

















## Yesteryear's Footwear

*An activity of "Chinese wooden clogs"*

Read "Chinese wooden clogs" (page 24, *What's Up* July 2024). This article is part of a series about footwear found in Singapore. Let's further explore our heritage footwear.

1. Match each footwear description below with the correct type of traditional footwear.

	DESCRIPTION OF FOOTWEAR		TYPE OF FOOTWEAR
1.	Dutch clogs, known as Klompen, are traditional wooden shoes typically made from willow or poplar wood. These clogs are fully enclosed with a rounded toe and often feature intricate carvings and colorful paintings.		
2.	Japanese Geta are wooden sandals worn with Japanese clothing such as kimonos. They have a flat wooden base elevated by two wooden prongs (called "ha") that keep feet dry in wet weather. The fabric straps come in various colors and patterns.		
3.	Chinese wooden clogs have a simple, functional design with a flat wooden sole and a fabric or plastic upper. The upper part typically consists of a single strip of material that goes over the top of the foot. These clogs kept feet dry in wet conditions.		
4.	Swedish clogs feature a wooden sole with a slightly elevated heel and a leather upper. The leather upper can be closed-toe or open-toe, and the clogs can be painted or stained in various colors. They have become popular fashion items worldwide.		
5.	Padukas are traditional Indian wooden sandals characterised by a knob (called a "toe knob") that fits between the big toe and the second toe to keep the foot in place. These sandals are simple in design and are often made from a single piece of wood.		
6.	Kolhapuri chappals are traditional handcrafted leather sandals known for their comfort, durability and intricate designs. Made from tanned leather they feature toe loops, braided straps and metallic embellishments and detailed patterns.		
7.	Kasut Manek are traditional slippers made with intricate beadwork, featuring floral or geometric patterns. Made from silk or velvet with tiny glass beads, they are worn with Peranakan attire like the kebaya. They're known for their intricate craftsmanship.		
8.	Hwahye are traditional Korean shoes made from leather or silk, often worn with hanbok, the traditional Korean attire. These shoes are characterised by their simple, elegant design and are sometimes decorated with intricate embroidery or patterns.		

2. Approach an older adult at home or school to share memories of yesteryear's footwear. Here are some questions you might like to ask:

- What are some memories you have of wearing or seeing the footwear shown above?
- Was such footwear worn only at special times or was it for daily use?
- How much do you like this footwear compared to modern shoes?
- Can you describe the process of making this type of footwear?
- In what ways do such footwear still have a place in today's world?
- Is it important to you that we preserve the tradition of wearing such footwear?

3. Produce an attractive infographic displaying your findings. For instance, you can put quotes or stories from the interviews next to a drawing of the footwear. Or you present each of the individuals' responses in different categories. Modify the template below or come up with a new one to suit your presentation.



4. Have a Footwear Celebration by sharing everyone's infographic poster in the school canteen!