

Go on a fun and colourful tour around bustling Singapore with the beautiful illustrations of artist William Sim.

Learn about the history and culture of Singapore and explore different parts of the city such as the Civic District, Chinatown, Kampong Glam and Little India. You will also visit the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Sentosa, Gardens by the Bay, Haw Par Villa, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum and more.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Melanie Lee is a writer and lecturer. She is the author of the award-winning picture book series *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien*. She is also the author of *Imaginary Friends: 26 Whimsical Fables for Getting on in a Crazy World*.

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Melanie Lee & William Sim

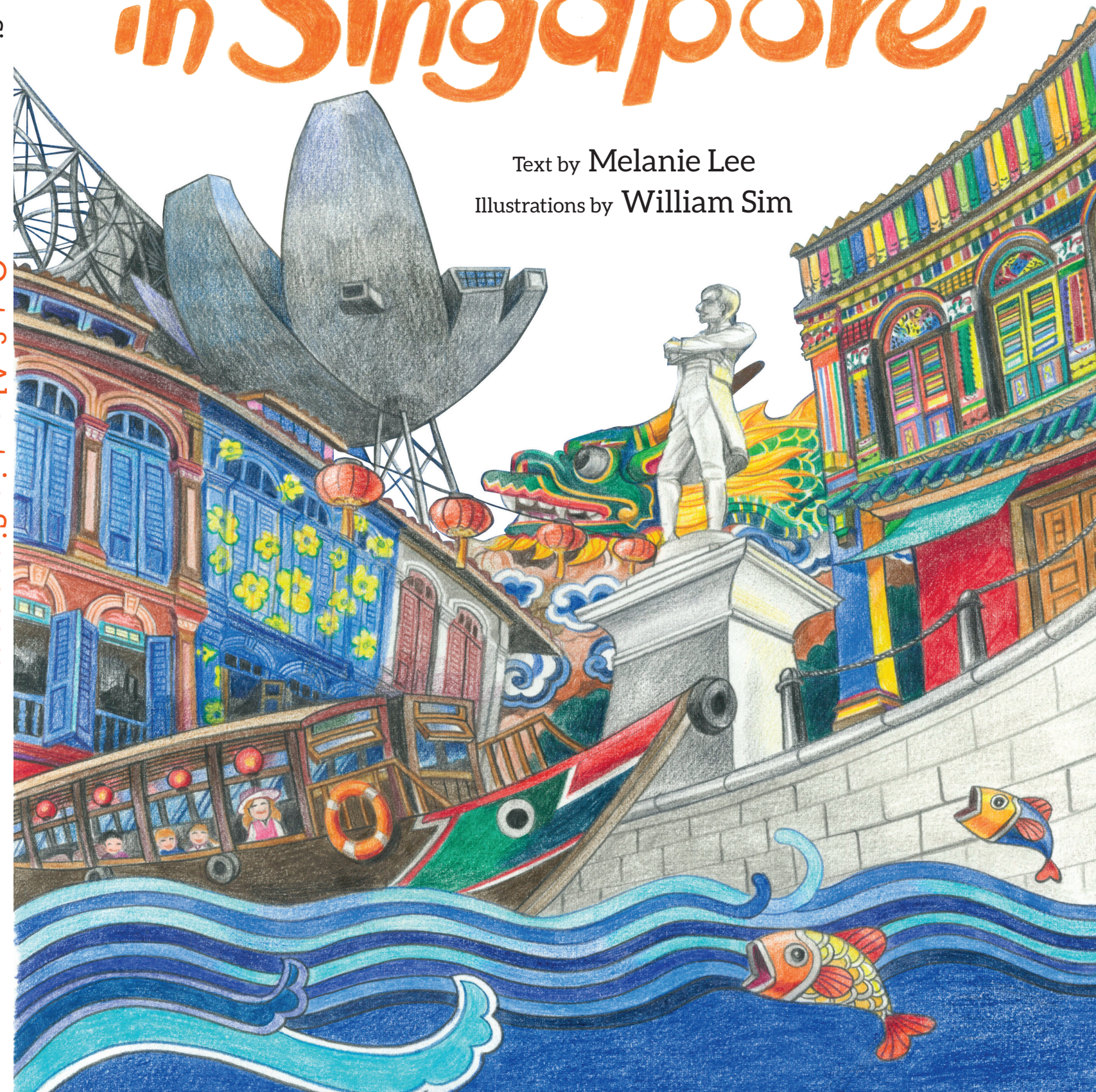
Out & About in Singapore

Marshall Cavendish Editions

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Text by Melanie Lee
Illustrations by William Sim



For Review only

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO SINGAPORE!

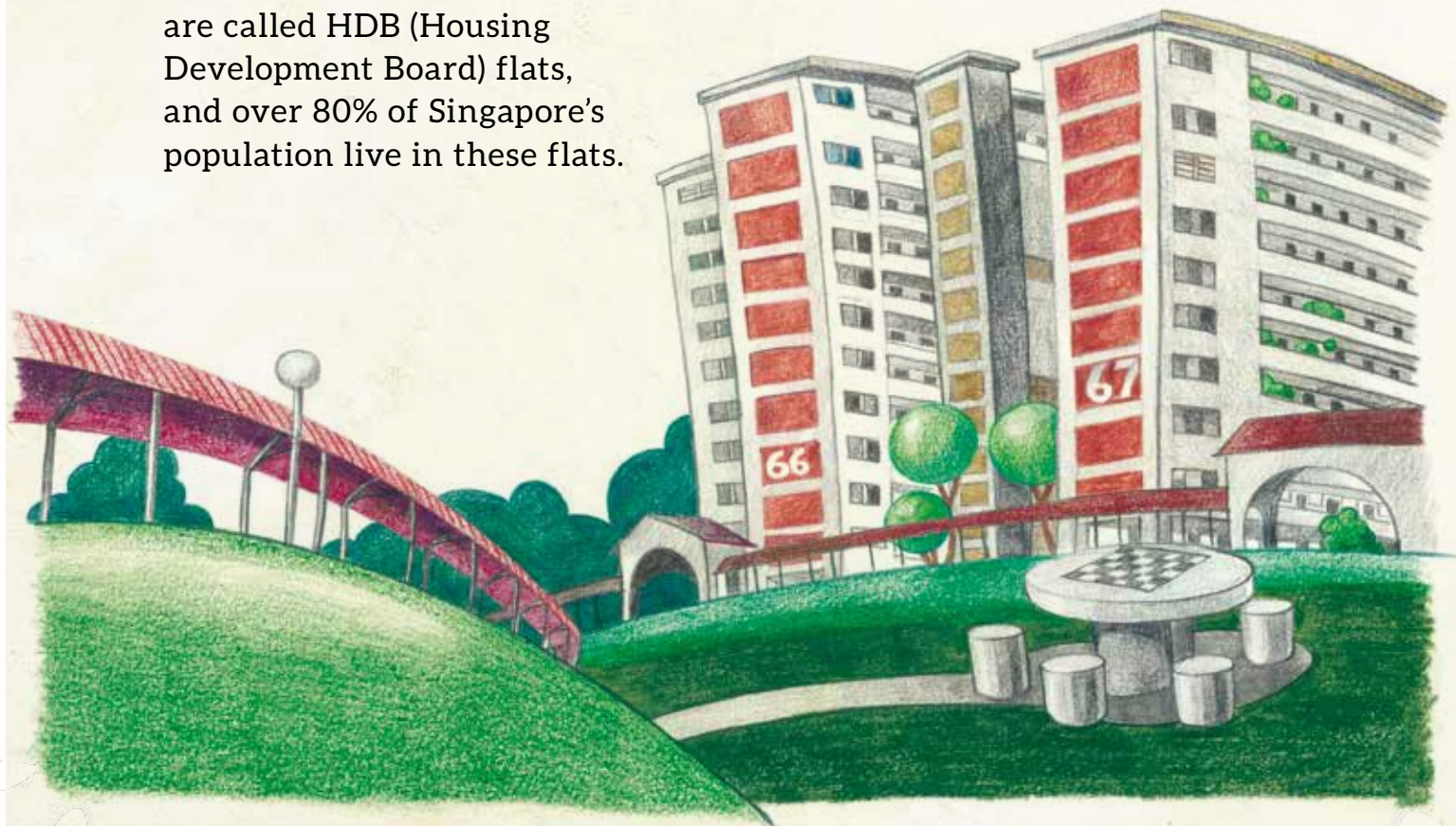
We're a small country located in Southeast Asia. Despite our size, there is a lot of fun stuff to do in Singapore. From futuristic buildings to beautiful gardens, there's something for everyone!



The world's tallest indoor waterfall greets you at Jewel Changi Airport.

FULL OF FLATS

If you ever come to Singapore, the first thing you'll notice are the many colourful high-rise buildings. These are called HDB (Housing Development Board) flats, and over 80% of Singapore's population live in these flats.



SMALLISH SINGAPORE

Just how small is Singapore? It has an area of 719 square kilometres. This is about half the size of Bangkok or London, or two-thirds the size of Hong Kong.

Despite her size, around six million people live in Singapore, making it a vibrant and bustling city!

CITY IN A GARDEN

Singapore may have many tall buildings, but there's also plenty of greenery. Our roads are lined with trees and flowering bushes, and there are also nature reserves and parks. These not only beautify Singapore, they also protect the environment and the rich variety of living things in the country.



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HISTORY

HOT TRADING SPOT

Singapore has been a popular trading spot since the 13th century. Back then, it was called Temasek. Singapore is located between major trading routes and possesses a natural deep-water harbour. As such, even way back then, traders came from all over the world to buy and sell cloth, spices and porcelain here.



HOW SINGAPORE GOT ITS NAME

Many children in Singapore are told this local folktale by their parents and teachers:

In the 13th century, a Sumatran prince called Sang Nila Utama was hunting in the nearby island of Bintan and chased a stag up a hill. He couldn't find the stag when he reached the top of the hill, but saw an island with a white sandy beach. His men told him that the island was called Temasek.

He decided to visit the island, but his ship was caught in a storm while travelling there. He and his men threw out all their heavy things, but water kept entering the ship. The captain advised him to throw his crown overboard as a gift to the sea. Once the prince did that, the storm died down and he reached the island safely.

While hunting on this island, he saw an animal with a red body, a black head and a white breast. His chief minister told him that it was a lion. Sang Nila Utama took this to be a good omen and decided to build his new city here. He renamed it Singapura, which means "lion city" in Sanskrit.

Later, when the British arrived in the 19th century, they anglicised "Singapura" to "Singapore".

This story is probably fictional as there are no lions in this part of the world.

Nevertheless, it's a well-loved tale that has been passed down over many generations.



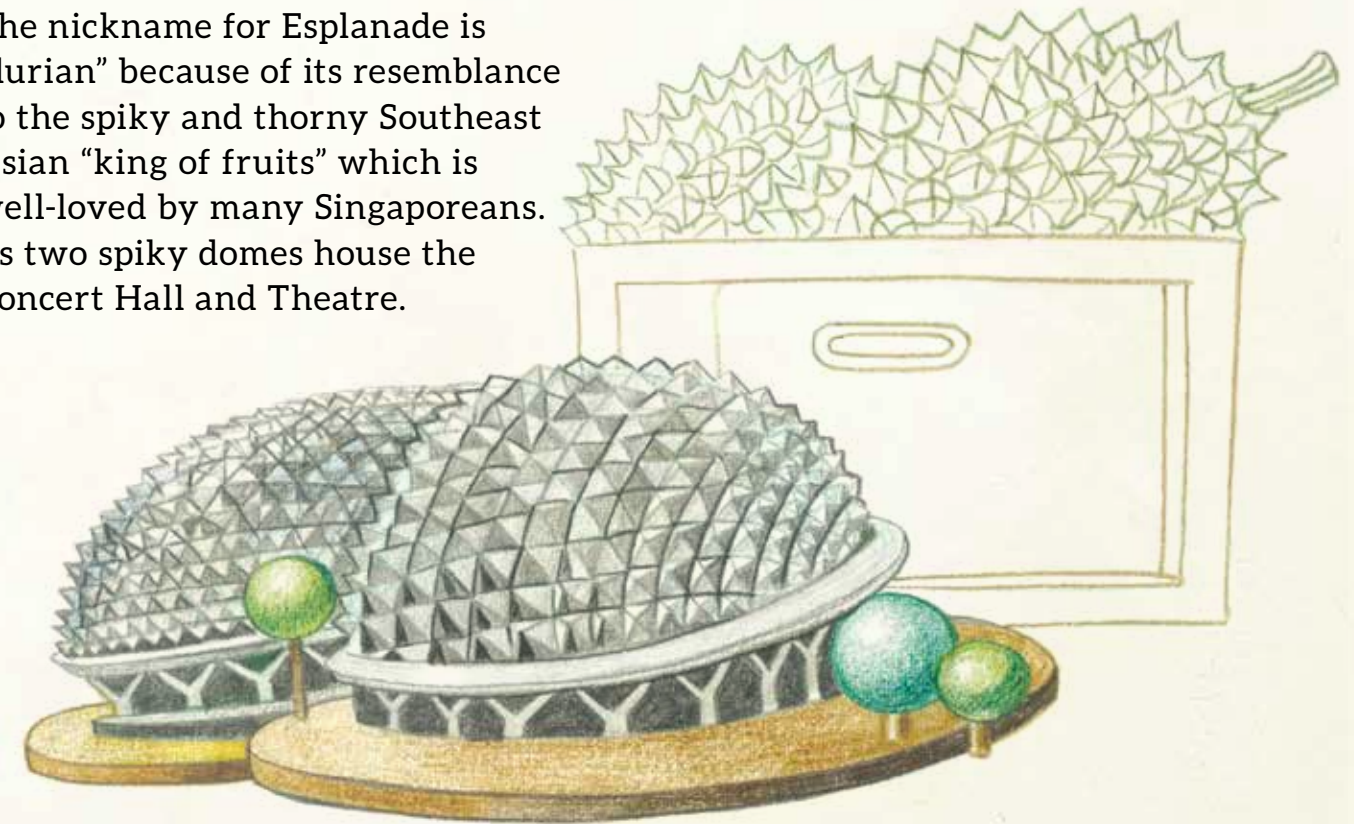
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AN ARTS HAVEN

There's always something happening at **Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay**, Singapore's national performing arts centre. Over 3,000 performances take place every year, and many of them are free so that everyone can enjoy the arts!

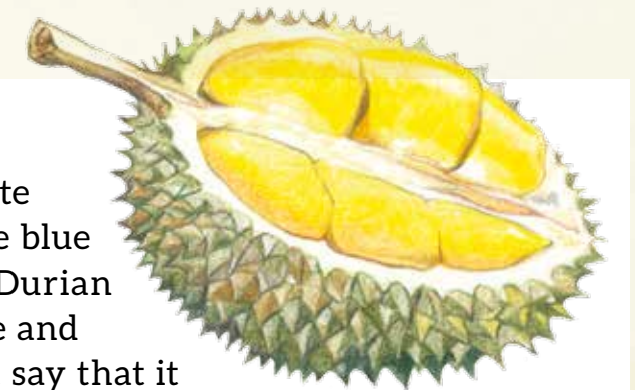
INSPIRED BY SINGAPORE'S FAVOURITE FRUIT

The nickname for Esplanade is "durian" because of its resemblance to the spiky and thorny Southeast Asian "king of fruits" which is well-loved by many Singaporeans. Its two spiky domes house the Concert Hall and Theatre.

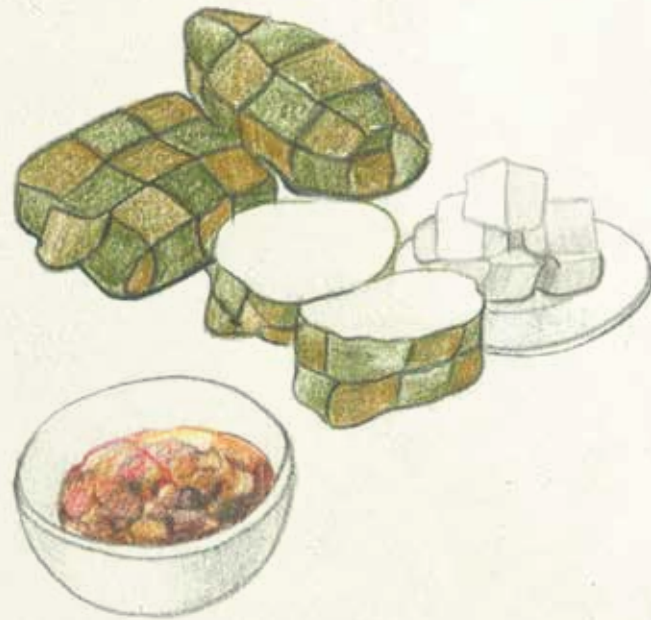


DARE TO DURIAN?

The durian not only looks scary, its taste and smell is pretty intense as well! Like blue cheese, people either love it or hate it. Durian lovers adore its creamy custard texture and savoury sweet taste. Those who hate it say that it smells like rotten eggs and tastes bitter. During durian season (usually in August and September), durian-loving Singaporeans get together with friends and family to enjoy this fruit.



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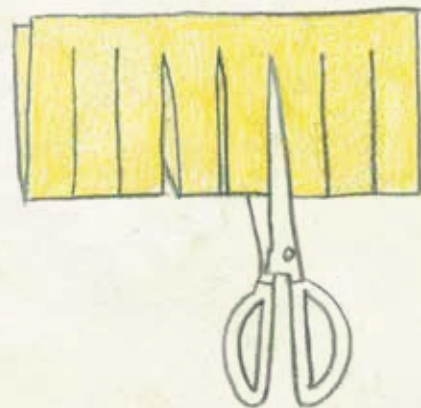
KETUPAT CRAFT

A popular festive food is the *ketupat*, a compressed rice dumpling wrapped in woven coconut leaves. It is usually eaten with meat or stews.

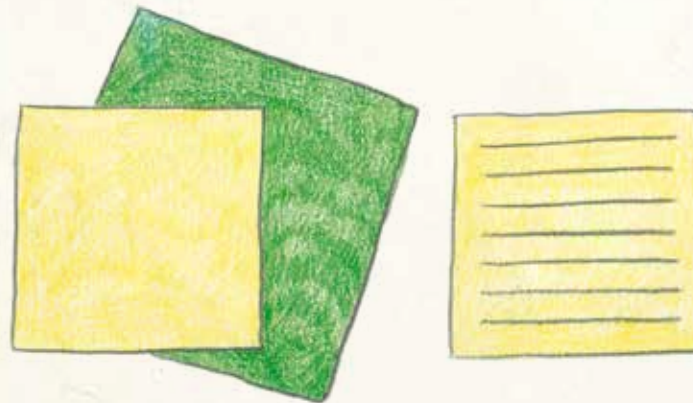
Here's how you can make your very own ketupat decoration.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

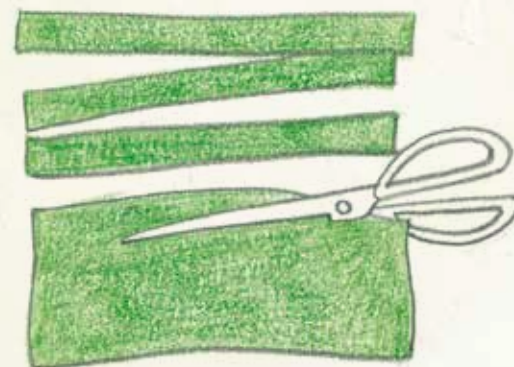
- Two pieces of square paper of different colours, preferably yellow and green
- Pencil
- Glue
- Scissors
- Ribbons
- Stapler



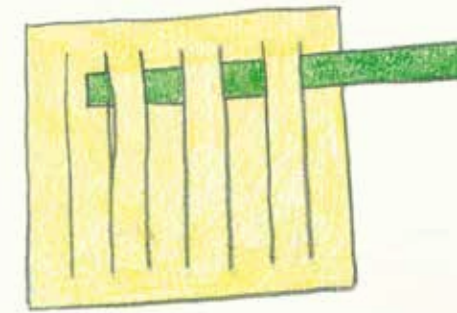
2. Fold the paper in half and cut along the lines.



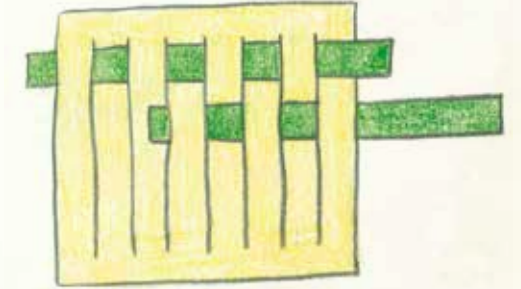
1. Draw horizontal lines along one of the papers, leaving a 1 cm gap between each line. Also leave a border around the edges of the paper.



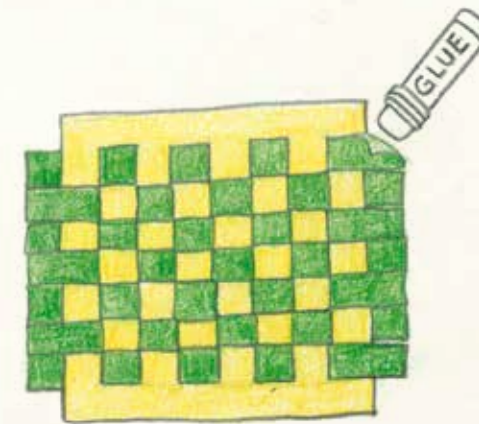
3. Cut out 1 - 2 cm strips from the other piece of paper.



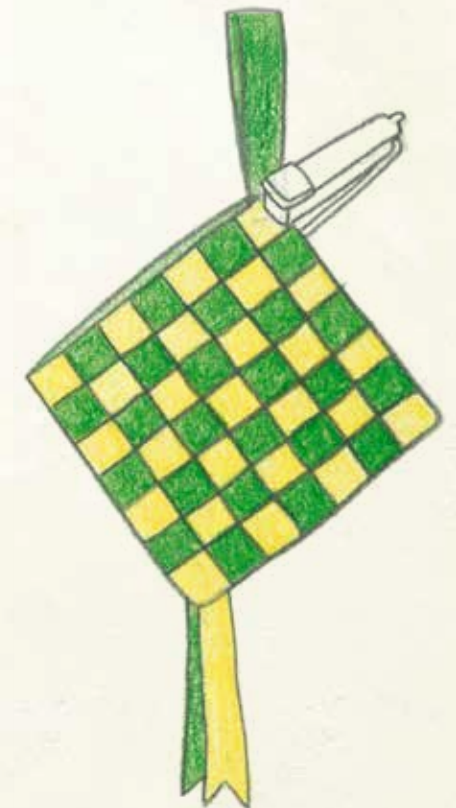
4. Take one paper strip and weave it over and under the slits.



5. Take another strip and weave it in an opposite pattern i.e. under and over the slits.



6. Glue the strips in place.



7. Place the woven square papers as a diamond and staple a ribbon loop at the top and glue on ribbon strips at the bottom.



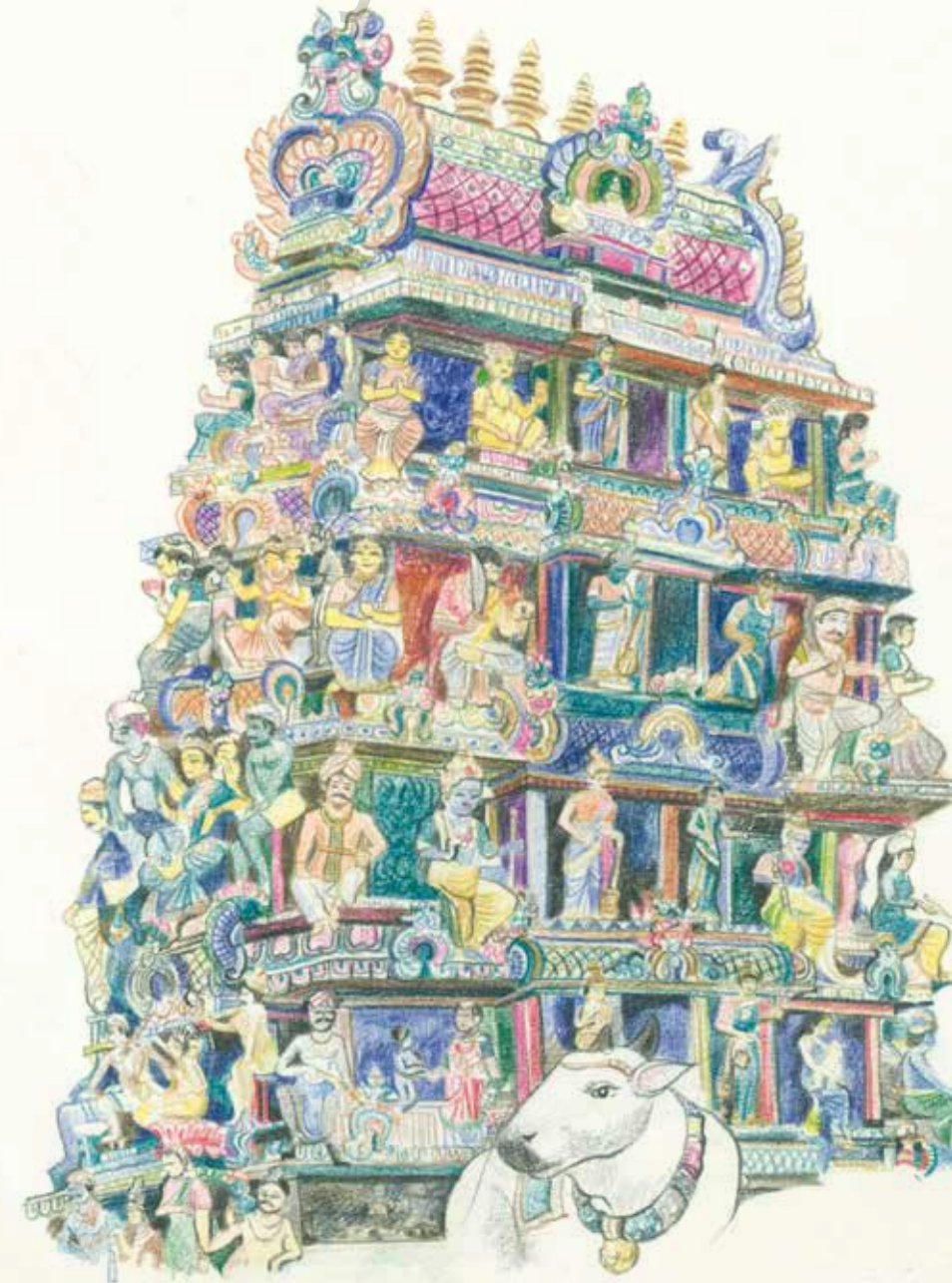
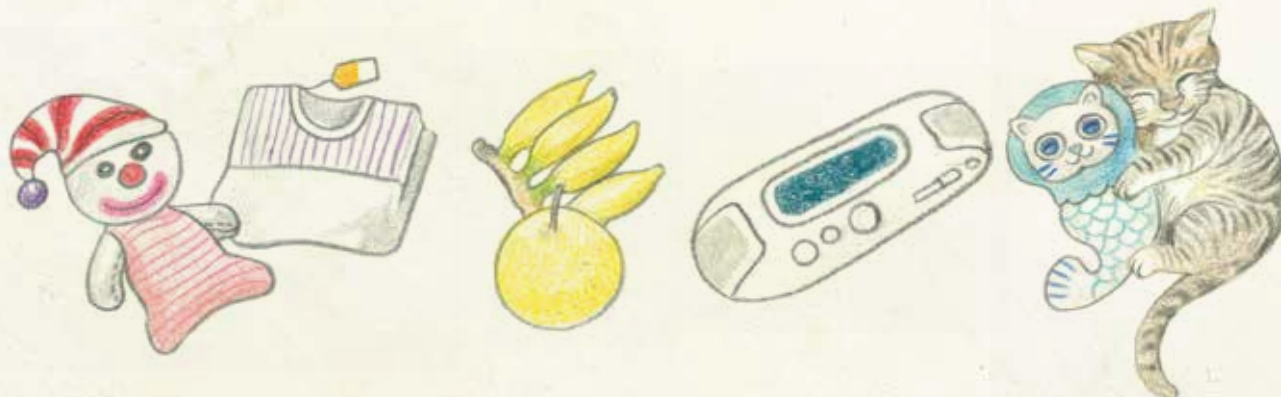
LITTLE INDIA

Little India is a lively neighbourhood which forms the heart of Singapore's South Asian community. Here, you will find a colourful range of shops selling spices, sarees and jewellery, as well as restaurants, trendy cafes and hostels.



SHOP AROUND THE CLOCK

If you love great deals and countless options when shopping – you have to visit Mustafa Centre. This 24-hour department store sells practically everything under the sun from toys and clothes to fruits and electronics on its six levels.



SRI VEERAMAKALIAMMAN TEMPLE

This is one of the oldest Hindu temples in Singapore and is best known for its intricate, colourful statues of deities carved on its gopuram. The gopuram is the entrance gateway to the temple. Built in 1855 by Indian labourers, the temple is dedicated to the Goddess Kali, the destroyer of evil.



GARDENS BY THE BAY

SUPER DUPER SUPERTREES

You know you're in a very special park when you first see the futuristic Supertrees at Gardens by the Bay. These 18 Supertrees are made out of steel and concrete, and measure between 25 and 50 metres tall. They provide shade and are also home to around 163,000 plants.



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FLOWER POWER

The Flower Dome is the largest greenhouse in Singapore and over 3,300 glass panels were used to build it! The interior is kept cool and dry like a Mediterranean climate.



COOL OFF!

At the Far East Organisation Children's Garden there's a water play area for some splashing good fun (don't forget your swimming costume). Even the sprinklers here are futuristic. They come with sensors to detect your movements which can then create different fun water effects in response!



CLOUD HIGH

Enter the misty Cloud Forest and discover the rich biodiversity of plants in the tropical highlands. You will also find the world's second tallest indoor waterfall nestled within the lush greenery of this dome. Take a stroll on the Cloud Walk platform for the best bird's eye view of this conservatory.

