

TO A DIFFERENT BEAT

An unforgettable cross-cultural experience

Indian Performing Arts Samskriti

Grades: K-12

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Lead Artist Rathna Kumar and dancers Venugopal Josyula (India) and Saliya Ilankoon (Sri Lanka) weave together stories, hand movements and mind-boggling footwork patterns into a colorful tapestry of dynamic dances.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Dance	Language Arts	Social Studies	The Students Will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances. • Practice listening and speaking. • Experience a form of Indian dance. • Write/tell stories to express ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.
K	3, 4		1, 6, 8, 11	11, 13, 14, 15	
1	5, 6		1, 6, 8, 12	14, 16, 17, 18	
2	5, 6		1, 6, 8, 12	12, 14, 15, 17	
3	5, 6		1, 6, 8, 12	10, 12, 14, 15, 16	
4	5, 6		1, 6, 8, 12	17, 19, 20, 21	
5	5, 6		1, 6, 8, 12	20, 21, 22, 23, 24	
6-8	4, 5	1, 3, 4, 5	1, 5, 6, 7, 11	13, 16, 21, 22	
HS	5, 6	1, 3, 4, 5	Eng. I: 1, 4, 5, 6, 10	World Hist. 23, 25, 29, 30	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Reading comprehension skills in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
 Writing skills in Grade 4, 7
 Social Studies skills in Grade 8
 End of course tests in English and World History

Academic Vocabulary:

India	A country which occupies the greater part of Southeast Asia. Second in population and seventh in size in the world, India is the birthplace of Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism and is considered a megadiverse country.
Sri Lanka	An island nation in the Indian Ocean, which is 70% Buddhist. Its constitution provides for freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

Punjabi	<p>A region and language in India and Pakistan. Some Punjabi words and phrases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat sri akal (Hello/greetings) • Ki haal chaal: How are you? • Main theek haan: I am fine. • Dhanyavaad: Thank you. • Meherbani: Please. • Maaf karo (Sorry/excuse me) • <i>Mera naam ... hai</i>: My name is ... • <i>Pitaji/Pita ji</i>: Father • <i>Mataji/Mata ji</i>: Mother • <i>Veer</i>: Brother • <i>Bhain/Bhein</i>: Sister • <i>Parivaar</i>: Family
Sanskrit	<p>One of the oldest languages known; a classical language of India and Hinduism, the root of many Indian languages, and a liturgical language of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism.</p>
Bharatanat-yam	<p>A classical Indian dance whose history can be traced back to around 500 BCE, when the ancient society of India first developed with the Rigveda, a collection of songs and rituals from 1500–1200 BCE written in Sanskrit by an unknown author. who were probably mostly followers of Hinduism.</p>
Adavu	<p>Basic steps in Bharatanatyam dance, consisting of 8 sections where the dancer performs variations of movements between the different mudras (gestures or poses), including doing steps twice or in a continuous flow. The movement incorporates elements like theyyum (jump), thatha (turn), and tham (stamp).</p> <p>https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=adavu+movements&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8</p>

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- What do you know about India?
- Have you ever been to India?
- Do you know someone who is from India?

After the performance:

- What did you like best about the presentation?
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part.

Language Arts:

- Read the Indian tale, "The Stonecutter," and discuss, write about, draw, act out, or create other forms about the meaning.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=indian+tale+about+stonecutter&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8> (Also published as a Japanese tale, *The Stonecutter* by Gerald McDermott.)

"The Stonecutter" summary: The stonecutter is a man who is unhappy with his life and wants to be more powerful. He is transformed into other beings, including the sun, cloud, and the mountain. He finally realizes he is the most powerful being, since he is stronger than the mountain he is cutting.

- Illustrate these verbs in Punjabi or use in a game of Charades or Pictionary.
 - *Jana*: To go
 - *Aana*: To come
 - *Karna*: To do
 - *Khana*: To eat
 - *Peena*: To drink
 - *Bolna*: To speak
 - *Sunna*: To listen
 - *Dekhna*: To see/watch
 - *Sochna*: To think
 - *Likhna*: To write
 - *Parhna*: To read
 - *Sona*: To sleep
- Create a story, poem, rap, song, skit, drawing, or other form about India or Pakistan.

Math:

- Play "Parcheesi," a board game that originated in India.
- Read and create math problems based on the Indian tale, *The King's Chessboard*, retold by David Birch.
- Count to ten in Punjabi:
 - *Ik*: One
 - *Do*: Two
 - *Tin*: Three
 - *Chaar*: Four
 - *Panj*: Five
 - *Che*: Six
 - *Satt*: Seven
 - *Ath*: Eight
 - *Nau*: Nine
 - *Das*: Ten

Social Studies:

- Learn the days of the week in Punjabi:
 - *Somvaar*: Monday
 - *Mangalvaar*: Tuesday
 - *Budhvaar*: Wednesday
 - *Veeravaar*: Thursday
 - *Shukarvaar*: Friday
 - *Shanivaar*: Saturday
 - *Aitvaar/Ravivaar*: Sunday
- Compare the differences in India and Pakistan.

Science:

- Learn the names of colors in Punjabi and create equations for secondary colors.
Example: Laal + Neela = Jamni.
 - *Laal*: Red
 - *Neela*: Blue
 - *Peela*: Yellow
 - *Hara*: Green
 - *Kaala*: Black
 - *Chitta/Safed*: White
 - *Gulabi*: Pink
 - *Santri*: Orange
 - *Jamni*: Purple
 - *Bhura*: Brown
- Investigate topics studied in science in Punjabi.
https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&sca_esv=ed31745f76a805c8&rls=en&q=Punjabi+science+topics&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwIU3eDnIsSOAxW8nGoFHRq_A8gQ1QJ6BAg-EAE&biw=1024&bih=547&dpr=2

Resources:

India:

<https://www.thelandmarkkids.com/blogs/news/26-fun-facts-about-india-for-kids>

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=books+about+india+for+kids&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

Pakistan:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=pakistan+for+kids&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

Sri Lanka:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=facts+about+sri+lanka+for+kids&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&dlr=1&sei=yCp5aKyEGfC0qtsPod3AyQo>

Punjabi words:

<https://preply.com/en/blog/basic-punjabi-words/>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Rathna Kumar is the Director of Indian Performing Arts Samskriti, the first and largest Indian performing arts institute in Texas, now celebrating 36 years of teaching and promoting traditional excellence. Author of the acclaimed book "Adavu," a reference guide of Indian Dance technique, Rathna brings creativity, originality, and innovation to all her productions. As an internationally renowned art educator and teaching artist, she shares her art and cultural heritage with hundreds of schoolchildren throughout the city and travels the world presenting the ancient art of Indian classical dance to audiences of all kinds. Rathna Kumar has been recognized by Young Audiences of Houston, Miller Theater Advisory Board, Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and UNESCO's International Dance Council as a true cultural ambassador of Indian performing arts in the US.