

THE SEVEN WONDERS OF VELLORE

There is a famous description of the “seven wonders of Vellore”, people say that it has:

- A river with no water.
- A temple with no god.
- A fort with no king.
- A hill with no trees.
- Police with no power.
- Women without beauty.
- Men without strength.



Could you draw a picture of Vellore as described above?

Which of these statements puzzles you most?

Do you think the description is true, or a joke, or maybe someone being nasty?

Do you think all the descriptions are true?

Are there things that your village is famous for? Can you make up a poem like this about your town or village?

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Commentary for teachers:

- A river with no water. *The river which used to run through Vellore is now dry. This has happened because (a) the area has had lower than normal rainfalls for many years and (b) dams and irrigation systems higher up the river have drawn all the remaining water away.*
- A temple with no god. *Although there are now statues of the gods in the Vellore Temple, there was a period of about twenty years when the statue of Shiva was removed from the temple to keep it safe.*
- A fort with no king. *Vellore has a famous fort, but no Indian rulers have lived there for two hundred years.*
- A hill with no trees. *The lack of trees is due to a combination of lack of rainfall and the use of trees for firewood and building.*
- Police with no power. *There is a large police training college in the fort—the students will become policemen—but as yet they have no power!*
- Women without beauty.
- Men without strength. *Well these two are just cheeky aren't they?*