



About Indian Heritage Centre

The Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), under the management of the National Heritage Board and with support from the Indian community, traces the history of the Indian and South Asian communities in the Southeast Asian region.

The four-storey IHC building is an iconic, unique and sustainable building that blends both traditional Indian as well as modern architectural elements. The architectural design for the facade of IHC is inspired by the *baoli* (or Indian stepwell), and seeks to create an urban forum for the celebration and appreciation of Indian culture. It houses five permanent galleries, small scale museum facilities, a museum shop as well as programming and activity spaces.

Situated at 5 Campbell Lane, the centre also serves as a springboard for visitors to explore Little India and enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of the historical precinct. IHC was opened by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 7th May 2015 and will offer year-round exhibitions, programmes and activities to promote greater public awareness and appreciation of Indian heritage, arts and culture.

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[f indianheritagecentre](https://www.facebook.com/indianheritagecentre)

[@dihcsg](https://www.instagram.com/dihcsg)

Opening Hours

Tuesdays – Thursdays: 10am to 7pm
Fridays – Saturdays: 10am to 8pm
Sundays/Public Holidays*: 10am to 4pm
Closed on Mondays

Last admission to the galleries is half an hour before closing.

* The Indian Heritage Centre is closed on Public Holidays that fall on a Monday unless otherwise stated.

Organised by



A Heritage Institution of



National
Heritage
Board

Supported by



Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth



Boys and girls,
before we explore the galleries,
let us remember:



Handle the
audio-visual
equipment with care



Enjoy your food
& drinks outside
the galleries



Speak softly
in the galleries



Use only pencils
to prevent leaving
permanent marks



Take your photographs
without using flash



Walk calmly
in the galleries



Touch only
with your eyes



We hope you had a fruitful
learning journey today
exploring the roots of the
early Indians in Singapore
and the distinct cultural
practices they had
brought along with them.

Thank you for joining
us on our journey!



Most Memorable Moment in the Museum Today

Draw or write about it.

Let's Discuss

Another festival celebrated in Singapore is the fire-walking ceremony. Before the start of the ceremony, Aravan (a mythic hero from the *Mahabharata*) is paraded around in the Sri Mariamman temple located in Singapore's Chinatown to seek blessings.



Look closely at this statue of Aravan.

How would you describe his expression?

Why do you think he looks this way?

Act it Out

Strike a pose like this temple dancer.

Music and dance are an important part of Hindu religious festivals. During such ceremonies, temple dancers who worship the gods, tell stories of the gods' lives through their dances.

Describe the dancer's attire:



What do you think?

Before your museum visit:

2 words to describe museums

1. _____

2. _____



Mystery Object

What is this object?

What do you think this object represents?

Where is it from?

What is it made of?



Let's Design

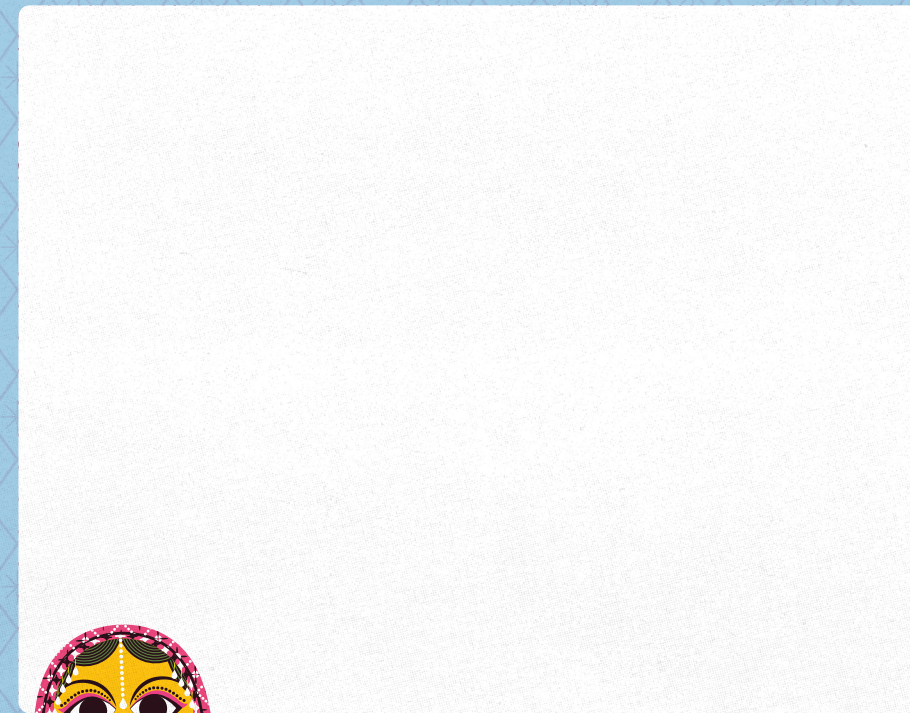
We are now onboard the ship, the SS Rajula. We have just met a Chettiar. He is telling us that he is on his way to Singapore to start a business.

The Chettiars are from the Chettinad region, in Tamil Nadu. Many of the early Chettiar migrants to Singapore were moneylenders and businessmen. A unique feature of a traditional home in the Chettinad region is the beautifully handcrafted wooden doorway.

Can you identify some of the figures you see on the doorway?

Your turn now!

Design your own Chettinad Door



Why do you think the Chettiars have such huge doors in their homes?

<6>

Spot the Similarities

My grandfather once told me, since the beginning of the Common Era, there have been many instances of exchange between South and Southeast Asia. These interactions can be seen in some structures and sculptures.

Let us now take a closer look at some of these artefacts.



A



B

Can you spot the similarities in these two Buddha sculptures?

Can you guess which country each one is from?

A. _____

B. _____

<3>

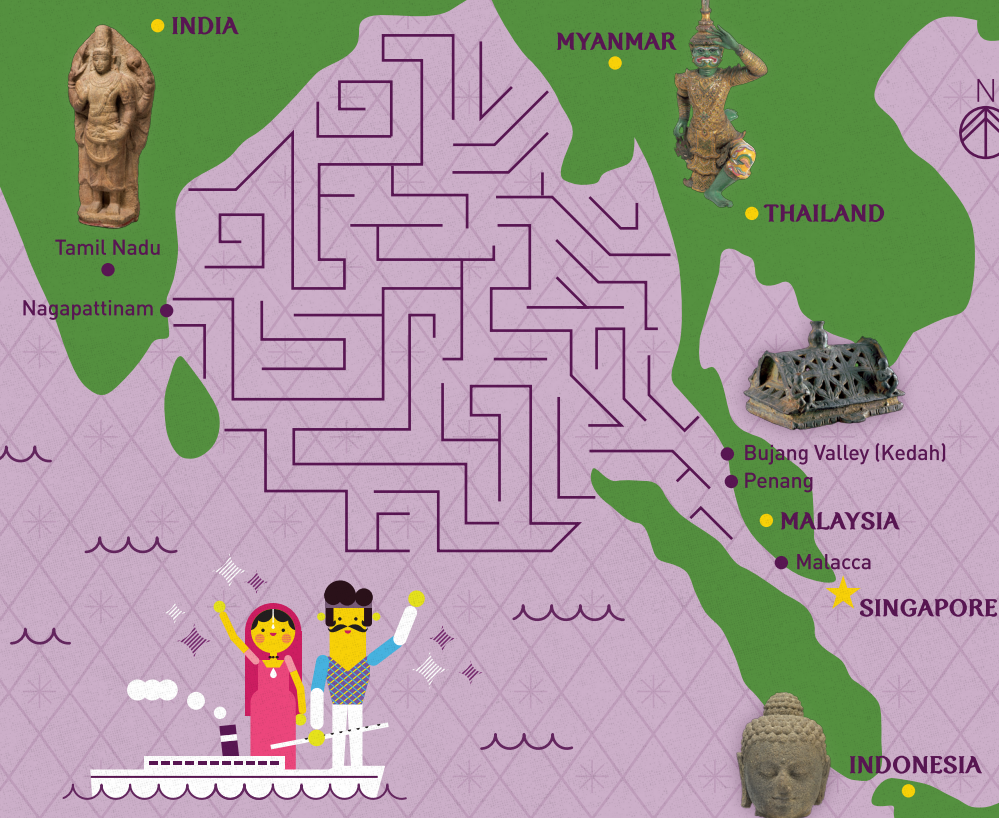
Maze Time

Hi boys and girls,

My name is Nisha and this is my brother Girish. We are going to take you on a journey today.

We are from the Coastal Town of Nagapattinam in India. We are making our way to Singapore on-board the ship, the SS Rajula in search of a better life. We remember reading stories about the early contact between the people of South and Southeast Asia.

Let us now trace the route of early traders/settlers from the Indian sub-continent to Southeast Asia and Singapore.



<2>

Festivals

The early migrants came to Singapore in search of new opportunities and to start new lives. They brought with them their own culture and practices, which, over time changed to blend with the multi-cultural society in their new home country.

Thaipusam is a popular festival for the Tamil community, be it in Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand or Myanmar.

On the day of Thaipusam, devotees carry milk pots while others carry beautifully decorated *kavadis* like the one you see here.

Observe the *kavadi*; what is it decorated with?

How do you think the devotees carry the *kavadi*?



Did you know?

In Singapore, the 3.5 km long Thaipusam procession starts at Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple along Serangoon Road and ends at Sri Thendayuthapani Temple at Tank Road.

<7>

Meet Agastya

When learning the Tamil language, my teacher always talks about Agastya.

Let us find out who he is.



Describe Agastya in 3 words:

What do you think the sculpture is made of?

Spot the object he is carrying in his left hand:

Did you know?

Agastya is the author of an important Tamil grammar text called *Agathiyam*. In Indonesia, it is believed that he passed on Indian culture, Hinduism and Shaivism to Java.

Shadow Puppets

I remember my grandmother telling us stories about the Indian epics *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. These stories remain popular in many parts of Southeast Asia and their influence can be observed in literature, temple reliefs, shadow puppets and performances.



Look closely at the characters in the shadow puppets.

What do you think the characters are doing?

What are the shadow puppets made of?
