



# Tales from Our Shores

*Tales from Our Shores* is an exhibition that retells 6 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 Secondary School educators >



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 provides a platform for students to appreciate the use of myths and legends to tell the impart values and sometimes why certain places / mountains / rivers got their name.**

Stories featured in this exhibition were stories from the era of Sultans and Rajahs. The unique era of these stories allows students to opportunity to appreciate Singapore's pre-colonialisation culture and way of life, and provide a glimpse of the values that were valued and pass down till today.



**These stories provide a platform for good values to the imparted.**

Through these stories, students will be given the opportunity to infer the values / moral that the story wishes to convey and hence learn to apply and exemplify these values in their lives.

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

The stories bring mostly myths and legends will challenge students to question the storyline. This will provide teachers with the opportunity to integrate knowledge sharing into the lesson to teach students facts that will counter the storyline presented and hence, guiding students to make their own judgement.



## **PRE-EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES**

### 1. 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.

### 2. Class Discussion

Before you visit the exhibition, let your students know that they will be able to learn about various Singapore 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 your students.

Ask them to write down their thoughts in the Pre-Exhibition Questions space!

If you wish to discuss more, consider using these 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, do share with the class.

## **DURING THE EXHIBITION**

### 3. Touring the Exhibition

Remind the students to read carefully and fill in the answers for the crossword puzzle.

#### **Answers for the Crossword Puzzle:**

1. Civilisation	5. Strongest	9. Turtle
2. Belief	6. Mouth	10. Laut
3. Brown	7. Fishermen	11. Kompang
4. Pineapples	8. Banana	12. Fire

### 4. Encouraging Students to Think!

Do ask students to think about questions such as:

What is their favourite story?

What are the values that they can learn from it?



## POST-EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES

### 5. Think and Discuss These Questions with the Students!

Take some time in class to do either group discussions or as a mass class 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. Imagine you were Badang and you met this ugly looking monster who can give you any supernatural power that you want, what would you ask for and why, and why would you do with this newly found power that you have?
3. Why do you think Singaporeans should remember these stories and they have lived on in memories all this while?

### 6. Further Reading

In addition, you may wish to consider asking students to explore these websites to find out more!

Do give students encouragement after they have completed the worksheet!

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/>

