## Growing up White in South Asia

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By Doria Garms-Sotelo Freelance Writer Seoul, Korea August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

#### About Me

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№ <a href="http://about.me/dgarms">http://about.me/dgarms</a>

## Culture Shock in America

#### Location of Sri Lanka







# A Brief History Sri Lanka

- Stone objects were found that dated back to 500,000 BC (Wanasundera, 1996)
- ™ The first prince arrived in 543 BC
- Buddhism was brought to the island in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC
- ™ In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, Tamils start to rule some areas
- ™ In 1505, the Portuguese visit the island
- In 1658, the Dutch seized the Portuguese fort on the island
- From 1815-1948, the British started to rule Sri Lanka

## Civil War with the Tamil Tigers

- War broke out in 1983 when the Tamil guerrillas demanded an independent state (Wanasundera, 1996)
- In 1990, the police headquarters was bombed 2 blocks from my house
- ™ In 1993, the president is assassinated
- ™ In 2009, the war finally ended when the Tamil leader was killed

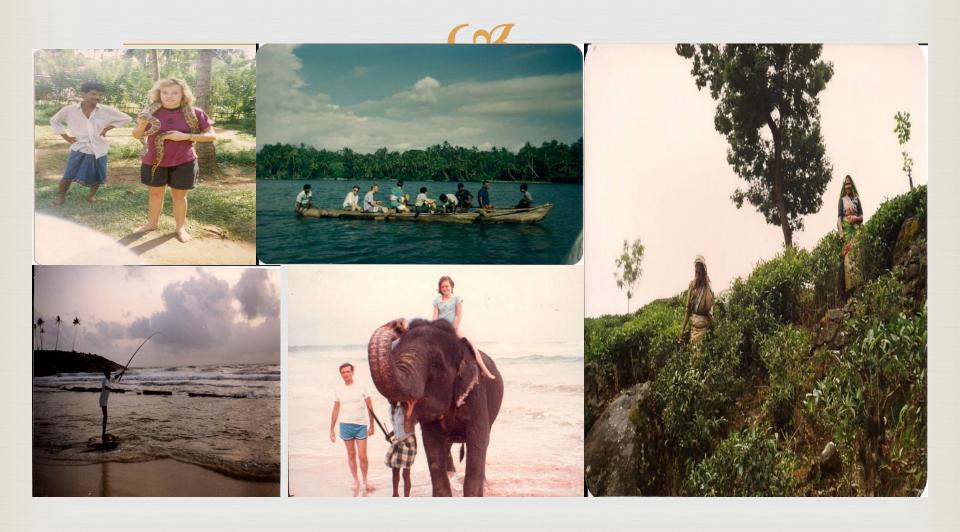
## My Family — 3



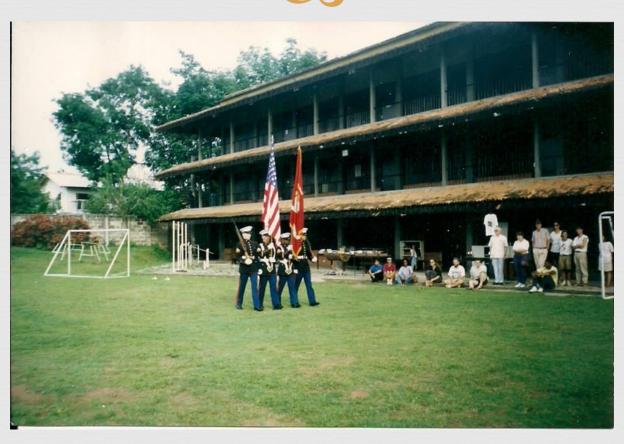
### Visit Sri Lanka



### Sri Lanka in Pictures

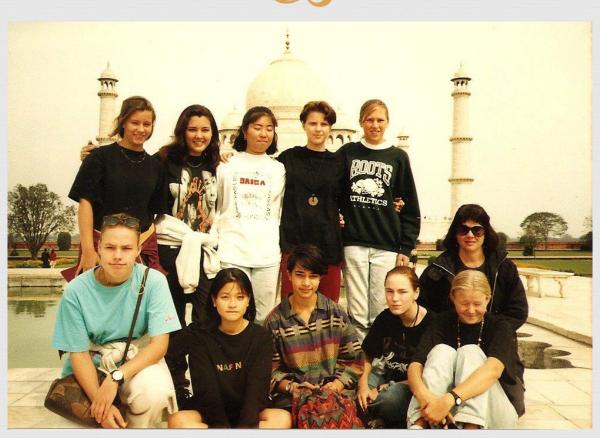


## My School Overseas School Colombo



## Volleyball Team

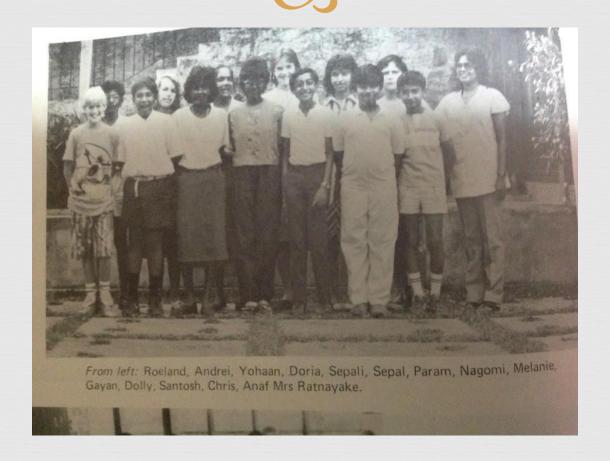




# Model United Nations Team



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Class

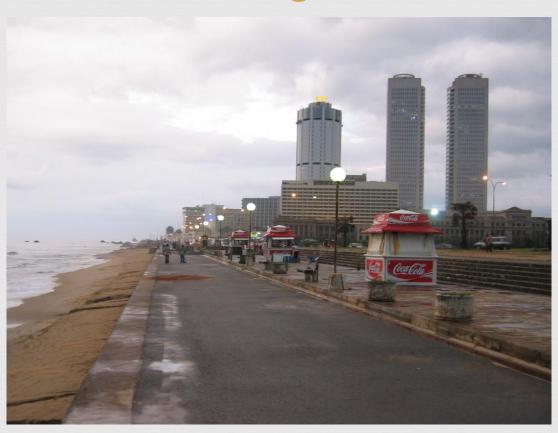


## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade 1992



### Sri Lanka 20 Years Later





### Life in Korea Now





### Conclusion

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How can we learn to understand other peoples culture?

#### References

CB

Wanasundera, N. (1996). *Sri Lanka*. Singapore: Times Editions Pte Ltd.

### Questions?



### Ready to Write?



- Explain a time when you experienced culture shock
- ₩ What can you do to reverse culture shock?
- What can you do to understand culture more?

### Ready to Share?



# Writing Workshops in Korea

- https://www.facebook.com/groups/2954785739227
- ≈ <a href="http://www.meetup.com/writers-779/">http://www.meetup.com/writers-779/</a>

#### **Contact Information**

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