



Tales from Our Shores

Tales from Our Shores is an exhibition that retells six of Singapore's most well-loved myths and legends. Step back into this large wonderland and go back in time to discover a Singapore that was ruled by Sultans and Rajahs and when life was simple and idyllic.

< for Primary School Students >

Educators' Guide



Education and
Community Outreach Division

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Myths and legends have long been used to impart values and explain why certain places got their names, or even how mountains and rivers came to be. Although at times these tales may seem hard to believe, they do offer a civilisation or country an oral traditional that tells of how people lived in the past, their belief systems and their cultural and moral values.

Tales from Our Shores is an exhibition that retells 6 of Singapore's most well-loved the old trades in Singapore and questions if these incidents recounted in the stories really did happen or are just tall tales.

Join us in this journey of retelling these tales and investigate if Singapore waters were really infested with swordfish long ago, or if a boy's blood stained the soil of Bukit Merah and if the Singapore Stone was really a piece of large rock flung all the way from India.

Follow us as we step into this large wonderland and go back in time to discover a Singapore that we ruled by Sultans and Rajahs and when life was simple and idyllic.

What are folk tales, myths and legends?

Folk tales are stories originating from a popular culture that was typically passed on by word of mouth.

Myths are traditional stories, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining a natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events. Myths are widely held, but are false beliefs or ideas.

Legends are traditional stories sometimes popularly regarded as historical but not authenticated.

KEY CONCEPTS

You can connect *Tales from Our Shores* to your curriculum using these key concepts. They convey the main educational themes of the exhibition.

The exhibition serves as a platform for students to appreciate and understand the concept of myths and legends.

Stories featured in this exhibition are stories from the era of Sultans and Rajahs. The unique era of these stories allows students the opportunity to appreciate Singapore's pre-colonisation culture and way of life.



These stories serves as avenues to impart good values.

Students will be given the opportunity to infer the values/morals conveyed in the stories and also reflect and exemplify these values in their lives.

The stories challenge students to question the facts of the story.

These myths and legends will challenge students to question the storyline. This exhibition provides teachers the opportunity to integrate knowledge sharing into the lesson and teach students the facts that will counter against the storyline presented and hence, guiding students to make their own judgement.

PRE-VISIT

Come Prepared

Review this guide prior to your visit to the exhibition. You may research for more information about Singapore's myths to share with your students.

To read up about other Singapore myths and legends:

<http://remembersingapore.wordpress.com/2012/06/29/singapore-legends-and-myths/>

To read up about other Singapore urban myths:

<http://remembersingapore.wordpress.com/2011/07/05/10-most-popular-singapore-urban-legends/>

Class Discussion

Before you visit the exhibition, let your students know that they will be able to learn about various Singapore's myths and legends. Read aloud the write up that can be found in the "About the Exhibition" page to your students and discuss the Key Concepts with them.

Get the students to write down their thoughts in the Pre-Visit space found in their worksheets. If you wish to discuss more, below are some guiding questions:

What are some values that your parents have taught you?

Do you know of other Singapore myths that you can share with the class?

Do you know what urban myths are?

Do you know any urban myths? If yes, please share with the class.

B DRAW THE ANIMALS

In this exhibition, you will read about 6 of Singapore's most famous tales. Draw the animals that were mentioned in this exhibition and write the name of the tale.

swordfish

*Attack of the
Swordfish*

turtle

Kusu Island

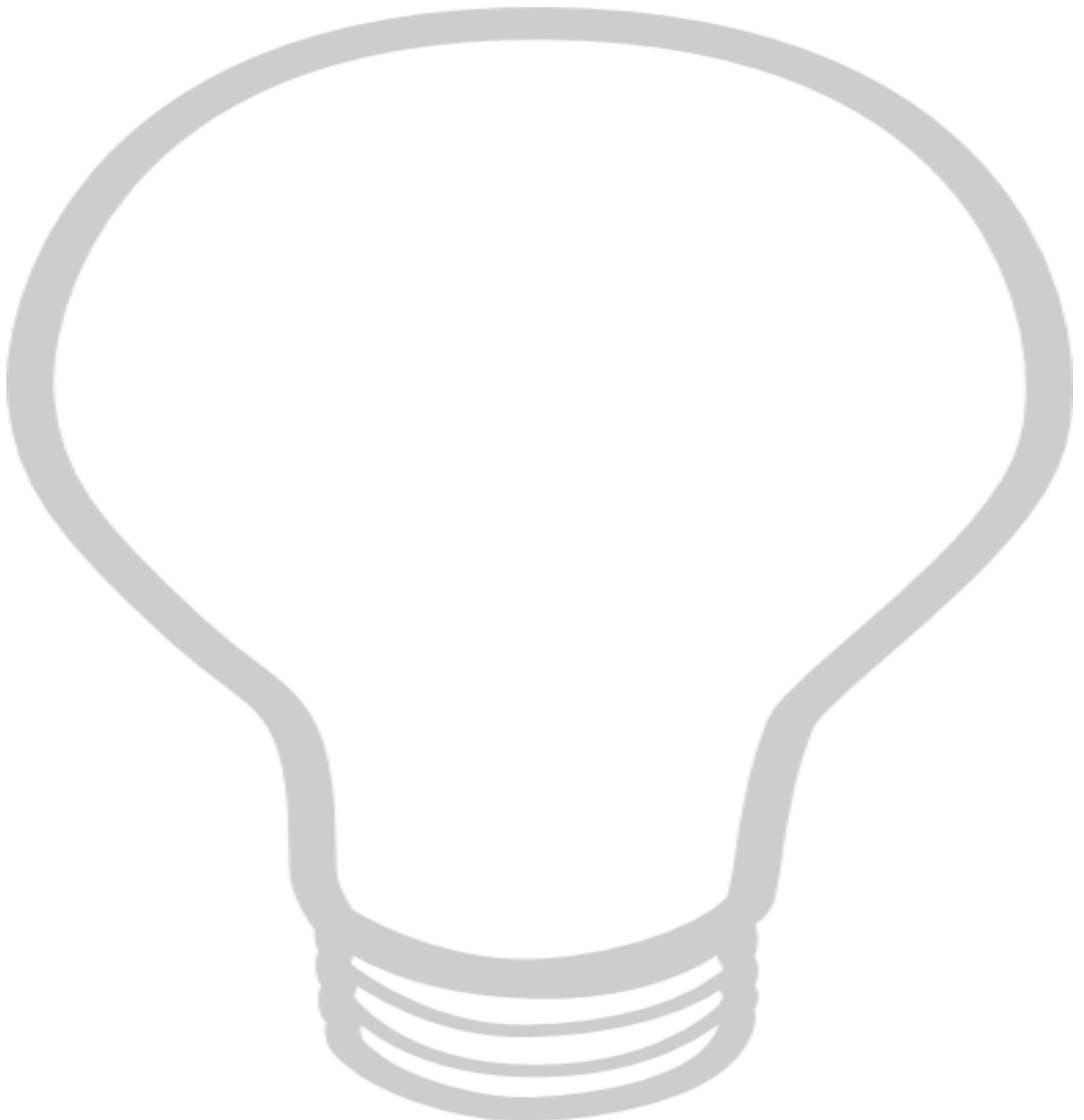
snake

*The Snake in the
Banyan Tree*

© STRETCH YOUR IMAGINATION!

In the story "*Attack of the Swordfish*", the little boy was innovative and brave. Imagine you were the boy and only had simple tools to use, how would you have saved your village from the attacks of the swordfish?

In no more than 50 words, write your version of the story in the space provided below.



D POWER UP!

Supernatural powers, fairies and monsters are always what make folk tales so mythical and captivating. In this exhibition, you would have also read about some of these supernatural powers and monsters.

Imagine you were Badang and you met an ugly looking monster who could give you any supernatural power that you want for you to do something good.

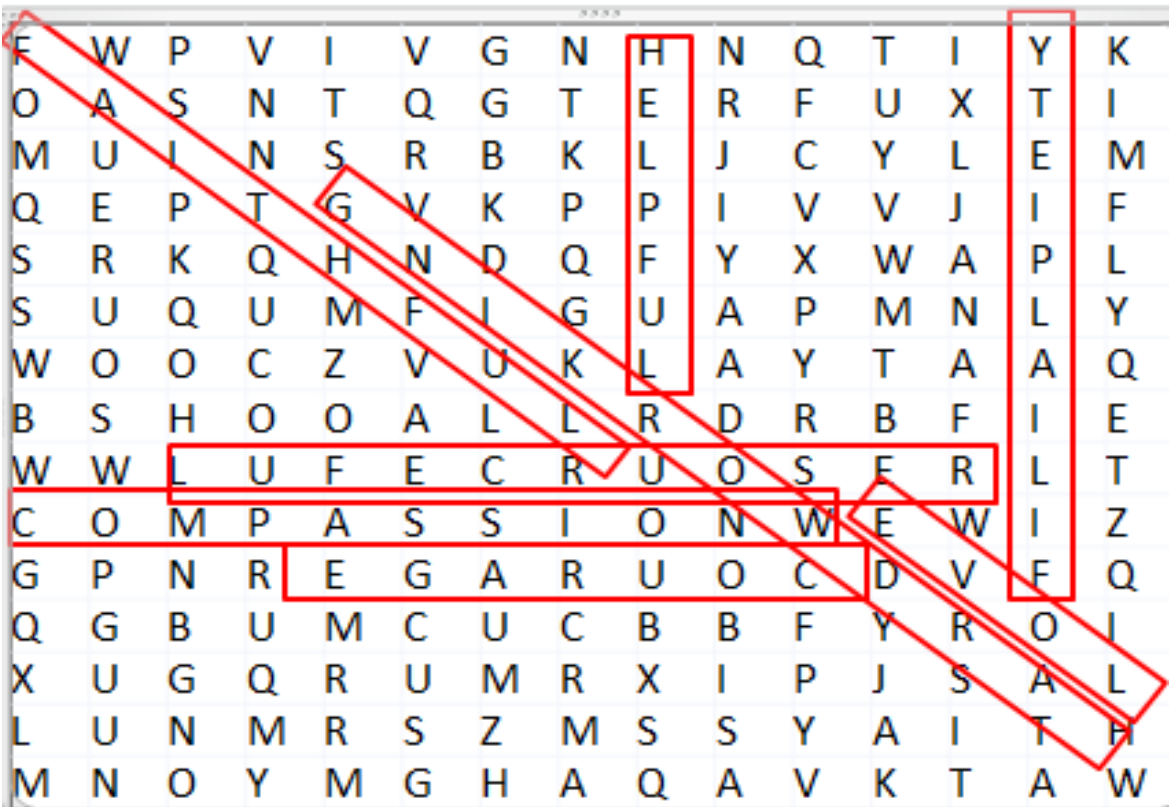
What would you do with it? Be creative, write and/or draw in the space below!



WORD SEARCH

Myths and legends have been used for ages to impart values. Interestingly, these tales, regardless of where they came from, all celebrate universal values of honesty, resilience, diligence, filial piety, love for the family and the importance of resourcefulness.

Look for the values that were seen in some of the characters in the word search below.



F MY REFLECTIONS

Which is your favourite story? Why do you like it?

My favourite story is _____.

I like it because _____

These tales you have read contain many positive values. Write down two examples on how you have displayed these positive qualities in your life.

Positive quality : _____.

Positive quality : _____.

Write down two things you have learnt from this exhibition.

1: _____

2: _____

POST-EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES

Discuss these questions with the students

Take some time in class to do either group discussion or as a mass discussion to sum up the thinking concepts.

1. What were some of the values that you have learned from the some of the characters in these stories?
2. What are some of the positive values have you displayed in your life?
3. Why do you think Singaporeans should remember these?

In addition, you may wish to get your students to explore these websites to find out more!

Further reading:

To read up about other Singapore myths and legends:

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To read up about other Singapore urban myths:

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