

Demystifying Differences

An extension of "Malay art form gets applause on the world stage"

Have you been to a Dondang Sayang performance before? Or, better still, have you performed in one? For Racial Harmony Day this year, spend some time learning about this and other traditional performing art forms that are alive and well in Singapore. One of the joys of living in a multicultural society is that we have so many traditional and modern forms of theatre, dance, and music.

Read "**Malay art form gets applause on the world stage**" (page 19, What's Up June 2019). Then, work in pairs on this fact-finding activity.

List any five traditional performing art forms practiced locally. Some examples are (in alphabetical order): ballet, bharatanatyam, Chinese opera, dikir barat, gamelan, the hora, Kristang dancing, nanyin, therukoothu, and zapin.

Next, find out which ethnic community that art form belongs to. Ask someone from that community at least three questions about it. Invite them to share their experiences of the art form as well. When you have compiled your findings, share them with your class.

	Performing art	Our discoveries about it	Our sources
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Don't stop here. Continue to ask questions about the cultural heritage of the different communities you come across. And, listen hard to the answers. Learning about diverse cultures is important for racial and religious harmony.