

UNIT 5 : Our Glorious Heritage : A Glimpse

India has a rich tradition of indigenous art, craft, folk music, dance and drama. These art forms representing our culture are a mirror of our identity. Be it the Kashmiri woollen carpets, zari embroidered fabric, terracotta and ceramic products, silk fabrics, madhubani painting, Kajri songs or tamasha—they all maintain their exclusivity and have survived through the ages.

In this Unit, we will become familiar with some of the rich traditions from the domains of Folk Art, Folk Crafts and Folk Music, Dance and Drama.

A. Folk Art

We witness a rich display of our traditional folk and tribal art on various products like greeting cards, paintings, murals, sarees, packaging labels etc. Texts in this section will introduce you to the broad canvas of folk art, the famous Madhubani, Kalamkari and Pattachitra.

Everybody uses the term 'folk art' often. What does it mean actually?



Let's read the given text. It will answer your question.



Section 5.1 I'd Like to Know

Read the given information about folk art and answer the questions that follow :

(I) Folk art covers all forms of visual art made in the context of folk culture. Such art is rooted in the cultural life of a community and reflects various aspects of it. Therefore, this kind of art originated from peasants or other labouring trades people. The nature of folk-art is specific to its particular culture.

(IV) Contemporary folk artists are frequently self-taught as their work is often developed in isolation or in small communities across the country.

(II) In contrast to fine art, folk-art is primarily useful and decorative rather than purely artistic. Folk-art is characterized by an inexperienced style, in which traditional rules of proportion and perspective are not applied.

(III) All folk-art objects are produced in a one-off production process. This means that only one object is made at a time, either by hand or in a combination of hand and machine methods. The most important thing to remember is that the items are not mass-produced. As a result of this, each individual piece is unique.

(adapted from the cultural anthropology section of lumenlearning.com.)

(1) Choose the option that correctly lists the match of texts I-IV with their central idea (i)-(v).

- A. I-iv, II-i, III-iv, IV-iii
- B. I-iii, II-v, III-iii, IV-i
- C. I-v, II-iv, III-i, IV-ii
- D. I-i, II-iii, III-ii, IV-v

- (i) ONE AT A TIME
- (ii) PRESENT DAY FOLK ARTISTS
- (iii) OBJECTS AND MATERIALS
- (iv) THE DIFFERENCE
- (v) UNDERSTANDING FOLK ART

(2) Based on the given text, choose the option listing the correct examples of folk-art.



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

- A. Image (i)
- B. Image (ii)
- C. Image (iii)
- D. Image (iv)

(3) Which of the following is TRUE about fine art?

- A. It is more functional than attractive.
- B. It is created by trained artists.
- C. It is often made free from rules of ratios.
- D. It is usually practiced by peasants.

(4) Which of the following option depicts the most likely site for the creation of a folk art object?



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

- A. Image (i)
- B. Image (ii)
- C. Image (iii)
- D. Image (iv)

You were right!
I have a better
understanding
of what 'folk art'
means, now.



I'm glad, Vijay.
Now, let's read
about a famous
Madhubani
painter, Rani Jha.
Her journey
is inspiring.



Section 5.2 An Artist Speaks

Rani Jha is a famous Madhubani painter. She was a regular woman living in the village of Mithila but is now a well-known artist known for her contemporary experiments with the art form of Madhubani.

Given below is an excerpt from her interview. Read it carefully and on the basis of your reading answer the questions that follow:

How did you learn to paint?

In the beginning, I used to paint at home as these paintings are made on every religious and social occasion in our community. Fortunately, my grandmother was a great painter and even though I never actually saw her, there was beautiful *kohbar* art made by her in our home. One of my aunts used to paint on the floor, which is called *alpana*, I used to sit by her while she painted and also tried my hand at it.

Which specific rituals are these paintings connected with?

In Mithila, we make paintings for each and every ritual, from birth to *shradh* (rites performed after death). Apart from rituals it is also made during festivals and weddings and each time a deity is welcomed into the house. Making a perfect *alpana* is a work of art. You start by drawing three lines with three fingers using the rice powder paste. According to our belief these three lines signify Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. The *alpana* is incomplete without some vermilion as it is considered a symbol of power. Most of the traditional art depicts natural objects like sun, moon and nature, deities from mythological epics, royal courts and weddings.

You are famous for the way you have given a contemporary touch to Mithila Paintings. Could you please tell us about that?

I have lived and grown in a community where women and their opinions were never taken seriously. But it was just not acceptable to me. Initially I would also paint traditional themes and motifs but then I decided to use my art to express my feelings against the gender-based discrimination witnessed by me on a daily basis. Since then, I started echoing contemporary scenarios in my artwork.

Can you tell us which contemporary Madhubani painting is your favorite?

I like all of them but I am attached to the one called *Female Infanticide*. The painting depicts the many opportunities and blessings that a boy receives — shown standing on a ladder, while the girls face hurdles — a snake coiled beneath the earth she stands on — even as they are left to live lives they did not choose.

(1) Pick the quote that best describes Rani Jha's favorite painting.

- A. Free her from the fire of dowry.
- B. Educate a girl and you educate a whole community.
- C. Don't clip her wings while letting him fly.
- D. She is not weak or helpless.

(2) Read the two sentences given below and select the option that holds TRUE to both.

1: As a child, Rani had the opportunity to learn the painting style.

2: Rani's childhood creations were displayed along with her grandmother's.

- A. Sentence 1 is the effect of sentence 2.
- B. Sentence 2 is the reason for sentence 1.
- C. Sentence 1 can be inferred from the text but sentence 2 cannot.
- D. Both sentences 1 and 2 can be inferred from the text.

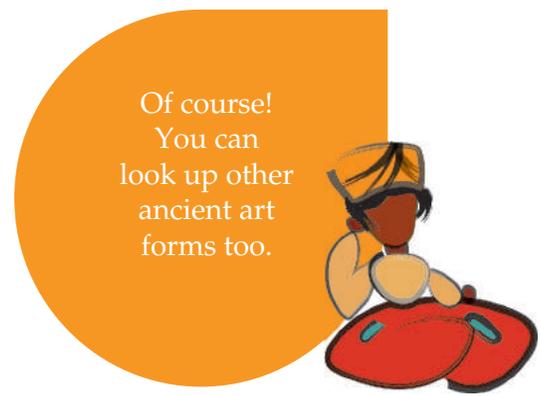
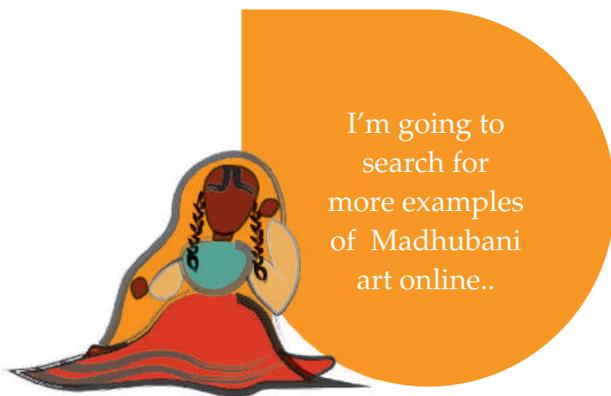
(3) Pick the option with the correct set of differences between the works of art.

A.	Mithila mythological painting	Alpana ritualistic painting
B.	Mithila ritualistic painting	Alpana adding vermilion is necessary
C.	Madhubani floor painting	Mithila religious painting
D.	Madhubani made with three fingers	Alpana made on special occasions

(4) Rani Jha's paintings echoed contemporary issues. Select the option that lists Rani's intention for doing this.

- A. Financial gain
- B. Publicity
- C. International recognition
- D. Social awareness

- (5) When Rani Jha shared that she began echoing contemporary scenarios in her paintings, she meant that she
- painting about mythological figures.
 - used chemicals to brighten her paintings.
 - painting with new colours and types of paints.
 - drew inspiration from present-day occurrences.
- (6) In her favourite painting, Rani Jha uses certain symbols to bring about awareness. Pick the option that lists the correct combination of these symbols, with their meanings.
- symbol of earth-as goddesses (girls); symbol of blessings- as devotees (boys)
 - symbol of snakes-for wild & free (boys);symbol of ladders-for support (girls)
 - symbol of earth-need to be nurtured (boys); symbol of blessings-position in the family (girls)
 - symbol of snakes-for obstacles & challenges (girls); symbol of ladders-for choices & support (boys)



Section 5.3 Double Skills

Look at the table of notes created by a student for research on the group art project. Read the table and answer the questions that follow:

ASPECTS	KALAMKARI	PATTACHITRA
Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile but pure silk, chiffon, and chanderi can also be used ● the fabric is fitted on a wooden frame before painting begins ● practiced in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting ● cotton canvas is dipped in a solution of crushed tamarind seeds and water and then sun dried followed by an application of chalk powder paste ● based in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal
Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● derived from the words <i>kalam</i> (pen) and <i>kari</i> (craftmanship), meaning drawing with a pen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● evolved from the Sanskrit words <i>patta</i>, meaning canvas, and <i>chitra</i>, meaning picture
Designs and motifs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifically depicts epics such as the Ramayana or Mahabharata. ● recent applications depict Buddha and Buddhist art forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● centers round the Jagannath and the Vaishnava sect. ● applications are inspired by Lord Jagannath who was an incarnation of Lord Krishna
Colour Technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● dyes for the cloth are obtained by extracting colors from various roots, leaves, and mineral salts of iron, tin, copper, and alum. ● various effects are obtained by using cow dung, seeds, plants and crushed flowers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● painters use vegetable and mineral colours without going for factory-made poster colours ● white colour is made from the conch-shells, a mineral is used for red, stone ingredients for yellow, neem leaves for green, indigo for blue, and black is prepared from the burning of coconut shells.

(1) Select the statement(s) that are NOT TRUE about Kalamkari painting

- (i) prevalent in the eastern part of India
- (ii) use of blocks
- (iii) includes plant dyes
- (iv) uses scrolls and canvas

- A. (i) and (iv)
- B. (i), (ii) and (iii)
- C. (ii) and (iii)
- D. only (ii)

(2) Pick the option that lists the source of these Pattachitra colours in the order shown below.



- A. stone powder (ii) indigo (iii) conch shells (iv) mineral (v) coconut shells
- B. mineral (ii) coconut shells (iii) conch shells (iv) stone powder (v) indigo
- C. conch shells (ii) coconut shells (iii) indigo (iv) stone powder (v) mineral
- D. mineral (ii) coconut shells (iii) stone powder (iv) indigo (v) conch shells

(3) What more could be added to the 'Aspects' column in the given table, to help the reader understand the art forms more clearly?

- A. Examples
- B. Sales profits
- C. Social media presence
- D. Names of artists

(4) Nitya wants to ready a canvas for her Pattachitra painting. Select the option with the correct task order she should follow:

- i) Apply chalk powder on the canvas.
 - ii) Dip canvas in the tamarind seed and water solution.
 - iii) Dry canvas in the sun.
 - iv) Use crushed neem leaves and seeds on the canvas.
- A. (iv), (iii), (ii)
 - B. (ii), (iii), (iv)
 - C. (i), (ii), (iii)
 - D. (ii), (iii), (i)

Hope this snapshot of Folk Art has inspired you. You can explore content and read more about Miniature Paintings & Phad from Rajasthan, Worli from Maharashtra, Gond from Madhya Pradesh, Thanjavur painting from Tamil Nadu and Cherial Scrolls from Telangana.

B. Folk Craft

The age-old skills of craftsmanship have been interwoven in the traditions of common people and carried on for centuries. Different regions of India are famous for different kinds of craft. For example, Agra is known for leather goods, Rajasthan for meenakari, West Bengal for terracotta and pottery and many more. Each region of India has craft specialties of its own. These craft goods bear evidence to the artisan's skills, dedication, creativity and hard work.

Folk craft!
My mother loves
these items, Vani!
All the decorative
pieces at home are
from different
parts of India.



Totally agree.
My mother loves
silk sarees, you know,
and she shared a bit of
information about
some of the silk fabric
our country produces.
Let's read.



I know what
you mean. The folk
craft items are
really popular.
Our artisans create
such a variety of
handcrafted
goods.



Section 5.4 The Rustle of Silk

Read about some of the different silks created in the eastern regions of India and answer the questions that follow.

CHHATTISGARH KOSA SILK

Kosa is the Sanskrit name for desi tussar. Made from an extremely rare worm, the extraction and weaving of kosa silk saree involves a painstaking process that takes anywhere from three to five days. Nevertheless, kosa is even more popular in Chhattisgarh than pure silk, thanks to its durability. The kosa silk produced in Champa district of Chhattisgarh is considered to be the finest in the world.

MEGHALAYA ERI SILK

A highly textured silk from the North East, Eri or Endi silk has shorter fibres than other silk varieties and must be handled with care. While its naturally dull gold sheen makes it a coveted fabric in the world of fashion, it is also used for Pattachitra art and Kantha embroidery. Eri silk is highly preferred by Buddhist monks because of its eco-friendly production process that does not harm any living creature.

JHARKHAND KUCHAI SILK

From the Kharsawan-Kuchai region of Jharkhand, Kuchai silk, an organic traditional Indian fabric has seen a spike in demand in recent times. Promoting of the kuchai silk weave has benefited over three lakh artisans and weavers in the region. This silk is now being appreciated by connoisseurs in India and abroad.

ASSAM MUGA SILK

This golden yellow colour silk is the prerogative of India and the pride of Assam. It is obtained from semi-domesticated multivoltine silkworm—*Antheraea assamensis*. These silkworms feed on the aromatic leaves of Som and Soalu plants and are reared on trees similar to that of Tussar. Muga culture is specific to the state of Assam and an integral part of its tradition. Muga silk is a high value fabric and is used in products like sarees, mekhalas, chaddars, etc.

Source : <https://www.craftsvilla.com/blog/indian-handlooms-from-different-states-of-india/>

(1) Fill in the blanks with the type of silk. Select the option that lists the correct answers.

- i. Buddhist monks often buy me. I am _____ silk.
- ii. A lot of people profit so I remain in high demand. Who am I? _____
- iii. I am very long lasting. What's my name? _____
- iv. _____ is my name. I am used to make chaddars.

- A. (i) Kuchai (ii) Muga (iii) Eri (iv) Kosa
- B. (i) Muga (ii) Kosa (iii) Kuchai (iv) Eri
- C. (i) Eri (ii) Kuchai (iii) Kosa (iv) Muga
- D. (i) Kosa (ii) Eri (iii) Muga (iv) Kuchai

(2) Select the CORRECT option for the following statement.

_____ silk is a 'coveted fabric' which means it's _____.

- A. Muga, famous
- B. Eri, handwoven
- C. Muga, rare
- D. Eri, desired

(3) Pick the option that lists the statement/s that is/are NOT CORRECT for Muga silk.

- (i) It is an Assamese silk
- (ii) It is similar to tussar silk
- (iii) It is obtained from *Antheraea mylitta*
- (iv) It is costly

- A. (ii) and (iii)
- B. (i) and (iv)
- C. (i) and (iii)
- D. (ii) and (iv)

(4) Himanshu wants to buy silk fabric for his sister. Select the option that lists the silk fabric he should opt for, to meet her requirement.

She is a fashion designer who wants to use the fabric to create traditional outfits with Kantha embroidery.

- A. Muga
- B. Kuchai
- C. Kosa
- D. Eri

(5) The text says that the promoting of the Kuchai silk weave has benefited over three lakh artisans and weavers in the region. What benefit is being referred to here?

- A. political
- B. geo-cultural
- C. educational
- D. socio-economical

Great bit of information! I didn't know that fabrics are also a part of folk craft.



They are! You know my friend Smriti had gone to Arunachal Pradesh on a school trip. She felt exactly like you when she saw all the folk craft items there. She sent me a photograph of her diary entry. Let me show it to you.



Section 5.5: Recorded Memories

Read Smriti's diary entry carefully and on the basis of your understanding, answer the given questions.

19 January 2020, Sunday

10 pm.

Thanks to this school trip, I finally had the chance to experience the cultural richness of Arunachal Pradesh. It was the last day of the 6-day trip and today we visited the famous handicrafts market at Tawang.

The market was full of vibrant hues and lively colors and it seemed like the best chance to collect the memories of the city for my family members back in Delhi. So, I decided to go souvenir shopping for all of them.

I was struck by the unique bamboo items in the market and picked a basket and a pair of earrings, both made of bamboo, for my sister, Priya. I was told that the temperate climate of the city allows for the abundance of bamboo and hence, it is a very significant part of its handicraft industry.

Next, I saw a lovely shop showcasing items of wood craft. I was awestruck at the finesse of the wooden cups and dishes, masks, figurines and even deities. I finally decided to pick a beautiful wooden image of the Buddha for our living room. I knew my father would adore it.

I wanted to look for some clothes too. I observed that most clothes had a specific kind of design that was basically geometrical. These varied from a formal arrangement of lines and bands to an elaborate patterns of diamonds and lozenges. I saw woven jackets and shawls too and purchased a yellow shawl for my mother. I remember finding a huge shop of carpets. It reminded me of my grandma's love for rugs, so I brought a beautifully woven colourful rug for her room.

I also stopped at a roadside shop and picked up a clay mug for my class -teacher who couldn't come on the trip with us. Lastly, I purchased two paper-mâché dolls for my best friend. At the end of the day, even though I really feel exhausted after all the shopping, the joy of gifting fills me with happiness.

Adapted from https://niti.gov.in/planningcommission.gov.in/docs/reports/sereport/ser/stdy_thr.pdf

(1) The reason Arunachal Pradesh lends itself to bamboo handicrafts is because

.....
.....

(2) Pick the option that lists the significant features of clothes in Arunachal Pradesh.

- (i) woven
- (ii) imported
- (iii) geometrical shapes
- (iv) eco-friendly

- A. (i) and (iv)
- B. (ii) and (iii)
- C. (i) and (iii)
- D. (ii) and (iv)

(3) Complete the following message written by Smriti using her teacher's mobile phone. Select the option that has the correct answers to the blanks.

Dear Amma

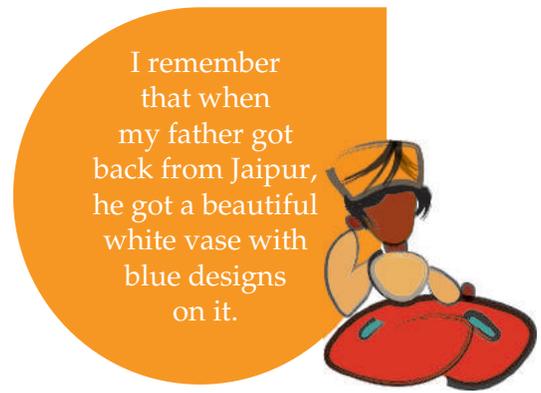
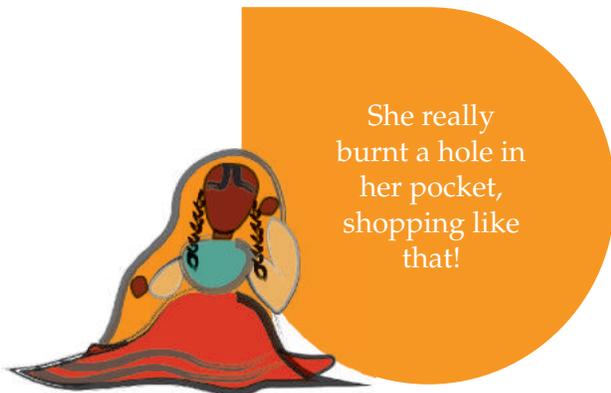
I am safe in AP. By the way, I got (i) _____ for you and (ii) _____ for Papa. I bought (iii) _____ for Dadi. I purchased (iv) _____ for Megha and (v) _____ for Priya didi. Oh! I also bought (vi) _____ for Mrs. Singh, my class teacher.

Love you. See you soon!

- A. (i) dolls (ii) a carpet (iii) a Buddha statue (iv) earrings (v) a shawl (vi) a mug
- B. (i) a shawl (ii) a Buddha statue (iii) a carpet (iv) dolls (v) earrings (vi) a mug
- C. (i) a shawl (ii) a mug (iii) a Buddha statue (iv) dolls (v) a carpet (vi) earrings
- D. (i) dolls (ii) a Buddha statue (iii) earrings (iv) a mug (v) a shawl (vi) a carpet

(4) A souvenir generally refers to:

- A. a gift.
- B. a handicraft.
- C. a reminder.
- D. an ornament.



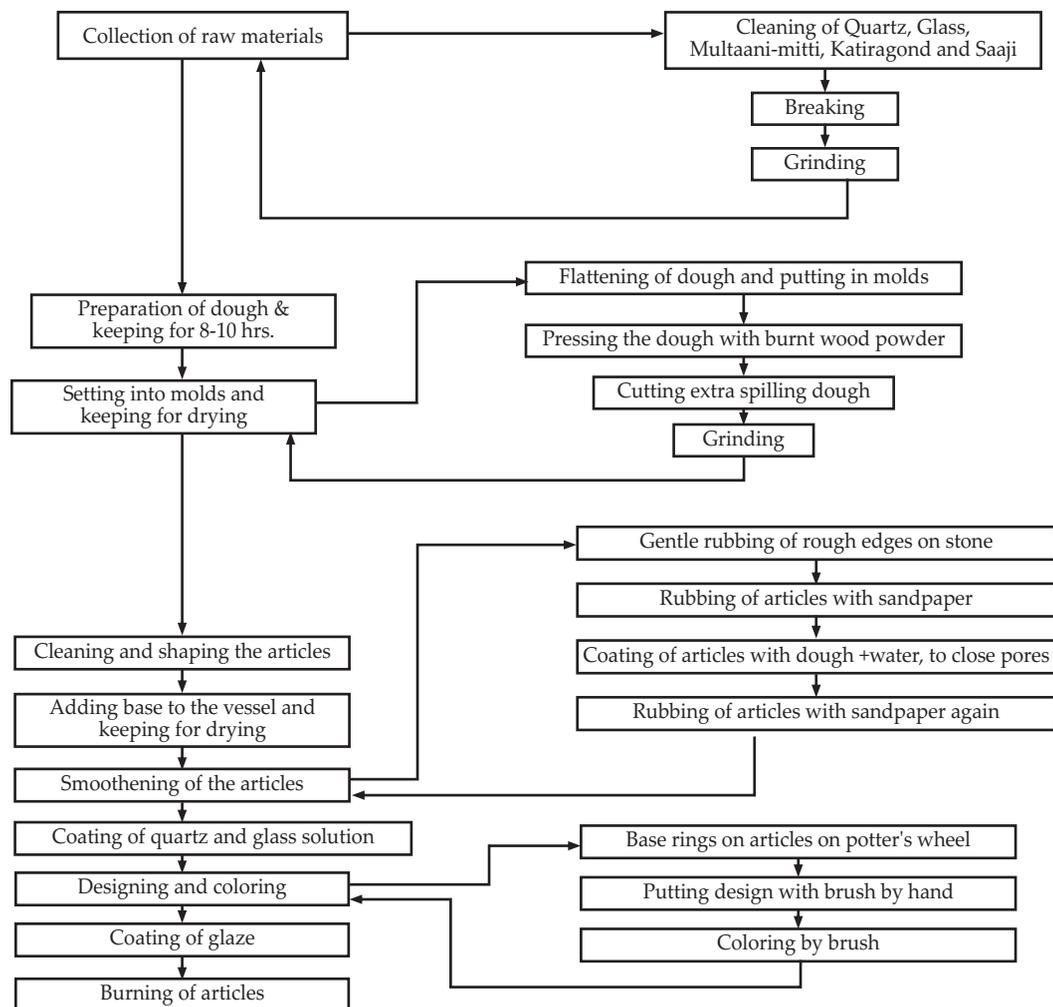


Ah! The famous blue pottery! My aunt's NGO helps these artisans. Creating this beautiful handicraft is such a complex process. Let me share the process graphic with you.

Section 5.6 Moulding Creativity

Blue Pottery of Jaipur is considered one of the most exquisite pottery found in the world. The method of developing blue pottery is very complex. It is also time consuming and tedious. The ingredients used in making are managed with a lot of care, as a small mistake can lead to a crack in or blackening of the pottery. It takes 10-12 days to make one lot of blue pottery articles.

Study the schematic diagram of the method of making given below and answer the questions that follow :



(1) Select the option that arranges the following steps of making blue pottery, in the correct sequence.



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

- A. (iv) → (i) → (iii) → (ii)
- B. (iii) → (i) → (iv) → (ii)
- C. (iii) → (ii) → (i) → (iv)
- D. (i) → (ii) → (iii) → (iv)

(2) Pick the option that has the correct answers to the blanks given below.

When I was last in Jaipur, I learned about Blue Pottery. I watched the artisan (i) _____ the dough and (ii) _____ molds out of it. Next, I saw how carefully he (iii) _____ the base. I observed how he (iv) _____ the whole thing. Finally, he (v) _____ and gave me the most beautiful pot I own today.

- A. (i) rolling (ii) taking (iii) cooled (iv) embellished (v) wrapped
- B. (i) flattening (ii) rolled (iii) wet (iv) gathered (v) packed
- C. (i) cooking (ii) drying (iii) heated (iv) burnt (v) coloured
- D. (i) kneading (ii) forming (iii) made (iv) designed (v) painted

(3) Based on your understanding of the text, select the statement that is TRUE for the making of blue pottery.

- A. Base rings of articles on the blue pottery are designed using a paint brush.
- B. Setting blue pottery materials into molds has 4 different processes.
- C. Almost a week is required to bring out a single batch of ready blue pottery articles.
- D. The blue pottery articles are glazed after the process of burning.

(4) Why do you think a base is added to the vessel?

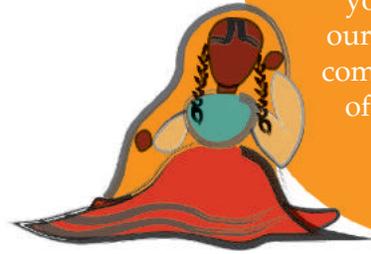
.....

.....

My goodness!
Must require such
skill to accomplish
all of that! I'm happy
that all I have to do
is study & play
with my toys.



Toys! I hope
you know that
our country has a
complete industry
of handcrafted
toys.



What? Really?
I don't believe you.
Handcrafted toys?



Of course!
I'm surprised you
didn't know.
I wrote about
them in my Art File.
Have a look !



Section 5.7 Toys with a Difference

Read the information about different handicraft toys and answer the questions that follow :

(1) Thanjavur Doll — The Thanjavur Doll is one of the most colourful and innovative crafts originated in Thanjavur or Tanjore district of Tamil Nadu. It is a bobblehead toy that is made from terracotta and is a kind of tilting toy, which means, the doll shows a continuous movement. The Thanjavur dolls are handmade and finished with bright colours.



(2) Channapatna Toys -- Channapatna Toys originated from Karnataka. These toys are made using wood. The origin of this craftwork can be traced back to the reign of Tipu Sultan. These toys are quite colourful. The stages of creating involve procuring, seasoning, cutting the wood into the desired shapes and then applying colours to the toys.

(3) Kinnal Toys -- Kinnal Toys or Kinnal craft also originated in the state of Karnataka. Kinnal craft is used to make toys as well as deity figures. The final Kinnal artisans are called Chitragara, who use a special technique to make Kinnal crafts.



(4) Nirmal Toys - Nirmal Toys originated in Telangana. These are colourful and bright. Nirmal paintings are also associated with these toys. It is said that the origin can be traced to the reign of Kakatiya rulers.

(5) Dashavatar Cards and other Ganjifa -

Ganjifa are literally the playing cards of India. They showcase our rich tradition. Ganjifa are circular or rectangular cards, hand-painted by artisans. They have coloured backgrounds, with each suit having a different colour. There are various types of Ganjifa known as Moghul Ganjifa, Dashavatar Ganjifa, Mysore Ganjifa, Ramayana Ganjifa, to name a few.



Source-https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/70840/7/07_chapter1.pdf

(1) Three friends - Kavita, Tarun and Heena are on a tour to South India. They wish to buy handcrafted objects for their families' recreational activities. Look at their requirements and select the option that lists the correct purchase matching their needs.

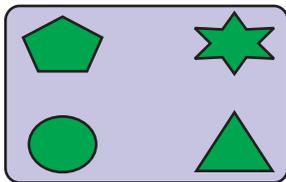
(i) Kavita	(ii) Tarun	(iii) Heena
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● colourful ● inspired from paintings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● handmade ● has movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● deity figurines ● made of a specialized craft

- A. (i) Ganjifa (ii) Kinnal toys (iii) Channapatna toys
- B. (i) Channapatna toys (ii) Thanjavur dolls (iii) Kinnal toy
- C. (i) Nirmal toys (ii) Thanjavur dolls (iii) Kinnal toys
- D. (i) Ganjifa (ii) Kinnal toys (iii) Thanjavur dolls

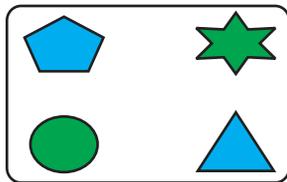
(2) The two handcrafted means of entertainment, having origins traced back to certain rulers, are

- A. Kinnal toys and Ganjifa.
- B. Channapatna toys and Nirmal toys.
- C. Nirmal toys and Thanjavur dolls.
- D. Ganjifa and Channapatna toys.

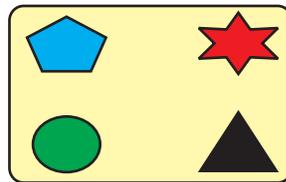
(3) Pick the option that displays an image corresponding to the line— '*...have coloured backgrounds, with each suit having a different colour.*'



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

- A. Image (i)
- B. Image (ii)
- C. Image (iii)
- D. Image (iv)

(4) Based on your understanding of 'bobblehead' from the text above, choose the option that lists the image that is a bobblehead item.



(i)



(ii)



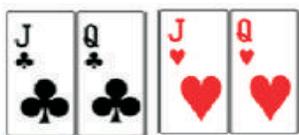
(iii)



(iv)

- A. Image (i)
- B. Image (ii)
- C. Image (iii)
- D. Image (iv)

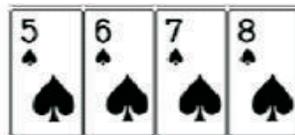
(5) Select the image that displays a SUIT of cards.



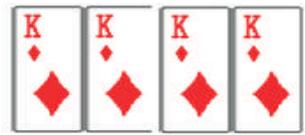
(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

- A. Image (i)
- B. Image (ii)
- C. Image (iii)
- D. Image (iv)

C. Folk Music, Dance and Drama of India

Indian traditional music, dance and drama have an expressive simplicity, as well as complexity. They bear evidence to the long traditions of dedicated art and practice. Folk music includes several indigenous musical instruments and various folk songs unique to regions across the country. The folk dances are a vibrant kaleidoscope of grace and festivity and the folk theatre of India combines elements from music and dance along with its dynamic and unique styles. In this section, we shall explore this creative trinity of India's folk tradition.

Section 5.8. Musical Treat

Read the given information about Indian folk music and answer the questions that follow :

The musical instruments for folk music are often different from those found in classical music. Although instruments like the tabla may sometimes be found, it is more likely that cruder drums such as daf, dholak, or nal are used. The sitar and sarod which are so common in the classical genre are absent in the folk music, instead, one often finds instruments such as the ektar, dotar, rabab and santur. Quite often they are not called by these names, but may be named according to their local dialect. There are also instruments which are used only in particular folk styles in particular regions. These instruments are innumerable.

As opposed to the crafting of musical instruments for classical music, where in special artisans create them, the folk instruments are commonly crafted by the musicians themselves. It is very common to find folk instruments that have been fabricated from commonly available materials like bamboo, coconut shells and pots.

Each region of India has its own beautiful and lyrical folk music that is significant. For example, in the Garhwal region, young women of mountains have to go into far off forests to get grass for their cattle. They go to the forest singing in groups. This is Ghasiyari Geet where emphasis is laid on the importance of labour. On the other hand, the Bhakha form of folk music is popular in the Jammu region. Bhakha is sung by the villagers when harvesting is done. It is considered to be the regional music with most melodic and harmonious elements. In Tamil Nadu's Villu Pattu or the 'Bow Song', the lead singer handles the dominating instrument which is bow shaped and the songs revolve around themes that emphasise the conquest of good over evil.

Folk music is closely associated with farming and other such professions and has evolved to alleviate the hardship and break the monotony of routine life. Even though the popularity of folk music has dropped with the advent of contemporary music, no traditional festival or celebration is complete without folk music in India.

Adapted from: <http://ccrtindia.gov.in/regionalmusic.php>

(1) Select the option that correctly lists the characteristics of musical instruments for folk music.

(A)

- uncommon and limited in number
- different names for same type of instrument

(B)

- created by special artisans
- crafted from locally available materials

(C)

- created by special artisans
- uncommon and limited in number

(D)

- different names for same type of instrument
- crafted from locally available materials.

(2) Bhakha is sung to mark a

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| A. celebration | B. artisan |
| C. region | D. profession |

(3) The 'bow song' is so named because

.....

.....

(4) According to the text, the Ghasiyari Geet has a _____ significance for the women.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| A. religious | B. educational |
| C. motivational | D. customary |

(5) Select the option that correctly substitutes the underlined word in the given sentence.

Folk music evolved to alleviate the hardships in people's lives.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| A. support | B. lessen |
| C. highlight | D. share |



That was so cool! I think folk songs are adapted by music directors for the movies too. I remember 'Gendaphool' in 'Delhi-6'. It is based on a folk song from Chhattisgarh!

Of course! Even the 'Bhumbro' song from the movie 'Mission Kashmir'.




Now that you know about music and folk songs? How about something on dance?

Dance! Yayy! Vani, could we share something on the dances of the North-East please? I simply love them!



Section 5.9 Put on Your Dancing Shoes

Rohit's school organized a dance festival celebrating India's Northeastern culture, and Rohit was asked to write a report for the school magazine. Read this report and answer the questions that follow :

YUVA VIDYALAYA HOSTS THE NORTH-EASTERN FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

by Rohit, Class IX B

Gurugram 30th Oct

The Northeastern Folk-Dance Festival was hosted by our school as a part of the Annual Cultural Feast held every October. This festival of 6 hours served to educate the students about the richness of the culture and heritage of the Northeastern states of India. The Festival had a total of eight performances. The performers were distinguished eminent artistes who had specially come for the programme.

The first performance of the day was Nagaland's Chang Lo dance. The performers were wearing red colored dresses. According to ancient tradition, this style of dancing was developed to rejoice the victory over the enemy by the Chang, a tribal community in the region. At present, Chang Lo is performed in a three-day festival that marks the beginning of the harvest season in the state. Next, we saw the lovely Cheraw dance of Mizoram. In this dance, four people held some bamboo sticks clapped together, and other dancers performed in the center position of the group.

Third, was a mesmerizing performance called the Singhi Chham dance, by the dancers from Sikkim. The dancers were wearing white furry costumes to symbolize the hills. They also told the students that this dance is dedicated to the guardian deity of Sikkim, Guru Padmasambhava. After this, was the absolutely unique dance from Arunachal Pradesh known as the Bardo Chham dance. The dance was introduced as a folk dance of Sherdukpens, a community in Arunachal Pradesh. This dance is annually performed to protect the community from the evil forces. The performers wore animal masks and danced to the beating of drums.

After the power-packed Bardo Chham performance, the Laho dance of Meghalaya was extraordinarily soothing. Each dancer was in a colourful attire and it was performed with two young men on either side of the girl, linking arms together. After half an hour of tea-break, the programme resumed with the breathtaking Hojagiri dance from Tripura. Everyone in the audience was awestruck at the way they danced with a tall earthen pitcher balanced over their heads. The performance, usually done for the Lakshmi puja, exemplified grace and poise.

This was followed by the cheerful Bhortal dance of Assam. It was performed on a very fast beat. Each dancer was equipped with cymbals while performing this dance which made it extremely vibrant. Finally, the last performance of the day was Pung Cholom dance of Manipur. The dancers were performing and simultaneously playing drums, showcasing a beautiful blend of elegance and acrobatics. The program concluded with a vote of thanks and commemorative photographs with all the dancing groups.

(1) Rohit's teacher asked him to submit

- A. a formal request to showcase the participants of the previous event.
- B. a set of suggestions to improve the previous event.
- C. firsthand information of the event that had taken place.
- D. a collection of opinions of the audience that attended the event.

(2) Cultural dance festivals, like the one hosted by Yuva Vidyalaya, are significant because they:

- A. help in improving the economic conditions of certain regions.
- B. strengthen a sense of community among us.
- C. provide easy dance practice for one and all.
- D. are mandated by families of the students.

(3) Read paragraph four of the text again and select the option that displays a set of antonyms from it.

- A. power-packed-soothing
- B. breathtaking-colourful
- C. awestruck-exemplified
- D. linking-balanced

(4) 'Commemorative' photographs refer to photographs clicked to:

- A. advertise the participants of the event.
- B. teach children about the Northeastern states.
- C. build photography skills among all in the event.
- D. celebrate the memory of the event.

(5) Based on the given descriptions of the dances in the text, select the option that lists the correct match of the states with the images of the dances.

(i) ASSAM (ii) MEGHALAYA (iii) TRIPURA (iv) NAGALAND (v) MANIPUR
(vi) MIZORAM (vii) SIKKIM (viii) ARUNACHAL PRADESH



(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)



(E)



(F)



(G)



(H)

- A. i-G, ii-D, iii-B, iv-A, v-C, vi-E, vii-H, viii-F
- B. i-E, ii-B, iii-A, iv-F, v-H, vi-C, vii-G, viii-D
- C. i-A, ii-D, iii-F, iv-C, v-E, vi-B, vii-G, viii-H
- D. i-D, ii-A, iii-C, iv-B, v-F, vi-H, vii-E, viii-G

(6) Pick the option that lists the correct answers for the blanks in the paragraph given below.

The several dances of the North-East have certain purposes and significance. The (i)....., it is believed, guards against the forces of evil. On one hand, the (ii)..... is a tribute to the goddess of wealth while (iii)..... honours the divine protector of the local area. The dance that stands different because it celebrates the defeat of the enemy is (iv).....

- A. i-Bhortal, ii-Hojagiri, iii-Cheraw, iv-Singhi Chham
- B. i-Hojagiri, ii-Singhi Chham, iii-Bardo Chham, iv-Chang lo
- C. i-Bardo Chham, ii-Hojagiri, iii-Singhi Chham, iv-Chang lo
- D. i-Cheraw, ii-Bardo Chham, iii-Chang lo, iv-Bhortal

That was lovely, Vani! I felt I was right there, dancing with them. How do they manage such pleasant expressions while dancing? I would be worried about forgetting my steps!



Folk dancers are skilled, Vijay. Facial expressions are important not only in dance, but for drama too.



Oh yes! Our drama teacher told us that 'nrityanatak' is a popular folk tradition in India. She had shared pamphlets of these forms of folk theatre. I have one with me. Here it is!



Section 5.10 In the Spotlight

“I regard theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.” – Oscar Wilde.



India too has a rich and large history of theatre.

Given below is an excerpt from a pamphlet of the cultural festival that is staging unique types of folk theatre in India. Read the excerpt carefully and answer the questions given :

Jatra



1. Popular in Odisha and eastern Bihar, it originated in Bengal in the 15th century as a result of the Bhakti movement.
2. Over the years, the jatra repertoire swelled with love stories and socio-political themes.
3. While initially this theatre was primarily musical, today, jatra performances consists mainly of action-packed dialogues with a few songs.

Bhavai



1. Bhavai is the traditional theatre form of the Kutch and Katiawar region of Gujarat.
2. Its speciality is subtle social criticism laced with humour. It makes the use of instruments like the bhungal, pakhaawaj, rabaab, sarangi and manjeera.
3. This is a kind of ritual offering made to the Hindu goddess, Amba.

BhandPaather



1. This centuries old traditional theatre form of Kashmir is a unique combination of dance, music and acting.
2. It is based on local mythological legends and contemporary social commentary.

Tamasha



1. A traditional folk theatre form of Maharashtra, that flourished in the courts of the Maratha rulers of the 18th and 19th centuries.
2. It has evolved from the folk forms such as gondhal, jagran and kirtan.
3. Unlike other theatre forms, in tamasha, the female actress is the lead performer and the chief exponent of dance in the play. Classical music, the lightning fast footwork of the lavani dance, and vivid gestures of the performers gives this folk theatre a distinctive character.

(1) The theatre form that is also a dedication to a goddess is

- A. Tamasha
- B. Bhavai
- C. Bhand Paather
- D. Jatra

(2) Tamasha has a traditional connect because its

- A. performance integrates use of classical music.
- B. origins can be traced back to the ruling clan of that region.
- C. growth began alongside a religious movement.
- D. scripts include only mythological plots and incidents.

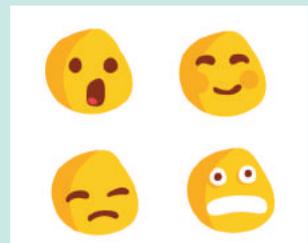
(3) Select the option that lists the correct match of theatre styles to the Indian regions where they are performed.

Theatre style	Regions of India
(i) Bhavai	A. Northern
(ii) Jatra	B. Western
(iii) Tamasha	C. South Western
(iv) Bhand Paather	D. Southern
	E. Eastern

- A. i-C,ii-A,iii-B,iv-D
- B. i-E,ii-C,iii-B,iv-A
- C. i-A,ii-D,iii-E,iv-B
- D. i-B,ii-E,iii-C,iv-A

Actors and dancers portray emotions through facial expressions. But living in the world of technology, we often find ourselves using different emoticons to express our own emotions.

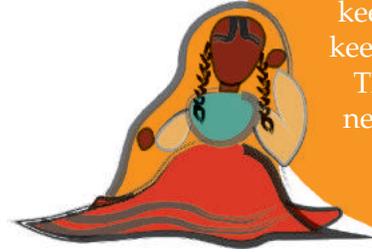
Lot of people use them to convey their feelings to others. Try copying the different emoticons given in the box through facial expressions. It is a lot of fun!



Vani,
now that we have
come to the
end of our journey,
I hope our fellow
travellers
feel enriched.



Vijay,
I'm sure they do.
Friends,
keep learning . . .
keep exploring . . .
The adventure
never end in the
Language
Kingdom.



This brief fascinating journey of going through a few elements of our cultural heritage must have inspired you to discover other elements as well. Choose the art form that motivates you. Such creative expressions not only add to your personality but are also therapeutic.

Create, Learn, Enjoy and Perform!

