



LET'S LEARN ABOUT MALAY TRADITIONAL OUTFITS

HERITAGE RESOURCE FOR
TEACHERS, PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

ABOUT YOUTH INVASIONS BY RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL (RVHS)



- Ever wondered what it would be like when youths take over the museum? Youth Invasion is an initiative by the Malay Heritage Centre where students get to put on the hat of a programmer/educator by working with the museum staffs and their school teachers to conceptualise and facilitate their own programmes.
- This programme inculcates a deeper appreciation and understanding of Singapore's multi-cultural society and enable students to be more informed and sensitive individuals. At the same time, students will gain a variety of soft skills including leadership, research, public speaking and project management skills.
- In our 2020 collaboration, the programme objective was for the RVHS students to design experiences in MHC for lower primary and pre-school students to learn about Hari Raya Puasa. Due to COVID-19, the activities were adapted into this deck of resource instead.
- We hope this resource will be helpful for you to facilitate your Home-Based/Classroom-Based Learning.

Presented by: Tashlyn, Reese, Wen Xin, Matthew, Joshua & Leroy from River Valley High School

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



By the end of the programme, the students/child should be able to...

- Identify the following Malay traditional costumes and clothing accessories:
 - *Baju Kurung* (Female)
 - *Baju Melayu / Baju Kurung* (Male)
 - *Songkok*
 - *Tudung*
 - *Kain Songket*

ACTIVITY 1: INTRODUCTION TO MALAY TRADITIONAL OUTFIT



- Through this introduction, students/child will gain a better understanding of the types of Malay traditional costumes and accessories as well as how they look like.
- This activity would prepare students/child for the next few activities.

Time needed to facilitate the activity	15 mins
Resources required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Infographic2. Slides*3. Video about Ramadan and Hari Raya
Preparation required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Print a copy of the infographic for all of the students in the class or for your child at home2. Set up projector/laptop to play the Powerpoint slides* and video in class/at home

**Slides with information are optional for the students/children. Teachers/parents/caregivers can pick out key points that you want to emphasis during your activity*

PRINT-OUTS FOR STUDENTS



Please refer to the attached file “Malay traditional costume infographic”.

MALAY TRADITIONAL COSTUMES




BAJU KURUNG (Male & Female)

- #1 Official attire for Malay community
- #2 Generic name given to the outfit for both male and female
- #3 Widely worn by the Malays for both everyday and formal occasions
- #4 2 popular styles: Teluk belanga & Cekak musang


Pg 1

BAJU KURUNG (Female)



A loose-fitting blouse with long sleeves and is paired with a waistcloth known as a sarong


TUDUNG



Headscarf worn by Muslim women when wearing their baju kurung


Pg 2

BAJU KURUNG (Male)




Men wear the baju kurung as a shirt top with pants, and a kain sampang can be worn over the trousers

SONGKOK



A traditional headgear worn by Malay males

KAIN SONGKET




A woven cloth that is often decorated with either gold or silver threads

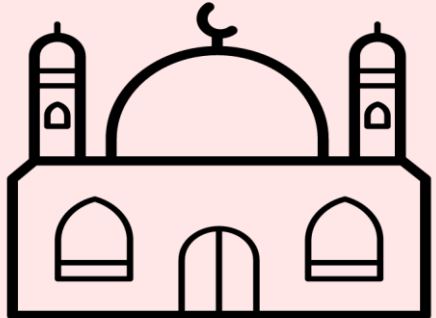
Photo adapted from flickr

Pg 3

COLOURING TIME!



Instructions:
- Colour / decorate the picture of the mosque below after you are done with your paper dolls
- Stick your paper dolls on this colouring template after you are done



DONE BY: TASHLYN, REESE, WEN XIN, MATTHEW, JOSHUA, LEROY

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INSTRUCTIONS



1. Introduce the different Malay traditional costumes to the students using the infographic and the information provided in this set of slides.
2. Play the video “Let’s Learn about Ramadan and Hari Raya” to further introduce the different types of outfits and accessories”.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BAJU KURUNG (MALE & FEMALE)



Photograph courtesy of
Jamal Mohammed

- In the Singapore context, *baju kurung* is used to refer to both the male and female version.
- It is widely worn by the Malays in Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Southern Thailand, the islands of Sumatra, Riau-Lingga and Borneo, for both everyday and formal occasions.
- *Baju kurung* outfits meant for formal occasions are made from silk or brocade, while generally everyday wear *baju kurung* are made from cotton.
- During Hari Raya Puasa, Malay families wear the *baju kurung* when visiting their relatives and friends.
- The *baju kurung* is representative of Malay cultural heritage.
- Two popular styles of *baju kurung* - *Telok Belangah & Cekak musang*

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BAJU KURUNG (MALE & FEMALE)



- Main difference between the *baju kurung Telok Belangah* and *baju kurung cekak musang* is style of cut at neck:
 - *Telok Belangah* style has no collar and the neckline is stitched in the style known as tulang belut ("eel's spines or bones")
 - *Cekak musang* style has a standing collar
- *Telok Belangah* style drew its name from Telok Belangah, an area of Singapore near VivoCity, which in the past, was the capital of the state of Johor
- The *baju kurung Telok Belangah* was popularised by Sultan Abu Bakar of Johor in the 19th century, and it has since remained as a distinctive Malay dress form.



Photo of Telok Belangah MRT station adapted from Flickr

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BAJU KURUNG (FEMALE)

- A loose-fitting blouse with long sleeves and is paired with a waistcloth known as a sarong.
- Fits and conforms the Islamic requirement to enclose the entire body, exposing only the face and hands, and that clothes should not be tight and body hugging as to show the outlines of the wearer's body
- Some women would wear their *baju kurung* with a headscarf known as a *tudung*, which comes in various colours, materials and styles



Photographs a lady wearing *baju kurung Telok Belangah* . Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of the National Archives of Singapore

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TUDUNG



Photograph of a lady with *tudung*

- Headscarf worn by Muslim women
- Part of Islamic dress code for women (modesty/privacy)
- Wearing the *tudung* is a personal choice although once a Muslim woman dons the *tudung*, she is expected to maintain a commitment to it. Putting on the *tudung* is also meant to guide the behaviour, manners and speech of the wearer
- The Singapore government maintains a no-headscarf policy for public schools. As such, Muslim girls are only allowed to wear the *tudung* outside of school

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BAJU KURUNG (MALE)



- Men wear the *baju kurung* as a shirt top with pants, and a *kain sampung* that can be worn over the trousers.
- For the male version, *baju melayu* and *baju kurung* is used interchangeably.

Teluk Belanga style
Often worn with *Kain sampung* (short sarong) tucked under the *Baju melayu*



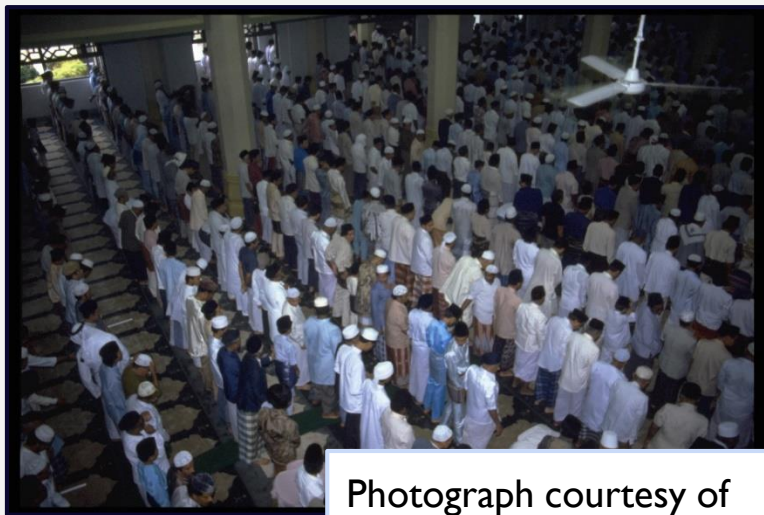
- Cekak Musang style
- Often worn with the *Kain sampung* over the *Baju melayu*

Photograph courtesy of Nuraini Othman

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SONGKOK



- A traditional headgear worn by Malay males
- Worn during formal events (prayers, weddings, Hari Raya Puasa)
- Usually oval-shaped and made of black felt, cotton or velvet
- *Songkok* with decorations on the sides are called *songkok berlis*



Photograph courtesy of
National Archives of Singapore



Photograph from the Arthur B Reich
Collection, courtesy of National
Archives of Singapore

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE KAIN SONGKET



Photo of *kain songket* adapted from flickr

- It is a woven cloth that is often decorated with either gold or silver threads and is traditionally produced in Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.
- Has patterns and motifs based on a variety of plants & animals
- Patterns and motifs on fabric is also representative and unique to the Malay culture
- Name of *songket* comes from the word *sungkit* (means to hook- a method of *songket* making)

ACTIVITY 2: DRESS UP THE GIANT PAPER DOLL



- This class activity will allow students/child to apply their knowledge of the clothing and accessories by dressing up two giant paper dolls.
- This would ensure that they have fully understood the content taught before proceeding to design their costume and paper doll.

Time needed to facilitate the activity	10 mins
Resources required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Paper doll templates2. Paper clothing cut-outs template3. Mahjong paper/ A3 paper4. Magnet strips / Blu-tack5. Prizes (optional)
Preparation required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Print / draw the giant paper dolls on mahjong paper2. Print / draw giant clothing items and accessories and cut them out3. Attach magnets / blu-tack on the back of the cut-outs

INSTRUCTIONS



1. Set up the 2 giant paper dolls on the whiteboard and explain the activity to students/child.
2. Hold up one of the giant paper clothes and ask for a volunteer to stick it onto the giant paper doll.
3. After the student/child has paste the giant paper clothes, teacher may quiz them on the name of the clothing item and accessories to recap their learning.
4. Teacher/parent/caregiver may wish to give a prize if student pastes the giant paper clothes and name the clothing item or accessories correctly.

ACTIVITY 3: DESIGN THEIR PAPER DOLL AND COSTUMES

- This activity will allow students/child to apply their knowledge of the clothing and accessories by colouring and designing their own clothing templates, and dressing up their paper doll.

Time needed to facilitate the activity	20 mins
Resources required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A printer2. Paper doll templates3. Colouring materials (colour pencils, coloured markers, crayons, glitter, stickers etc)4. Glue stick5. Scissor
Preparation required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Print paper doll templates (A4 size) for every student in the class or for your child. <i>If you do not have a printer, you can copy the drawing.</i>2. Prepare stationaries

INSTRUCTIONS



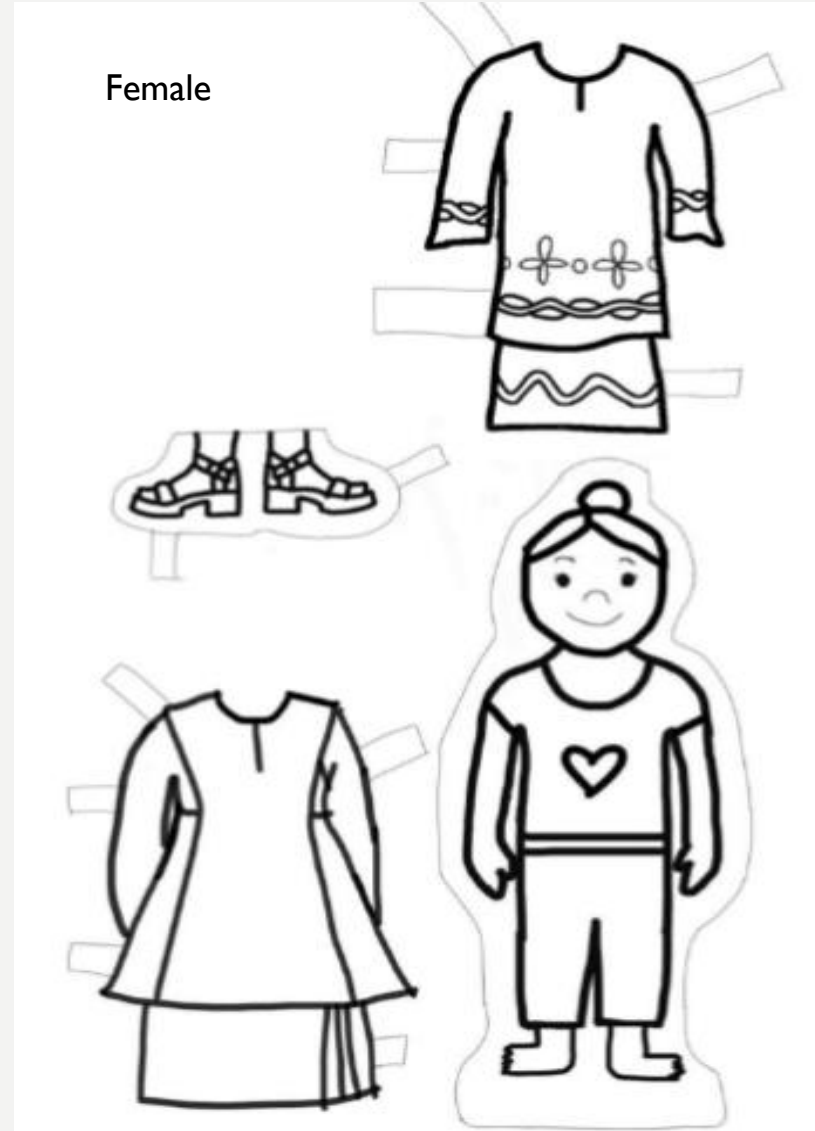
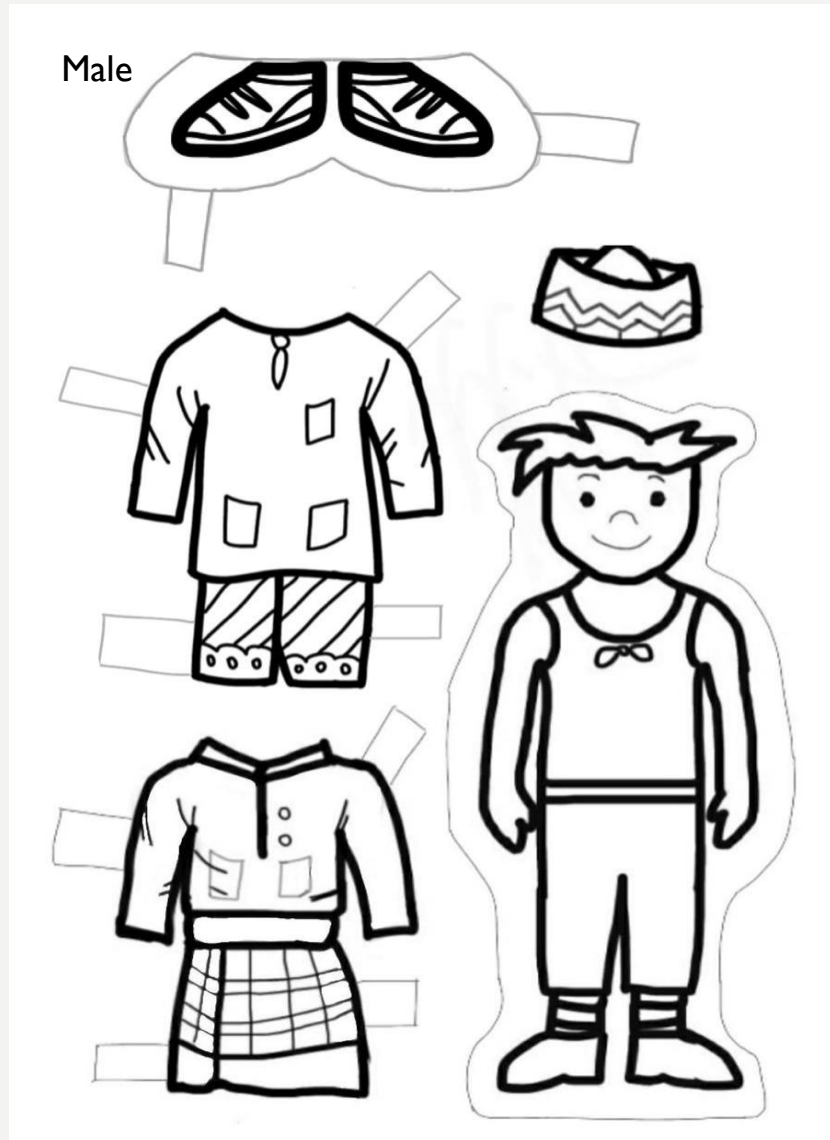
1. Give out the printed paper doll templates to students/children.
2. Instruct the students/child to colour / decorate the paper doll using crayons, colour pencils, markers or other art and craft material.

**Note: Teacher/parent/caregiver can ask students to bring their own colouring or designing materials.*

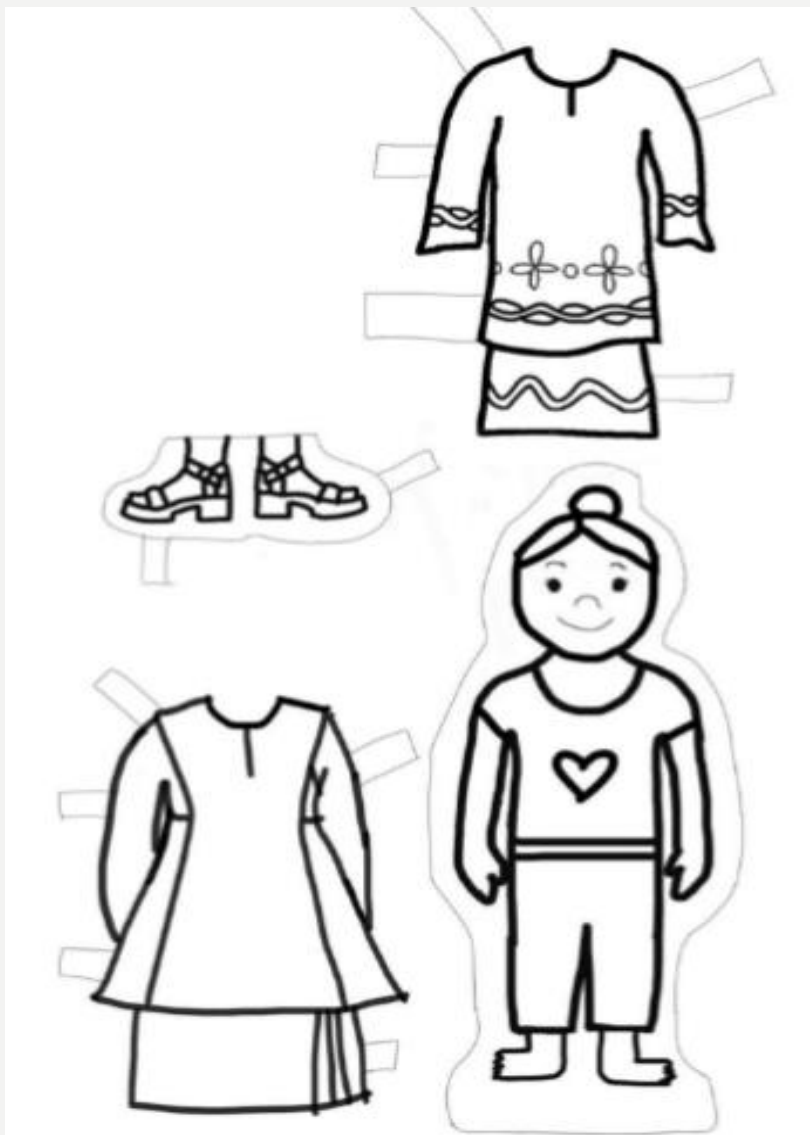
1. Students/child to cut out paper doll template (for younger students/child, teacher/parent/caregiver may also choose to cut it out for them).

**Note: Please do remind the students not to cut away the small tabs at the edge of the clothings as these tabs are for them to attach the clothing item to their paper dolls (if this is too difficult, the students can also choose to use glue to paste the clothes onto the doll instead of using the tabs)*

PAPER DOLL TEMPLATES



PAPER DOLL TEMPLATES (FEMALE)



INSTRUCTIONS



Step 1: Colour and decorate your paper doll and the clothing items



Step 2: Cut along dotted lines using scissors (require adult supervision)

INSTRUCTIONS



Step 3: Put paper cut-outs in place



Step 4: Fold tabs on baju kurung and apply glue onto the tabs and clothing cut-outs

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 5: Stick cut-outs to paper doll:
Completed Result



ACTIVITY 4: FASHION GALLERY WALK



- This activity will allow students/child to appreciate one another's design work and talk about their design.

Time needed to facilitate the activity	20 min
Resources required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Class whiteboard / Class noticeboard2. Blu-tack / Tape3. Strings and clips (if teacher/parent/caregiver want to string all the students' artwork for display)4. Students/child's completed paper dolls
Preparation required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Set up the string and clips in advance if you are using one.

INSTRUCTIONS



1. Teacher/parent/caregiver can do one of the following to set up the fashion gallery in class/at home:
 - Ask all the students/child to paste their dolls on the whiteboard/wall using blu-tack
 - Ask students/child to place their dolls on their desks but have to ensure that their paper dolls do not fly awayYou can also find any other suitable location to showcase the dolls.
2. Let students/child do a show-and-tell of their dolls.
3. After that, you can go on a gallery walk around the classroom/home to appreciate the dolls. If you are doing this at home, family members can be the 'visitors' to the gallery. Family members can also contribute to the gallery by designing and putting up their own dolls too.

ACTIVITY 5: COLOURING ACTIVITY



- This activity will enrich students/child's learning by learning what occasion the traditional clothing is worn (e.g. visiting the mosque)
- It also prevents students/child from losing their paper dolls as it will be attached to their infographic.

Time needed to facilitate the activity	Can be done with Activity 3 if time permits. If not, students/child can do it during their free time
Resources required	1. Infographic 2. Colouring materials 3. Glue stick
Preparation required	Print infographic with the colouring template on the last page

INSTRUCTIONS



1. Instruct students to colour the colouring template with a background of a mosque on the last page of the infographic and stick their paper doll on this template (similar to a photo frame).

**Note: If students complete colouring their paper dolls quick enough, they can start colouring the mosque background in the last page of the infographic. If not, students can do so at home/during their free time.*

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS



- Who wears the *tudung*?
- Who wears the *songkok*?
- What is the difference between *baju kurung cekak musang* and *baju kurung teluk belanga*?
- When does our Malay friends wear the *baju kurung*?
- Why did you draw this design on your *baju kurung*?
- Which is your favourite outfit?
- Do you have a traditional outfit at home too? Describe the outfit and when do you wear it?



OTHER SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES



1. Design and create more accessories and outfits for your paper doll.
2. Organise an actual fashion walk by getting your students all dressed up in their traditional outfits. Students wearing *baju kurung* can share more about their outfit with their friends.
3. Create a pretend play setting of Hari Raya Puasa house visiting.
4. Visit a textile shop along Kampong Gelam or to look at the different traditional outfits, accessories and cloth.
5. Visit the Malay Heritage Centre and look at the clothing and accessories (reference to video) on display located at *Tanah* Gallery of the permanent exhibition.
6. Learn more about the songkok and how it is made in this YouTube video '[A Songkok Maker](#)'.