the *mantras* as taught by Vasishtha, and hurled it with all his might towards Ravana. The Brahmastra from Rama's Kodanda bow whizzed through the air emitting scorching flames and then pierced the heart of Ravana. Ravana fell dead from his chariot. The *Rakshasas* stood silent in amazement. They could scarcely believe their eyes. The end was so sudden and final.





After Ravana's death, Vibhishana was duly crowned as king of Lanka. The message of Rama's victory was sent to Sita. Happily she came to Rama in a palanquin. Hanuman and all other *vanaras* came to pay their respect to her. Seeing Rama, Sita was overcome by her joyous emotion. Rama felt both love and sorrow for his wife. "We shall return to Ayodhya," he said.



Rama and Sita were now reunited and ascended on an air chariot (*Pushpaka Vimana*), along with Lakshmana to return to Ayodhya. Hanuman went ahead to apprise Bharata of their arrival.

When the party reached Ayodhya, the entire city was waiting to receive them. Rama was crowned the king of Ayodhya. The coronation was conducted on a grand scale. Rama and Sita were seated on the throne. Lakshmana, Bharata and Shatrughna stood behind them. Hanuman sat at Rama's feet. People rejoiced about this happy event.



Sri Rama ruled over Ayodhya for many years and the glorious reign was hailed as *Rama Rajya*. ■

### Association of Rama with Dusshera and Diwali:

The celebrations of Navaratri, Dusshera and Diwali come sequentially. It is believed that: 'Navaratri marks the beginning of Rama's prayer to Goddess Durga to obtain the divine power to kill Ravana. Then Rama received the divine power on the eighth day of Navaratri (*Ashtami*). Finally, Ravana was killed on the day of Dusshera. Diwali celebrates Rama's triumphant return to Ayodhya and his coronation.'

### Vishnu and his attributes in Ramayana:

When Lord Vishnu incarnated as Rama, Vishnu's conch took the form of Bharata, discus as Shatrughna, and Shesha as Lakshmana. Thus the Lord manifested himself wholly in Rama and partially in his brothers to fulfill his purpose of incarnation. Vishnu's consort Goddess Lakshmi incarnated as Sita and Lord Shiva himself as Hanuman to participate in the drama and serve the Lord.

## EKASLOKAM RAMAYANAM



आदौ रामतपोवनाभिगमनं हत्वा सृगं काञ्चनं  
 वैदेहीहरणं जटायुमरणं सुग्रीवसम्भाषणम् ।  
 बालीनिग्रहणं समुद्रतरणं लङ्कापुरीदाहनं  
 पश्चाद्रावणकुम्भकर्णीनिधनं ह्येतद्धि रामायणम् ॥

*Aadau Raama-tapo-vanaabhi-gamanam Hatvaa Mrugam Kaanchanam  
 Vaidhehee-haranam Jataayu-maranam Sugreeva-sambhaashanam  
 Vaalee-nigrahanam Samudra-taranam Lankaapuree-daahanam  
 Paschaad Raavana-kumbhakarna-nidhanam Hyetatdhi Raamaayanam.*

Meaning:

Lord Rama went to the forest in order to fulfill the promise his father had given to one of his wives (Kaikeyi). In the forest, Sita was attracted by the golden deer and Rama went after it. At that time, the wicked Ravana kidnapped Sita. Jatayu tried to defend Sita and save her, but was killed by Ravana. Lord Rama then befriended Sugriva and killed Vali, the unrighteous. He crossed the ocean and entered the city of Lanka. He then destroyed the city of Lanka, killed the wicked demons Ravana and Kumbhakarna and set Sita free. This is the story contained in the Ramayana.

**Activity 1**  
**(Ramayana – Bala Kanda)**

**Fill in the blanks using the following words.**

Vishnu	respectful	Ravana	Ramayana
Ahalya	Valmiki	Sita	Parasurama

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is called a Mahakavya and is written by Sage \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The devas were harassed by the powerful rakshasa king \_\_\_\_\_ and his men.
3. Lord \_\_\_\_\_ incarnated on earth as Rama to kill the rakshasas.
4. Rama was very \_\_\_\_\_ to the elders.
5. Rama gave life to \_\_\_\_\_, the wife of Sage Gautama.
6. Rama met Lord \_\_\_\_\_ on his way to Ayodhya after his wedding with Sita.

## Activity 2

### (Ramayana – Bala Kanda)

Find the qualities of Rama listed below in the word game. Look up, down, and across.

Cheerful    helpful    humble    loving    peaceful    kind  
 Truthful    clean    gentle    wise    dharmic

H	E	L	P	F	U	L	C
U	F	O	E	R	C	O	L
M	A	V	A	I	H	G	E
B	B	I	C	E	E	E	A
L	R	N	E	N	E	N	N
E	I	G	F	D	R	T	D
I	F	H	U	L	F	L	A
O	M	L	L	Y	U	E	A
K	I	N	D	E	L	M	H
T	R	U	T	H	F	U	L
E	S	I	W	R	R	I	D
D	H	A	R	M	I	C	H

**Activity 3**  
**(Ramayana – Bala Kanda)**

**Three-in-one word game.**

**I. Name the three wives of Dasaratha.**

1. K \_\_\_\_\_
2. S \_\_\_\_\_
3. K \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Name the three persons related to Rama whose names start with the letter “S”.**

1. S \_\_\_\_\_ (wife)
2. S \_\_\_\_\_ (brother)
3. S \_\_\_\_\_ (mother)

**III. Name the four Purusharthas.**

1. D \_\_\_\_\_
2. A \_\_\_\_\_
3. K \_\_\_\_\_
4. M \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 4

#### (Ramayana – Bala Kanda)

Find all the answers of Activity 3 – the “Three-in-one” word game here. Look up, down, diagonally, and across.

A	R	T	I	M	U	S	L	H	S
Y	I	D	K	S	Y	A	D	A	K
L	M	D	H	P	A	H	T	R	A
A	K	A	H	A	H	R	R	A	I
S	I	T	A	A	U	S	M	N	Y
U	K	M	I	G	R	M	O	S	E
A	A	P	H	T	I	M	A	L	K
K	L	N	A	K	A	M	A	I	I
P	A	M	S	A	S	K	O	M	A
S	A	T	R	U	G	H	N	A	K

**Puzzle:** There are two Satrugnas hidden in the word game. Can you find both of them?

### Activity 5

#### (Ramayana – Bala Kanda)

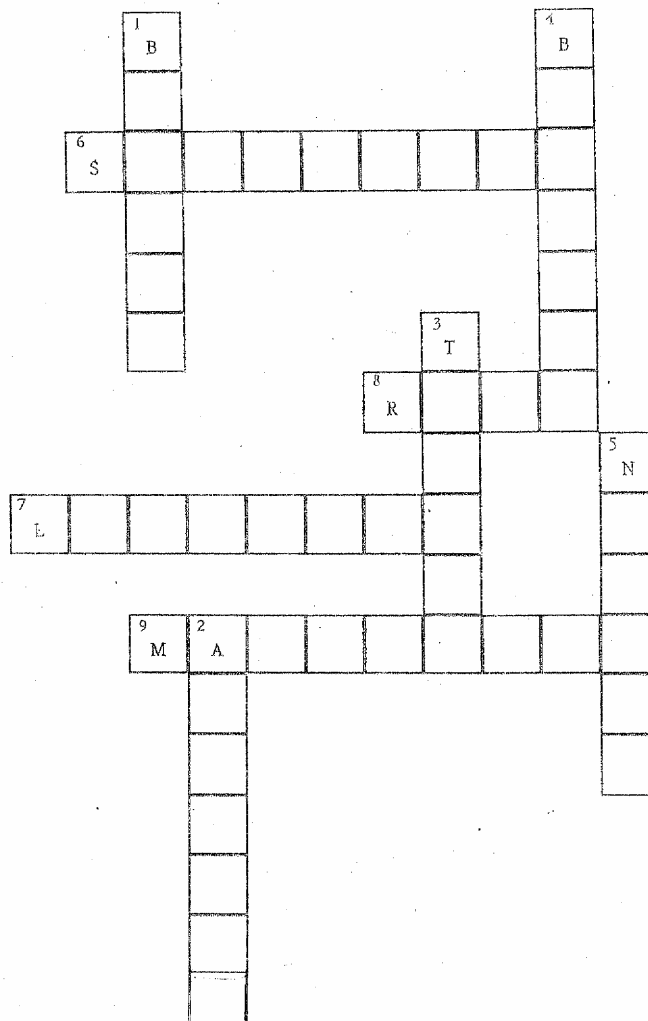
#### Crossword Puzzle

##### DOWN

1. The Lord as a creator.
2. The capital of Kosala.
3. Rama killed this rakshasi in the forest.
4. Kaikeyi's son.
5. Brahma's son.

##### ACROSS

6. The name of Sumitra's son that begins with an S.
7. The name of Sumitra's son that begins with an L.
8. Kausalya's son.
9. A great poem is called a \_\_\_\_\_.



**Activity 6****(Ramayana – Ayodhya Kanda)**

**Mark the correct answer.**

1. Dasaratha was the king of:

India                       Kosala                       Mithila

2. Dasaratha and his sons were descendants of this dynasty:

Sun Dynasty                       Moon Dynasty                       Star Dynasty

3. The sage at Dasaratha's palace was:

Vasishtha                       Valmiki                       Vishwamitra

4. Manthara was:

a demon                       a witch                       a hunchback

5. Kaikeyi asked Dasaratha for two boons:

to make Rama king and banish her to the forest

to make Bharata king and banish her to the forest

to make Bharata king and banish Rama to the forest

6. Name the divine bow that Rama and Lakshmana took to the forest:

Indra                       Parasurama                       Varuna



(Activity 6, Continued)

7. Sita followed her husband to the forest. She was a true:

\_\_\_ princess                  \_\_\_ goddess                  \_\_\_ pativrata

8. Dasaratha was cursed when he was young because he killed:

\_\_\_ a deer                  \_\_\_ a young girl                  \_\_\_ a young boy

9. Bharata went with an army to the forest:

\_\_\_ to capture Rama  
\_\_\_ to kill the rakshasas  
\_\_\_ to convince Rama to be king

10. Bharata ruled the kingdom for fourteen years:

\_\_\_ as a king                  \_\_\_ as a caretaker                  \_\_\_ as a minister

11. Rama and his brothers were:

\_\_\_ selfish                  \_\_\_ selfless                  \_\_\_ self-centered

12. Rama built his first hermitage at:

\_\_\_ Ayodhya                  \_\_\_ Chitrakuta                  \_\_\_ Panchala

### Activity 7

#### (Ramayana – Ayodhya Kanda)

##### Unscramble the words

1. N G A G A            the sacred river Rama crossed by boat

\_\_\_\_\_

2. H G A U            a tribal chief who helped Rama

\_\_\_\_\_

3. N A K S M L A A    Rama's brother

\_\_\_\_\_

4. A D H Y A Y O      city in Kosala

\_\_\_\_\_

5. A N K D A D A      Rama was exiled here for fourteen years

\_\_\_\_\_

6. N A T H M A R A    the hunchback

\_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 8

#### (Ramayana – Ayodhya Kanda)

##### Stop, Look, and list

Complete the names beginning with the letter shown below.

##### I. Sons of Dasaratha

B \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

##### II. Names of Sages

V \_\_\_\_\_

V \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 9

### (Ramayana – Ayodhya Kanda)

#### I. Fill in the blanks

These sentences describe Bharata. Use the correct word to fill in the blanks.

bark	caretaker	righteously	loyal
Ayodhya	grandfather	sandals	angry

1. Bharata went to visit his \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Bharata was \_\_\_\_\_ with his mother when he heard about Rama's exile.
3. Bharata was \_\_\_\_\_ to Rama.
4. Bharata pleaded with Rama to become king of \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Bharata placed Rama's \_\_\_\_\_ on the throne.
6. Bharata wore clothes of \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. Bharata ruled the kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ for fourteen years as a \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### II. Which quality of Bharata appeals to you most and why?

### Activity 10

#### (Ramayana – Ayodhya Kanda)

#### Word Game

Find the members of Rama's family. Look up, down, across, and diagonally.

	Kausalya	Kaikeyi	Sumitra	Dasaratha
Rama	Sita	Lakshmana	Bharata	Satrugna

T	H	U	K	T	R	A	K	R	U	H	N	L	D
K	A	M	A	K	S	H	I	Y	E	K	I	A	K
T	H	I	A	N	H	G	U	R	T	A	S	I	M
H	T	U	R	A	A	L	N	U	T	A	T	K	S
Ā	Y	L	A	S	U	A	K	D	R	N	M	G	U
S	B	H	M	S	M	I	S	A	K	M	L	P	M
B	H	T	Ā	T	Ī	S	T	R	H	I	R	B	I
H	A	T	R	U	R	H	A	A	L	N	A	T	T
A	I	R	A	R	A	N	A	M	Ṣ	K	A	L	R
R	H	U	A	B	R	N	K	S	R	A	N	G	Ā
A	S	T	A	K	R	U	H	N	A	A	R	T	H
T	H	U	A	K	I	E	O	L	R	M	O	K	S
A	V	A	P	H	S	Q	A	L	K	D	H	A	R

**Activity 11****(Ramayana – Aranya Kanda)**

**Fill in the blanks using the appropriate words.**

Rama            rakshasas            Jatayu            Khara            Sabari  
jewels            Marica            Lanka            Pancavati            Surpanakha

1. The Dandaka Forest was infested with \_\_\_\_\_ who disturbed the rishis.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ promised the rishis that he would bring peace to the forest.
3. Ravana asked \_\_\_\_\_ to be a golden deer.
4. Lakshmana cut off \_\_\_\_\_ 's nose.
5. Ravana kidnapped Sita and took her to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Ravana killed \_\_\_\_\_ the eagle when he tried to save Sita.
7. The monkeys found the \_\_\_\_\_ that Sita threw down as she was being kidnapped.
8. Rama, Laksmana, and Sita lived at their hermitage in \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Rama killed Ravana's brother named \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Rama visited the ashram of \_\_\_\_\_ , an old pious woman.

## Activity 12

### (Ramayana – Aranya Kanda)

#### A visit to Rakshasa Land

Help Rama find these rakshasas in the Dandaka Forest. Look up, down, and across.

Viradha	Khara	Akampana	Surpanakha	
Dusana	Trisiras	Ravana	Marica	Kabandha

D	S	A	R	I	Ś	I	R	T	H
Y	A	K	A	R	A	T	E	R	S
A	S	M	M	U	R	C	H	Ā	U
K	A	B	A	Ṇ	D	H	A	V	R
A	T	P	L	K	H	A	R	A	P
M	V	A	P	A	R	S	A	Ṇ	A
P	K	N	H	L	A	R	N	A	Ṇ
A	M	Ā	R	Ī	C	A	A	U	A
N	L	D	U	K	H	E	Ṣ	P	K
A	M	S	T	U	A	V	U	J	H
S	R	L	K	A	D	H	D	K	Ā
W	K	A	V	I	R	Ā	D	H	A

**Activity 13****(Ramayana – Aranya Kanda)****Unscramble the words.**

1. U T Y A J A                      The eagle  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. C A R M I A                      The golden deer  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. A S Y A U N A                      Sage Atri's wife  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. A N A R V A                      A king of Lanka  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. A H R K A                      Ravana's brother  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. I V T A C A P A N                      Rama's hermitage  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. G S A Y A T A                      Sage who ate Rakshasa Ilvala  
\_\_\_\_\_



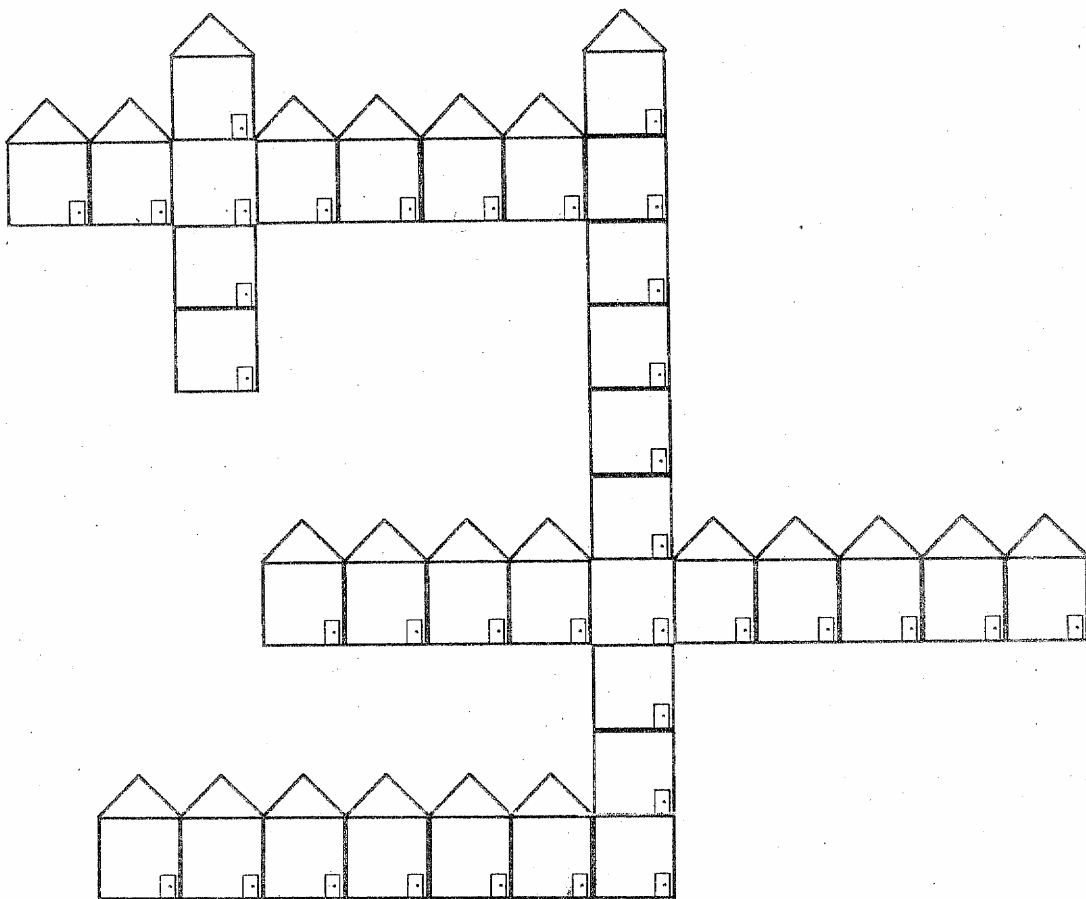
### Activity 14

#### (Ramayana – Aranya Kanda)

##### Sage-O-Mania Puzzle

Rama visited these sages in the Dandaka Forest. Place the sages in the ashramas where they belong.

Atri    Bharadvaja    Sutiksna    Agastya    Sarabhanga



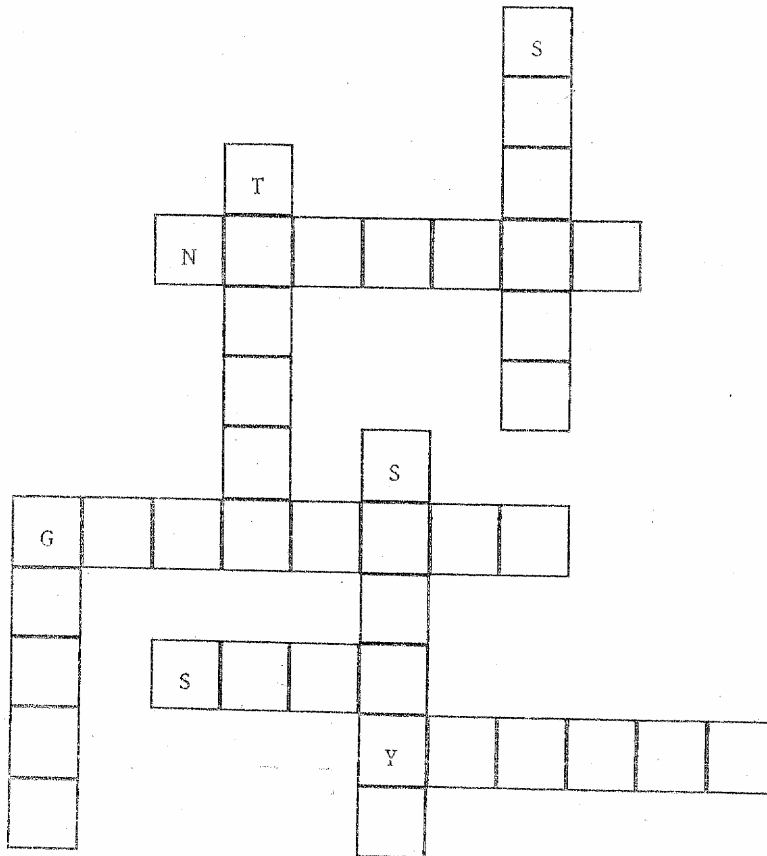
### Activity 15

#### (Ramayana – Aranya Kanda)

##### I. The rivers of India

Follow Rama across the rivers by filling in the crossword puzzle.

- |       |          |        |        |
|-------|----------|--------|--------|
| Ganga | Godavari | Sarayu | Sindhu |
| Sona  | Narmada  | Yamuna | Tamasa |



##### II. Name the rivers in the descriptions below.

1. With the help of Guha, Rama crossed the river G \_\_\_\_\_ by boat.
2. River S \_\_\_\_\_ flows near the city of Ayodhya.
3. The citizens of Ayodhya followed Rama up to the river T \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The river G \_\_\_\_\_ flows near Pancavati.

**Activity 16****(Ramayana – Kishkindha Kanda)****Mark the correct answer.**

1. Sugriva and his men lived on this mountain.

 Rishyamukha       Girimukha       Vanarmukha

2. Hanuman was the son of:

 Vayu       Agni       Indra

3. Vali was the son of:

 Vayu       Agni       Indra

4. Vali was cursed by this rishi not to come near his ashrama.

 Sarabhanga       Bharadvaja       Matanga

5. Rama pledged a friendship in front of the fire with:

 Vali       Sugriva       Jambavan

6. The oldest and wisest member of Sugriva's army was:

 Angada       Jambavan       Sugriva

7. The strongest monkey to cross the ocean to Lanka was:

 Jambavan       Angada       Hanuman

8. After Vali's death, Sugriva became the king of:

 Dandaka       Kishkindha       Janasthana

**Activity 17****(Ramayana – Kishkindha Kanda)****A visit to Monkey Land**

Look up, down, across, and diagonally for these monkeys in the forest.

Jambavan

Sugriva

Nala

Nila

Susena

Tara

Angada

Hanuman

Vali

S	A	A	D	A	G	Ñ	A
R	V	Ā	L	Ī	R	L	S
N	Ī	J	A	B	Ī	T	N
Ā	R	N	G	N	L	A	L
M	G	S	N	S	T	L	Ā
U	U	N	F	R	H	A	R
N	S	L	R	M	A	N	Ā
A	S	U	Ş	E	Ñ	A	T
H	P	T	S	H	N	A	T
N	Ā	V	A	B	M	Ā	J

**Activity 18****(Ramayana – Kishkindha Kanda)****Matching**

Show the relationships by drawing lines between the columns.

<u>WHO</u>	<u>RELATED TO WHOM</u>	<u>HOW</u>
Rama	Vayu	brother
Jatayu	Angada	father
Vali	Lakshmana	brother
Sugriva	Sampati	son
Hanuman	Kubera	brother
Ravana	Vali	half-brother

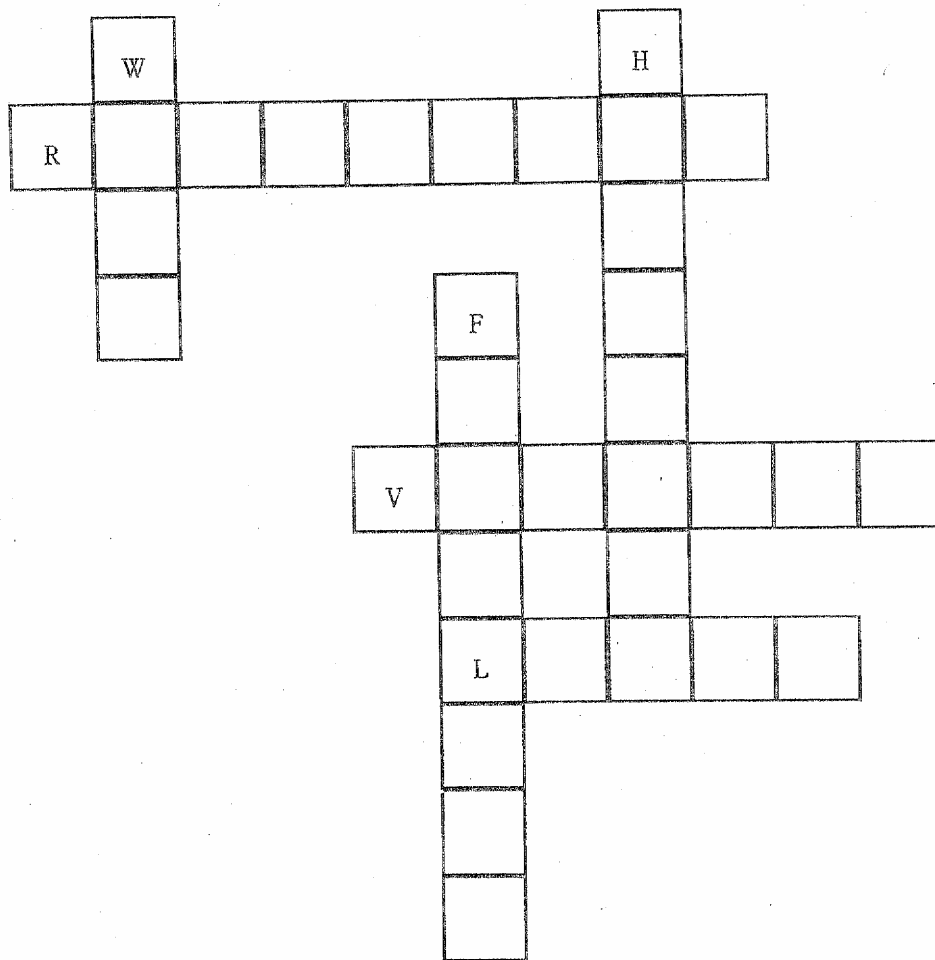
### Activity 19

#### (Ramayana – Kishkindha Kanda)

#### Crossword Puzzle

From the word list find the six qualities which made Hanuman special and circle them. Write them in the puzzle.

- valiant      coward      righteous      selfish      proud      loyal  
 humility      fickle      scared      wise      fearless



**Activity 20****(Ramayana – Sundara Kanda)**

**Fill in the blanks with the correct words.**

Asokavana              Lankini              Indrajit              ocean              trees

Vibhisana              rakshasi              Lanka              ring              tail

1. Hanuman flew across the \_\_\_\_\_ to Lanka.
2. Surasa, the mother of serpents, took the form of a \_\_\_\_\_ to test Hanuman.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the guardian who protected Lanka.
4. Hanuman saw Sita in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Hanuman gave Sita Rama's signet \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Hanuman uprooted the \_\_\_\_\_ at Asokavana.
7. Finally, Ravana's son \_\_\_\_\_ subdued Hanuman.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ advised Ravana not to kill Hanuman, because he was a messenger.
9. Hanuman's \_\_\_\_\_ was set on fire by Ravana.
10. Hanuman set fire to \_\_\_\_\_ and flew back to Rama.

**Activity 21****(Ramayana – Sundara Kanda)****Value Jumble**

Match the person to the value. Place the number of the name in the space next to the quality that best describes that person.

1. Rama \_\_\_\_\_ arrogant
2. Sita \_\_\_\_\_ friendship
3. Lakshmana \_\_\_\_\_ dharma
4. Hanuman \_\_\_\_\_ devotion
5. Sugriva \_\_\_\_\_ loyal
6. Jambavan \_\_\_\_\_ wise
7. Ravana \_\_\_\_\_ pativrata



## Activity 22

### (Ramayana – Sundara Kanda)

#### Word search

Circle the seven right words to describe Sita. Find all of them in this word game. Look up, down, and across.

jealous      beautiful      faithful      angry      kind      sensitive  
 cruel      loving      mean      pure      patient

L	U	F	I	T	U	A	E	B
F	G	A	U	G	S	A	R	S
D	N	I	K	P	V	R	U	E
P	A	T	I	E	N	T	P	N
R	E	H	K	T	R	E	J	S
A	B	F	S	F	A	T	E	I
B	A	U	L	P	K	S	L	T
E	A	L	O	V	I	N	G	I
R	G	P	A	T	S	L	E	V
P	O	L	V	I	E	G	K	E

### Activity 23

#### (Ramayana – Sundara Kanda)

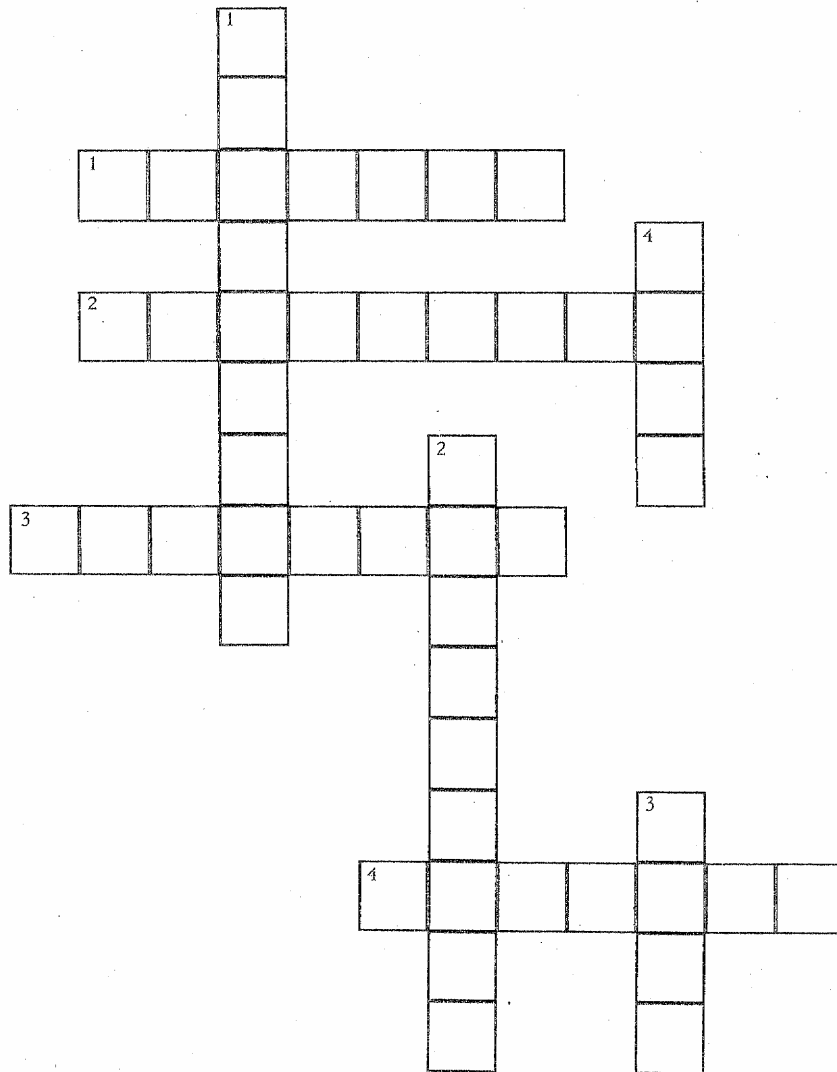
#### Crossword Puzzle

##### ACROSS

1. Monkey who flew to Lanka.
2. The garden where Sita was held.
3. Ravana’s bravest son.
4. The guardian angel of Lanka.

##### DOWN

1. Ravana’s sensible queen.
2. Ravana’s wise brother.
3. Rama gave this ornament to Hanuman to give Sita.
4. Part of Hanuman’s body set on fire.



## Activity 24

### (Ramayana – Yuddha Kanda)

#### War Talk

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word.

Indrajit      Hanuman      Rama      monkeys      captive      dharma

Vibhisana      Brahma-astra      Nagapasa      Kumbhakarna      Susena

1. Rama marched toward Lanka with his army of \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Ravana kept Sita in Lanka as a \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Rama had to fight a war with Ravana to uphold \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The biggest rakshasa in Ravana's army was \_\_\_\_\_
5. The powerful rakshasa who could turn invisible was \_\_\_\_\_
6. The monkey who carried the entire Mount Himavan in his hand was \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. The physician in Rama's army was called \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Indrajit bound Rama and Laksmana with his \_\_\_\_\_
9. Rama finally killed Ravana with the \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. After Ravana's death, \_\_\_\_\_ was crowned king of Lanka.

### Activity 25

#### (Ramayana – Yuddha Kanda)

#### Rama and Ravana’s armies

#### WORD GAME

Place the characters in Rama’s and Ravana’s armies:

Rama  
Akampana  
Sugriva  
Indrajit  
Angada  
Virupaksa

Susena  
Ravana  
Vibhisana  
Kumbhakarna  
Laksmana  
Hanuman

Nila  
Jambumali  
Jambavan  
Nikumbha  
Atikaya  
Prahastha

RAMA’S ARMY

RAVANA’S ARMY

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### Activity 26

#### (Ramayana – Yuddha Kanda)

**Find Rama's army of Activity 25 here.**

Look up, down, across, and diagonally to find all nine members of Rama's army.

A	N	K	E	L	P	G	U	R	I	V
T	Ā	A	V	A	V	Ī	R	G	U	S
R	V	M	I	Ñ	A	L	Ī	N	A	S
S	A	L	B	G	E	S	A	L	U	N
L	B	S	H	A	V	E	A	Ṣ	M	H
V	M	T	Ī	D	Ī	R	E	S	B	E
L	Ā	R	Ṣ	A	E	Ñ	P	R	L	Q
S	J	A	A	H	A	N	U	M	Ā	N
R	A	L	Ñ	S	A	T	L	R	D	T
J	A	M	A	J	B	A	M	Ā	R	S
P	H	R	A	Ñ	A	M	Ṣ	K	A	L

### Activity 27

#### (Ramayana – Yuddha Kanda)

#### Crossword Puzzle

##### ACROSS

1. The monkey who found Sita.
2. The color of blood.
3. Rama's wife.
4. Ravana's powerful son who could turn invisible.
5. Opposite of true.

##### DOWN

1. Ravana's wife.
2. The author of the Ramayana.
3. The monkey architect.
4. Opposite of weak.
5. Vibhisana was the \_\_\_\_\_ brother of Ravana.

