

INDIA KEY STAGE 1 & 2 RESOURCE BOX 2 - ARTEFACTS

Wedding Garland

Wedding garlands are exchanged as a traditional way to welcome guests.



Diwali Cards

These are sent to tell your friends and family that you are thinking of them during the Diwali Festival.



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Prayer Beads

Prayer beads help to assist the worshiper in reciting and counting specific prayers or Incantations. Beads have long been linked to act of prayer. The use of beads in prayer seems to have originated with Hindu religious practices in India possibly around the 8th century B.C.E.

Hinduism one of the oldest living religions, is the major religion of the Indian subcontinent. The two main branches of modern Hinduism 'Shaivism' and 'Vishnuism' employ different types of prayer beads, or 'Mala'. Shaivists who are devotees of the God Siva carry strings of 32 to 108 Rudraksha beads made from the seeds of a tree unique to the island of Java in Indonesia. These rough seeds represent the difficult and rigid life required of the worshippers of Siva. Each seed is segmented into five sections, which represent the five faces and personalities of Siva. Vishnu Mala consist of carved wooden beads from the sacred basil shrub, or tulsi, and are usually found in strands of 108.



Shiva Nataraja (Antique silver statue)

Nataraja (literally *The Lord (or King) of Dance*), is a depiction of the Hindu god Shiva as the cosmic dancer who performs his divine dance to destroy a weary universe and make preparations for god Brahma to start the process of creation. Nataraja is most often depicted through a Statue The dance of Shiva in Tillai, the traditional name for Chidambaram, forms the motif for all the depictions of Shiva as Nataraja. The form is present in most Shiva temples in South India, and is the main deity in the famous temple at Chidambaram.

The sculpture is usually made in bronze, with Shiva dancing in an aureole of flames, lifting his left leg (and in rare cases, the right leg) and balancing over a demon or dwarf (Apasmara) who symbolizes ignorance. It is a well known sculptural symbol in India and popularly used as a symbol of Indian culture.



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Rama, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman (Statue in a box)

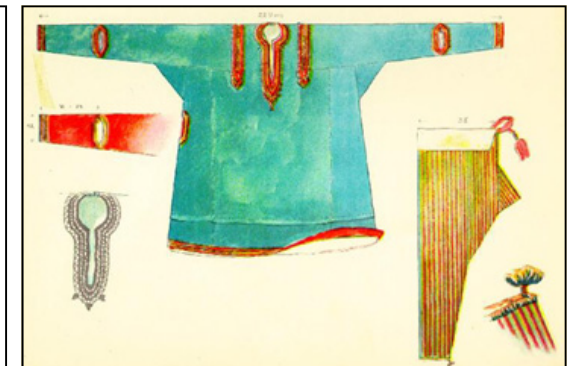
Following a victory in the battle with Ravana, Rama distributed gifts to all those who had assisted him in his battle with Ravana. Turning towards Hanuman Rama said “there is nothing I can give you that would match the service you have rendered to me. All I can do is give you my own self.” Upon hearing these words Hanuman stood by Rama in all humility with hands joined together in front of his (Hanumans) mouth, and head slightly bent in the pose of service for Rama.

To this day, this picture of Hanuman, as a humble devotee of the Lord, is the most popular among the admirers and worshippers of Hanuman. The worship of Hanuman therefore symbolises the worship of the supreme Lord for acquiring knowledge, physical and mental strength, truthfulness, sincerity, selflessness, humility, loyalty, and profound devotion to the Lord.



Salwar Kameez

Salwar kameez (also spelled **shalwar kameez** or **shalwar qameez**) is a traditional dress worn by both women and men in South Asia. *Salvars* or *shalvars* are loose pyjama like trousers. The legs are wide at the top, and narrow at the bottom. The *kameez* is a long shirt or tunic. The side seams (known as the *chaak*) are left open below the waist-line, which gives the wearer greater freedom of movement. In Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, the garment is worn by both sexes. In Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, it is most commonly a woman's garment, albeit still worn by some men.



(Not actual Photo of what is in box)

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BOOKS:

Divali (We Love)
Saviour Pirotta/Wayland

My Hindu Community
Kate Taylor/Watts

I am a Hindu (My Belief)
Aggarwal & Fairclough/Watts

Grandpa Chatterji (Book & Teachers Guide)
Jamila Gavin

India (Letters from around the World)
Polly Goodman/Wayand

Lights for Gita
Rachel Gilmore/Alice Priestley

A Gift for Gita
Rachel Gilmore/Alice Priestley

The Animal Boogie
Debbie Harter

India Children's Needs, Children's Rights
Unicef

The People who hugged the trees
Deborah Lee Rose/Birgitta Saflund

Rama and the Demon King (An ancient tale from India)
Jessica Souhami/Frances Lincoln

Were From India (Big Book)
Heinemann Library

Footprints in the Forest, A Chembakolli Story (Big Book)
Actionaid/DFID

Developing images of India (DVD)

Reel Lives Kolkata (DVD)