Case for Conservation
Understanding Conservation at Chinatown
Primary School Students

Name: ____________________________

Class: ____________

Created in 2013 by the Urban Redevelopment Authority
In collaboration with Admiralty Primary School
**Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Done?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 mins</td>
<td>Briefing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 45 mins | **Where it all began - History of Telok Ayer**  
· Telok Ayer Green  
· Thian Hock Keng Temple |       |
| 60 mins | **Changing Times - Ann Siang Hill**  
· Ann Siang Hill  
· Lee Clan on Ann Siang Road |       |
| 45 mins | Rest  
· Maxwell Market |       |
| 60 mins | **Case for Conservation**  
· Former Maxwell Outpatient Dispensary  
· Challenges of Planning (The URA Centre)  
· Singapore City Gallery |       |
| 15 mins | Debrief                              |       |

**Tips for working together**
- Cooperate with your Team Leader
- Listen to ideas by team members
- Be polite
- Be alert
- Stay on task

**Safety Rules**
- Watch out for traffic
- Alert your teacher when you are not feeling well
- Drink lots of water along the walking trail
Case for Conservation
Your team has been sent to make a case on whether the former Maxwell Outpatient Dispensary in Chinatown should be conserved.

Former Maxwell Outpatient Dispensary
This building was completed in early 1923. In 1967, it was a clinic that distributed medicine to those who lived around the area. Medicine was only given to people who had already visited the doctors or needed more for a long term illness.

To help you put up your case, you will explore the following:

Where it all began - History of Telok Ayer

Criteria for conservation
• Building age
• Building features
• Building’s contribution to society

Changing Times

Challenges of Planning
Why did people from all over South East Asia come to Singapore? Look for this structure to read about our beginnings.

Which community inhabited Telok Ayer before the first immigrants set foot?

M______C____________

What was their occupation?

F______

Where did your family come from?

________________________________________

________________________________________
Where it all began – History of Telok Ayer

Stand at this position facing the road.

Name the street in front of you.

T___ A___ S_____ 

This street was the S_____.

Back in 1821, this was the I____ S____ of the Chinese immigrants.

The land where all the buildings stand in front of you was previously the S____.
What do you think a typical immigrant would do when he first disembarked from a boat at Telok Ayer Street?

What was on the site before it became a temple?

Who contributed to rebuild Thian Hock Keng Temple?

Hint: Find out more from the information board outside the temple.
Walk into Thian Hock Keng Temple.

Observe the visitors in the temple.

Why do you think they are visiting the building?

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Do you think this is different from what people in the past did in the temple? Tick one of the boxes and explain your answer.

☐ Yes ____________________________________

☐ No _____________________________________

Notice to Visitors

• Show respect through your behaviour and words
• Refrain from touching statues of deities
• Refrain from taking pictures of deities and worshippers
Criteria for Conservation

The conservation of historic buildings and areas allows Singapore to preserve its colourful past.

Each conserved building in Singapore has to meet the following criteria:

1. Building Age
Buildings have to be at least 30 years old before it can be considered for conservation.

2. Building Features
The building has unique architecture features. They give us an idea of how people lived, worked and played in the past. They tell us about the taste and fashion of the time. They show us what was significant about the people’s beliefs, cultures and even what the weather was like.

3. Building’s Contribution
The building contributes to the identity of the street or an area. It is a landmark for many people. It reveals the history of the area, and the development of the different communities in Singapore.
Explore Thian Hock Keng Temple and jot down some reasons why it was conserved.

1. Building Age
   When was it built? _______
   How old is it? _______ years old

2. Building Features
   Do you see these unique features? Why do you think it was built this way?

   At the entrance: Low granite steps

   At the entrance: Granite dragon columns

Did you know???
The temple was amazingly built without the use of nails
Explore Thian Hock Keng Temple and jot down some reasons it was conserved.

3. Building’s Contribution

Does the building contribute to the identity of the street? Why or why not?

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

________________________________________________________________________

Does the building remind us of the history of the area? If it does, write it down.

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

________________________________________________________________________

Did the activities that occurred within the building contribute to the different communities in Singapore? If it does, write it down.

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Created in 2013 by the Urban Redevelopment Authority
In collaboration with Admiralty Primary School
### Changing Times - Ann Siang Hill

How is life in Singapore today different from the past? Let’s find out more through this walk up to Ann Siang Hill Park.

At the entrance of the park, find out more about the origin of Ann Siang Hill and compare it to what you see now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changing Times - Ann Siang Hill
At the end of Ann Siang Hill Park, look for the portrait of Chia Ann Siang to complete this time line.

Retired from Boustead & Company

Went into timber business - Geok Teat and Company

Worked in British firm Boustead & Company

State the year in the boxes provided.
Chinese Clan Associations operated according to dialect, family name or where they came from. Some of them represented various occupations.

Walk into the Lee Clan Association and find a seat. Your teachers will share some of the clan’s history so get ready to jot down some notes.

Look around to find out about the activities organised by the clan. Why do you think they run these activities?
Criteria for Conservation -
The Lee Clan Association
Jot down some reasons why The Lee Clan Association shophouse was conserved.

1. Building Age
When was it built? _______
How old is it? _______ years old

2. Building Features
Do you see its unique features? Why do you think it was built this way?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Created in 2013 by the Urban Redevelopment Authority
In collaboration with Admiralty Primary School
3. Building’s Contribution

Does the building contribute to the identity of the street? Why or why not?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

________________________________________________________________________

Does the building remind us of the history of the area? If it does, write it down.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

________________________________________________________________________

Did the activities that occurred within the building contribute to the different communities in Singapore? If it does, write it down.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

________________________________________________________________________
Changing Times - Visiting the Lee Clan Association

Look around the Lee Clan Association.

What are some of the activities taking place around it.

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

How has life today been shaped by what happened in the past?

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________
Case for Conservation - Former Maxwell Outpatient Dispensary

Take a look at the building and draw some unique features that you observe.
Singapore is a city that is also a country. It has to plan for its citizens’ needs. Use the Touchstone Interactive to find out what we need and tick the boxes of what you found.
URA plans for Singapore’s physical development. Singapore is a small island that has big needs. One challenge that URA faces is to make sure we have enough land for everyone’s needs.

Read the panels and play with the wall interactive for simple ways to “create” more land.

Reclamation
Some of the places we have reclaimed are:

**a) Tanjong**
A shipyard that is now waterfront housing.

**b) Marina**
Which helped our Central Business District grow easily

Singapore has grown in size by 17,000 football fields since the 1960s. Reclamation is one solution for solving the land shortage problem. But it cannot go on forever.

Use the wall interactive to find out why:

**Because**
1) It can be very e___

2) We need s___ which is also a “parking lot” for ships.
Challenges of Planning - Maximising land use (Area 4)

URA plans for Singapore’s physical development. Singapore is a small island that has big needs. One challenge that URA faces is to make sure we have enough land for everyone’s needs.

Read the panels and play with the wall interactive for simple ways to “create” more land.

Underground Spaces

What’s under us:

**Underground Spaces**

Which also provides shelter from the sun and rain (1m – 3m underground)

**M____ R_____**

**MRT System**

Which moves more than 2 million people everyday (15m – 20m underground)

**M_____ C______**

**Expressway**

Which will help to reduce traffic jams on the roads (20m – 50m underground)

**Jurong R_____**

**C_____**

Which will safely store oil and gas (150m underground)

Two-thirds of Singapore is sitting on good rock upon which we can build underground.

Choose one place that we can put underground and give a reason why you chose it.

☐ Homes

☐ Playground

☐ Schools

**Because**
By conserving our built heritage, we keep important reminders of the toils and struggles of our forefathers, and their achievements in building modern Singapore. Use the Conservation Wall to name these structures.

Challenges of Planning - Brush with History (Area 6)
We need more space for businesses in Chinatown

I have been running business for the last 30 years. Five years ago, we made a decision to expand our business and set up a few more offices. I have been looking at the Chinatown area because all our clients are there.

However, it has been very hard to find an office space for my office of 100 people. Everyone is competing for the limited office space. Rents are also very high because of this.

My other friends have also been commenting that office space for their design firms and law agencies are very hard to come by. I really hope that something can be done to create more office space in Chinatown. Maybe a 20-storey building next to Maxwell Market?

William Wong
Case for Conservation - Former Maxwell Outpatient Dispensary

You need to help decide if we should keep the building and its use as a clinic. Use what you’ve learnt to fill up the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>Does it meet the criteria? Yes / No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need for office space</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Features</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case for Conservation - Former Maxwell Outpatient Dispensary

Make a decision whether the building should be conserved and explain why.

Keep the building?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

Keep its use as a dispensary?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

________________________

________________________

________________________

Created in 2013 by the Urban Redevelopment Authority
In collaboration with Admiralty Primary School