

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

**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 Keris aims to provide an opportunity for
  - Students/children/seniors to gain a basic understanding of what the *keris* 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.



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 KERIS

- The *keris* is a type of dagger that is unique to the Malay World. It is used not just as a weapon for protection, but also functions as a traditional symbol of honour and social status in Malay society and hence is worn during important ceremonies such as weddings and events organised by royalty. As a high degree of skill is needed to forge the *keris*, it is also believed to bear mythical powers, and also considered a talisman, and used in healing rituals. It is also believed that some *keris* contain so much mythical energy that they ‘choose’ their owner instead.
- The hilts of the *keris* are often carved from a variety of materials including horn, woods or ivory, and their scabbards or sheaths (to cover the blade) embellished with beautiful details and inlaid with precious metals and stones.
- While there are some similarities in terms of the materials used and shared symbols, the different ethnic communities in the Malay Archipelago usually have *keris* designs which are unique to their own province or people.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS

You will need..

1. A printer

2. A4 paper (Use thicker paper if you have so the *keris* will not be flimsy).  
You can also print it on an A3 paper if you want a bigger *keris*.

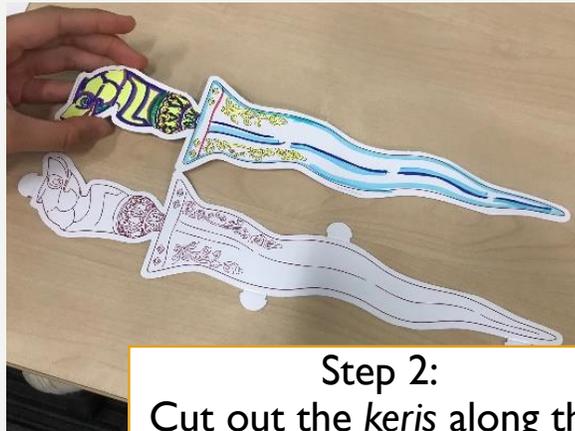
3. Coloured markers

4. Scissors

5. Glue or tape



**Step 1:**  
Fill in your *keris* with your favourite colours.



**Step 2:**  
Cut out the *keris* along the dotted line.  
\*Don't worry if your child/student accidentally cut through the folding line.



**Step 3:**  
Fold the *keris* into half and hold them together with glue or tape. Ta-da! You have your own *keris* now.

# THE KERIS THAT INSPIRED THE CRAFT DESIGN



*Keris Palembang*  
19<sup>th</sup> Century, Palembang, Indonesia  
Collection of Asian Civilisation Museum,  
National Heritage Board

- The *Keris Palembang* (named after a city in South Sumatra, Indonesia) is thought to have belonged to Sultan Pengeran Syed Ali of Palembang.
- Who else was from Palembang? It was Sang Nila Utama. Historians have ascertained that Sang Nila Utama was an actual historical figure known as Sri Tri Buana, who lived during the 14th century. He was a Javanese prince from Srivijayan Palembang who is credited in ‘*Sulalatus Al-Salatin*’ (or ‘*Sejarah Melayu*’) (‘*Genealogy of Kings*’) as the founder of a new settlement on the island known as Temasek, which he then re-named Singapura.



# SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- Describe the object – what do you see?
- 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

- Read the story of the Attack of the Swordfish, also known as the story of Bukit Merah together. You can use the *keris* as a prop for a dramatised storytelling with/for your student or child.
- Share about Sang Nila Utama and the founding of Singapore, or research about him together.
- Watch a Youtube video together to learn how the *keris* is made (see next slide).
- Search for images of different types of *keris* on Google image or [Root.sg](https://www.root.sg) and learn more about them. You may also wish to compare the similarities and differences too.
- Visit the Malay Heritage Centre to see some *keris* on display, or look for *keris* in old photographs.
- Get your student/child to design their own *keris* and do a show-and-tell of the features of his or her special *keris*.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The *Keris* Collector by CNA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bmb7VIMONY>

- The Indonesian *Keris* by UNESCO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUBlkjRgO9c&gl=SG>

- Keeping Art of *Keris* Making Alive for Future Generations by The Star

<https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2018/01/27/keeping-art-of-keris-making-alive-for-future-generations-there-is-still-strong-demand-for-the-tradit>