

**CRAFT-EFACT!  
CREATE YOUR OWN  
*KERONGSANG***

**HERITAGE RESOURCE FOR  
TEACHERS, PARENTS & CAREGIVERS**

# WHAT IS CRAFT-EFACT?

- Craft-efact is a play on the word ‘craft’ and ‘artefact’ where children can observe an artefact and learn more about them through a simple colouring and craft activity.
- Teachers, parents and caregivers are encouraged to facilitate the observation and learning process by referring to the actual artefacts on display in the gallery, or through artefact images and information available in this resource.
- Craft-efact! Create Your Own *Kerongsang* aims to provide an opportunity for
  - Students/children/seniors to gain a basic understanding of what the *kerongsang* is and its significances to Malay culture.
  - Teachers, parents and caregivers to delve further into a discussion and exploration about Malay culture through an object that is still relevant to present day.
- This activity also complements the Malay Heritage Centre’s special exhibition ‘**URANG BANJAR: Heritage and Culture of the Banjar in Singapore**’ (28 November 2020 – 25 July 2021). For more information, visit [www.malayheritage.org.sg](http://www.malayheritage.org.sg)



We would love to hear how you have facilitated this activity. Please share your experience with us so we can continue to improve on our resources and benefit others too!

Reach us at [shereen\\_tan@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:shereen_tan@nhb.gov.sg)

# ABOUT THE KERONGSANG

- The *kerongsang* is a type of brooch that is used to pin together the *baju kebaya*. A *kerongsang* usually comes in sets of three. It consists of a larger central brooch known as the *ibu* (mother) *kerongsang* and two smaller brooches known as the *anak* (child) *kerongsang*.
- It is usually made of silver or gold or decorated with rough-cut diamonds. Before quality costume jewellery was produced for the mass market, it was common for Malay women and men who are well-off to purchase pieces of jewellery such as the *kerongsang* to complete their formal attire.
- *Kerongsang* are also worn by ladies in Southeast Asia as well as mixed heritage communities such as the Peranakan Chinese.



A *baju kebaya* is a traditional blouse usually worn with a *batik* skirt.

# ABOUT THE BANJARESE

- The Banjarese are the smallest group that make up the Malay community in Singapore. Many of the Banjarese in Singapore can be traced back to ancestors who made their journey from South Kalimantan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Banjar people identify themselves through 'cultural markers' such as language, traditional dress, customs, cuisine and a shared history of ancestry from the Banjar Regency in South Kalimantan.
- Several of the Banjarese families were involved in the diamond industry in Singapore whether it is importing raw diamonds, cutting and polishing them. This is attributed to the fact that diamonds are one of South Kalimantan's most precious exports. Kampong Intan, now Baghdad Street, used to have a number of Banjarese diamond traders and smiths from Kalimantan.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS

You will need..

1. A printer

2. A4 paper (Use thicker paper if you have so the *kerongsang* will not be flimsy)

3. Coloured markers

4. Gems/Glitter stickers

5. A pair of scissors

6. Tape

7. 3 Safety pins (Recommended length of at least 4 cm)

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS



**Step 1:**  
Fill in the *kerongsang* with your favourite colours.



**Step 2:**  
Cut out the *kerongsang* along the dotted line.



**Step 3:**  
Decorate your *kerongsang* with gems and/or glitter stickers.



**Step 4:**  
Attach a safety pin near the top of the back of each *kerongsang* using tape.



Tada, you have completed a *kerongsang* set now!

# THE KERONGSANG THAT INSPIRED THE CRAFT DESIGN



Kerongsang Set featuring Junebug, Bat and Floral Motifs  
Late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Singapore and Malacca  
Collection of Asian Civilisation Museum,  
National Heritage Board

- This *kerongsang* set features junebug, bat and floral motifs. Malay motifs commonly consists of floral and insect inspired patterns which reflects the influence of their surroundings in their jewellery design.
- On displayed in Gallery I, 'The Diamond Trade' under 'Diamond Merchants of Singapore'.



## Do you know?

The Junebug, also known as the June beetle, gets its name from emerging at the beginning of summer which is usually in June.





# SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- Describe the object – what do you see?
- What animal or plant does this remind you of?
- Where is the object from?
- When is it made?
- What is it made of?
- Who do think is the owner of this object?
- What do you think is this object used for?
- What does this object make you wonder?
- How was this object made?



# TEACHING IDEAS

- Get your student/child to design their own *kerongsang* inspired by their favourite animal or plant and do a show-and-tell of the features of his or her special *kerongsang*.
- Create and act out a scene as Banjarese diamond traders and smiths. You can use the *kerongsang* as a prop for a dramatised storytelling with/for your student or child.
- Read more about the Banjarese community in the past living and/or working in the Kampong Gelam Heritage Trail and visit Bussorah Street.
- Share about your own jewellery collection and the stories behind them.
- Watch a YouTube video together to learn how the *kerongsang* is made (see next slide).
- Search for images of different types of *kerongsang* on Google image or [Roots.sg](https://www.roots.sg) and learn more about them. You may also wish to compare the similarities and differences too.
- Visit the Malay Heritage Centre to see the other *kerongsangs* on display at the Tanah Gallery of the Permanent Exhibition, or look for *kerongsangs* in old photographs.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Let's Learn about Ramadhan and Hari Raya Puasa by Malay Heritage Centre

<https://youtu.be/0T3UgO7tmqA>

- Grandmother's Peranakan Brooch by Oxlaey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gMeyPfTCIU>

- A Craftsman and the Fading Glitter of a Golden Legacy by Alan Teh Leam Seng

<https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/sunday-vibes/2018/04/357373/craftsman-and-fading-glitter-golden-legacy>