

Museum Explorer

DECODING THAINESS

Ages
5-12 yrs.



This book belongs to

Sawasdee!

Welcome to Museum Siam



“Decoding Thai” is a semi-permanent exhibition at Museum Siam. We would like to invite all to come to get a better understanding of “Thainess,” the meanings, characteristics, and type of it being both diverse and complex.

Let’s discover the meaning of “Thainess.” Trace the guideline and you will discover the answer from this exhibition. What you have to do is to discover, see, play and learn from whatever you find in the exhibition.

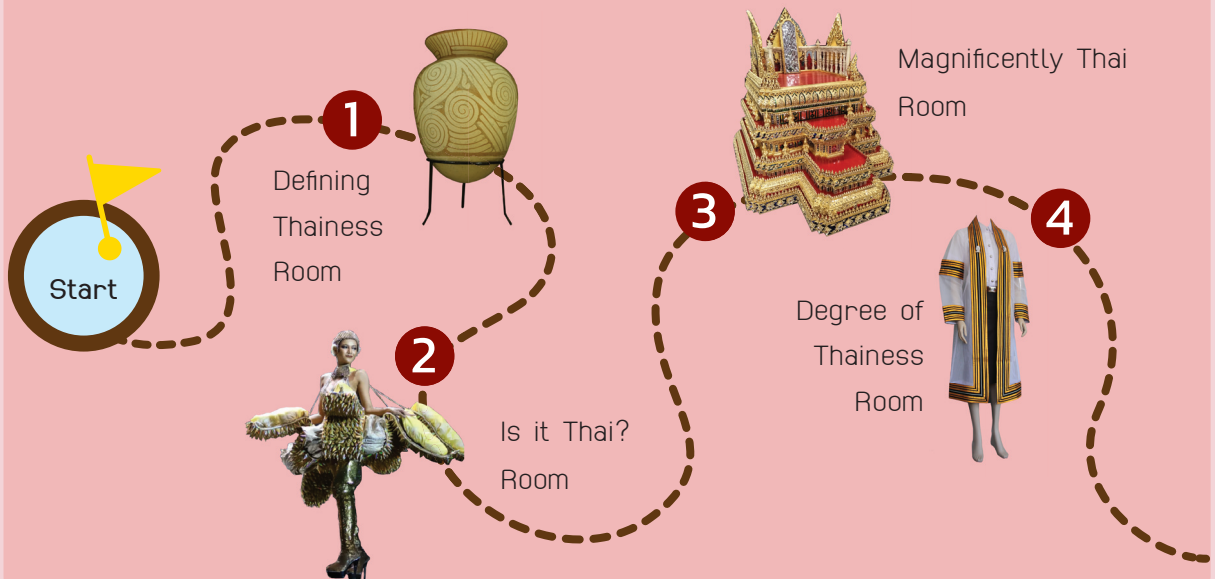
Suggestion

-  In the exhibition, take picture and hands on objects are allowed but please do it with care.
-  Writing and drawing should be done on the activity booklet only.
-  Ask the museum staff if you need help.

What is Thainess?

“Thainess” denotes that which represents the identity of Thai people distinguishable from that of other ethnicities. Thai people are good at selecting ideas and things around them for adaptation and re-creation into new forms. This is so as to be appropriate to their contemporary or popular ways of life. Thus, Thainess assumes particular, yet diverse, features, but with an extent of uniqueness that distinguishes them from those of other peoples. What features seen everyday portray “Thainess” that are different?

Get started at the 3rd floor and follow the arrows.



Thainess has been changed from times to times and sometimes newly creates and socially accepted. Do you know the reason how and why these exhibited objects represent Thainess?

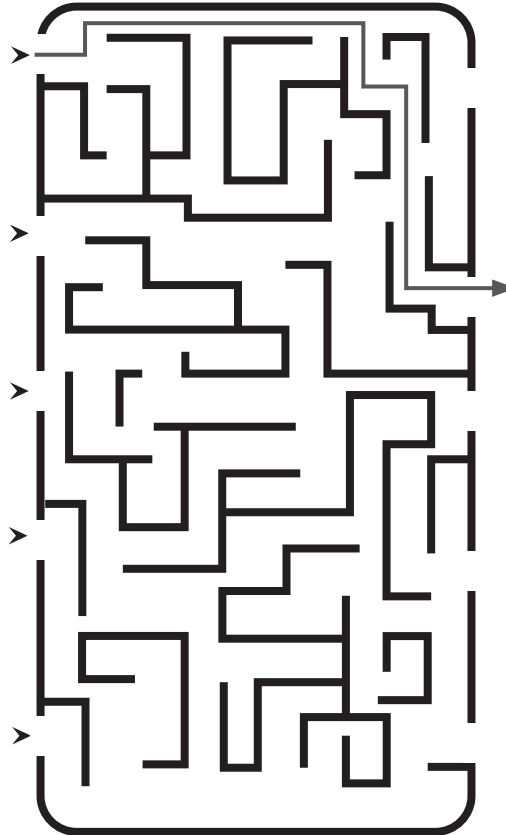
Traditional Thai style
Buddha image

First map
that show the
Thai territory

Vehicle that symbolize
Thai tourism

National Thai deity

Thai antique that
symbolized how ancient
the Thai Kingdom



Tuk Tuk



Walking
Buddha



Ban Chiang
Pottery



Siamese map,
McCarthy's
edition



Siam
Devadhiraj

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Is this Thai?



Thainess is diverse and has been changed from times to times that make it difficult to clearly denote that what is the real Thai. Clothing is an example of how Thainess has been changed according to times and interpreted.

What do you think the Thai national costume look like? Can you draw, or make a sketch?



Did You know?

Thailand is the world top ranking that has been awarded the best national costume in Miss Universe beauty contest (6 times - 1969, 1988, 2005, 2008, 2010 and the most recent 2015 Tuk Tuk was the best national costume of that year.)

This costume was designed according to what has been interpreted as “Thainess.”

Do you know what this costume has inspired? (hint: King of fruit)

Source: thairath.com



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Magnificently Thai

Thai craft has been admired as the high aesthetic craftsmanship reflected the meaning and traditional Thai belief. This room imitates the heavenly throne hall. The throne of the king is the middle of the universe.



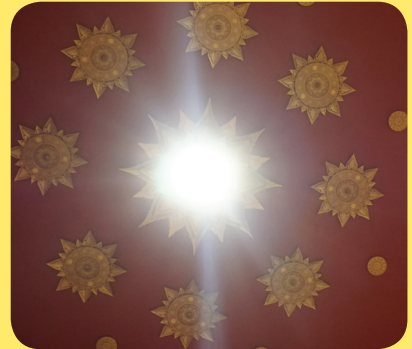
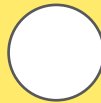
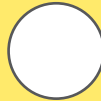
- Can you spot the miniature figures that adorn the throne?

What are they?

- a. Angel - Garuda
- b. Hanuman - Giant
- c. Giant - Garuda
- d. Angel - Giant

- In which mountain the throne is assumed to be the abode of the God Indra?

Look up at the star pattern on the ceiling. Which is assumed to be the stars in the universe? Choose the stars that are similar to the stars in this room.



Source: reurnthai.com/ yingthai-mag.com/ blogging.com

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Degree of Thainess

The mannequins in this room wear different clothing but still represent Thainess in particular period.



Do you know any type of clothing?

Write 3 names!

1.
2.
3.

Academic Gowns

Gowns without front buttoning made of white mesh fabric or Thai called “Deva gowns” have been worn for special functions in Thai ceremonies. The gowns adopted from Persian since late of Ayudhya period and became a uniform worn up to the present day such as the ritual gown of *Phraya Raekna Kwan*, a high-ranking who conducts the Royal Ploughing Ceremony; the ritual gown of Brahmin priests; the graduation ones and the gowns worn by men seeking ordination as Buddhist monks.

Make your own color-in
and cut-out statue!



Did you know?

Thai noble women in the Royal Court was influence by the Victorian blouse from England (leg of mutton sleeves), thus, adapted the style of their own as to wear with Jong Krabane. Today, it is the traditional Thai costume that is worn mainly at formal ceremonies.



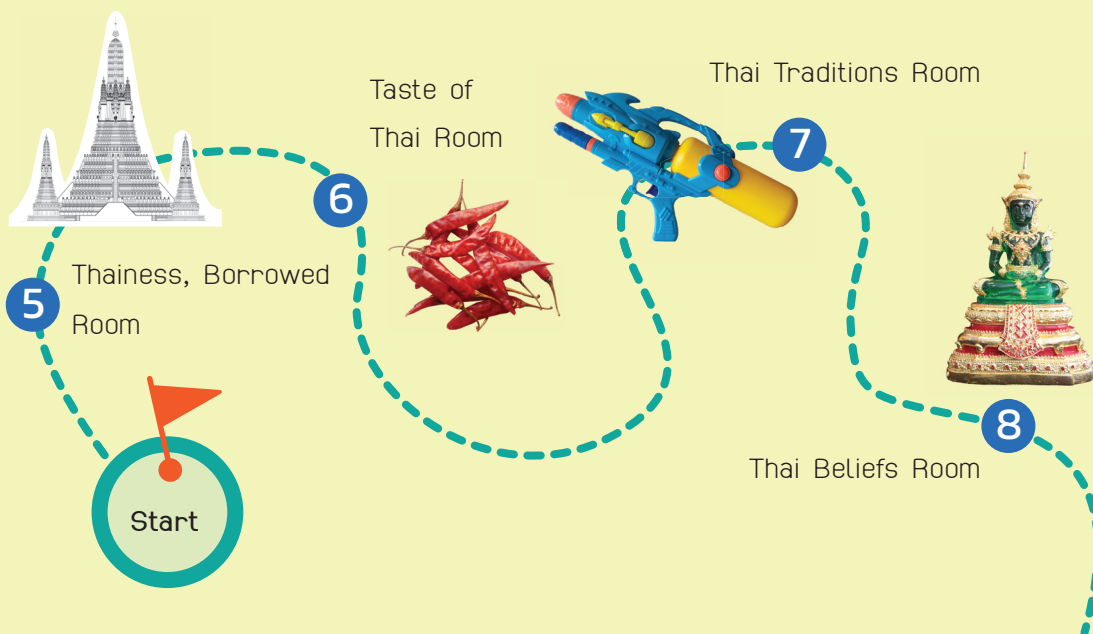
Glue this area

Thai Lady wore leg of mutton sleeve blouse,
matched with Jong Krabane.
(Fashion during King Chulalongkorn period 1897 A.D.)



You'll find out lots of illustrated pictures, objects, Thai menus, toys in Thai traditions and things related to Thai beliefs. Let's take a look!

Walk down to the 2nd floor and walk through the corridor. Start exploring Thainess, Borrowed Room.

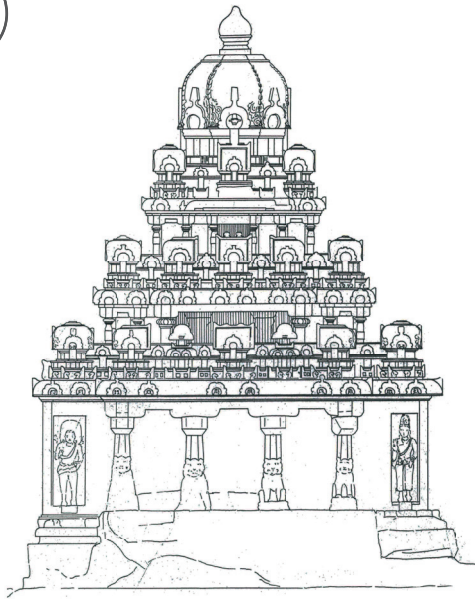


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Thainess, Borrowed

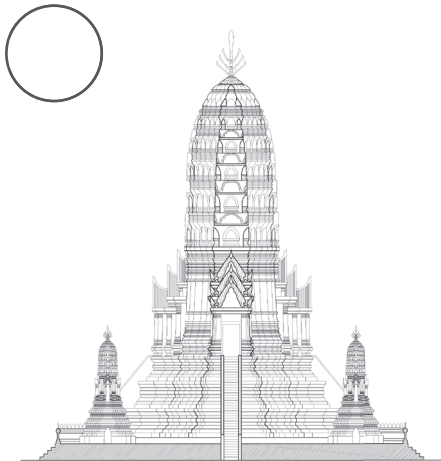
This room shows the development of the so called “Thai things” that borrowed from other culture but has been adapted as “Thainess.” Prang or pagoda is a good one example of the development of Thai architecture. Can you put number its development form in the correct order?

1

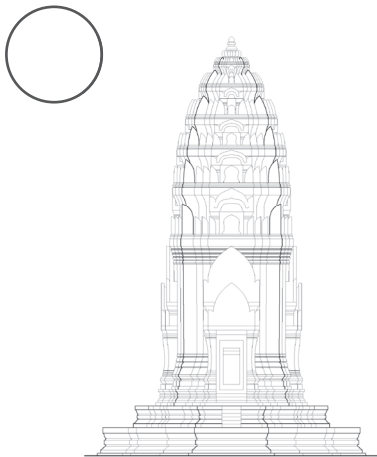
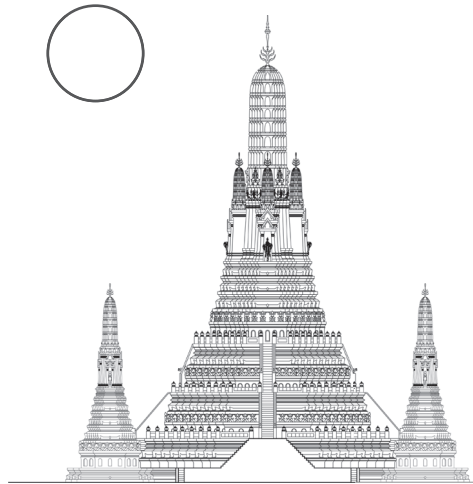


Mahabalipuram (South India)

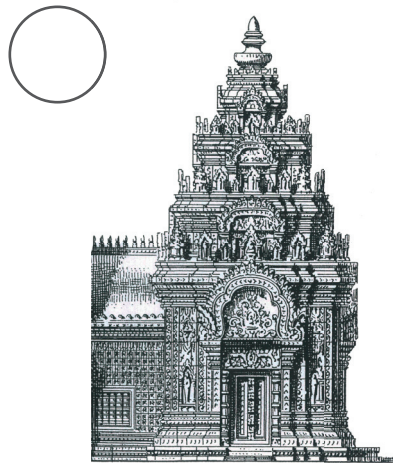
Wat Chaiwathanaram (Ayudhya)



Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn)



Wat Mahathat (Lop Buri)



Banteay Srei (Cambodia)

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Taste of Thai

Thai dish is unique in adapting other cooking style to meet Thai taste with various ingredients and flavors. Look at the picture of Massaman curry and unscramble the letters to complete the correct spices.

Spices in Massaman curry



P E P P E R

C P E P R P



M O R M C A D A



V L O E C



I N A C M N O N



A E M C



M E G N U T



R I E D L H I L C I



R I A N C O R E D S E E D



U M I N C

7

Thai Traditions

Tradition, festival and Thai ethics are Thai traditional culture that passed on from generation, but has been adapted from times to times. Look for the “tradition” box (red label) and fill in the items. Match the picture to the name and tradition.

Water gun



Alms bowl



Songkran festival

Conch shell



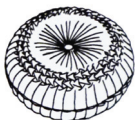
Wedding tradition

Silver bowl



Buddhist tradition

Pillow watering conch



Talipot fan



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Thai Beliefs

The belief of Thai people comes in different style/format – Buddhist, Brahma and animism, thus, can harmoniously intermingle and ties with every day's life of every social class. Explore the objects exhibited in this room and fill in the blank.



Name

The Emerald Buddha

Origin/meaning

.....

Belief

Buddhism – Believe to protect the country and boost up individual virtues



Name

.....

Origin/meaning

Son of God Shiva

Belief

God of success and art



Name

Goddess of grain

Origin/meaning

.....

Belief

Goddess of grain, rice crops

Discovering History, Discovering You



okmd



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