

Information for Taught Museum Session:

## Puppets and Stories Hands-on Workshop

Be inspired by the Hindu story of the Ramayana, handle Javanese shadow puppets, and learn about light and shadow. Puppets can be made back at school.

Key stage 1 and 2

National Curriculum Subject Areas:

English Spoken language; Writing - composition

Science Light

Religious education Know about and understand a range of religions

Length of session: 75 minutes

Maximum group size: 32

### Session Outline

- Welcome to the Museum  
Introduction to Javanese puppets and how shadows are created (10 minutes)
- Handling shadow puppets in groups of 3 (15 minutes)
- Listening to the story of the Ramayana (10 minutes)
- Storyboarding around the Museum in pairs, pencils provided (15 minutes)
- Listening to final part of the story  
Plenary (10 minutes)
- Please allow for extra time if you want to visit the shop, or explore the Museum further

### Learning Outcomes

#### Aims

- Appreciate how shadow puppets are used to tell stories around the world
- Hear the Ramayana story and understand how it links to the Hindu festival of Diwali
- Look at how heroes and heroines are presented in puppet and story form
- Participate in creating a story from opening, crisis to resolution

#### Key concepts

- Storytelling
- Heroes and heroines
- Light and shadow

"The enthusiasm of the storyteller kept the children interested and engaged." (Yr 2 teacher)

"I loved handling the puppets - they were made from buffalo skin!" (Yr3)



## Pre-visit activities

- Look at a map to find the location of Java.
- Find out about gamelan and listen to some music (gamelan music accompanies shadow puppet performances in Java).

## Post-visit activities

- Make the shadow puppets of Rama, Sita, Hanuman and Ravana. In groups, script and perform episodes from the Ramayana.
- Compare the heroes and heroines of the Ramayana with those in other fiction.
- Research different kinds of puppets that are used around the world from the glove puppets of Punch and Judy to the string puppets of North India.

## Booking information:

Booking is essential for all groups

We require a ratio of 1 adult to 10 pupils

Monday 12.00 – 4.30

Tuesday to Sundays 10.00 – 4.30

01865 613031

[education@prm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:education@prm.ox.ac.uk)

[www.prm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk)

Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PP

Access is gained through the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

Visits to this Museum must be booked separately using these contact details:

01865 282451 [education@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:education@oum.ox.ac.uk)

### Facilities

- Lunch can be eaten on the Museum lawn or in the University Parks in fine weather. If you require a space for lunch please discuss this when making your booking.
- The museum is fully accessible to visitors with disability, with an adapted toilet and lift to all floors. A disabled parking space may be booked in advance.

The cost for this session is £100. By supporting the Museum with this charge you are helping us meet some of the costs that go towards running our educational activities and ensuring that we can continue to develop new and exciting sessions for schools.

