

Museum Explorer

DECODING THAINESS

Ages
13-18 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.



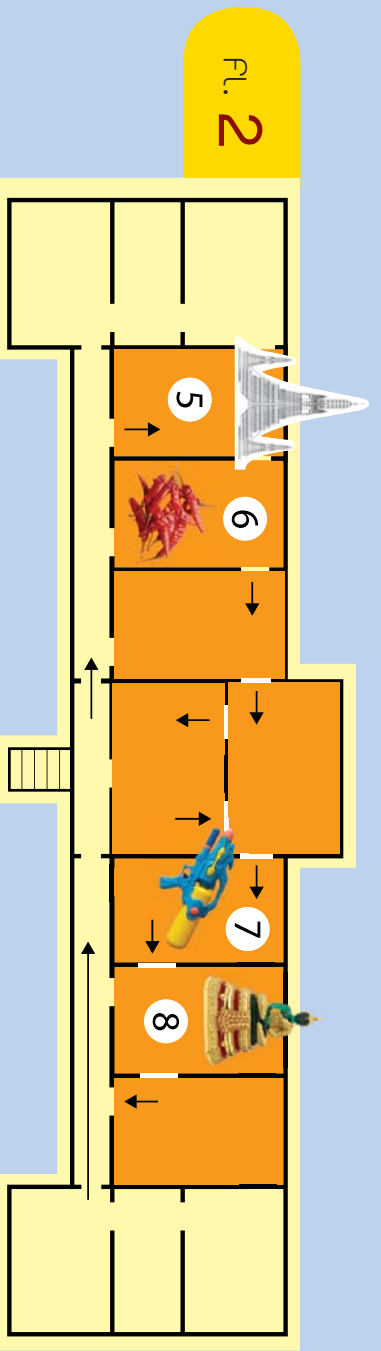
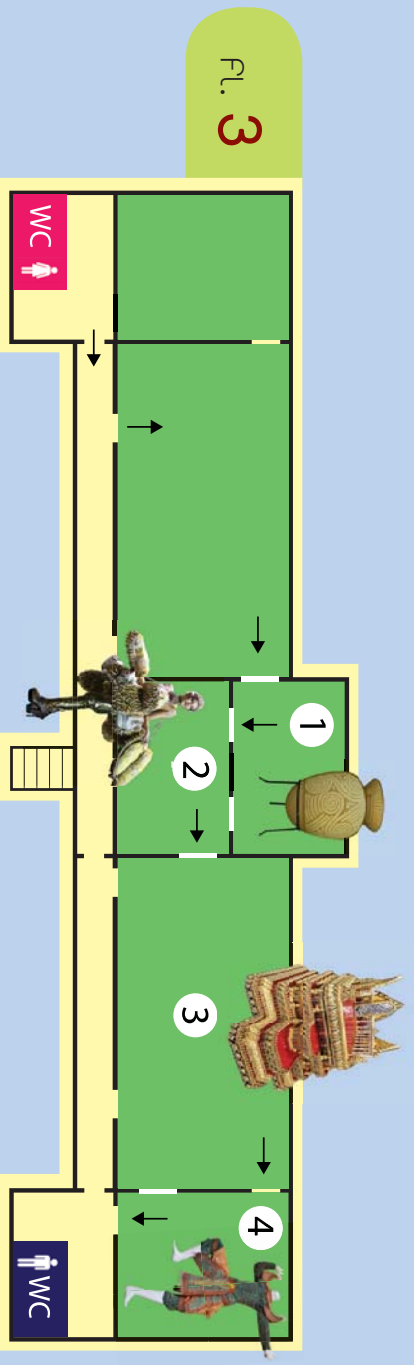
Writing and drawing should be done on the activity booklet only.



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?



1 Defining Thainess Room

FLOOR
3

Thainess has been changed from times to times and sometimes newly creates and socially acceptable. Do you know the reason why these objects represent Thainess? Try to match object's name with the right description.

a. Rice	b. Three colors Flag	c. Siamese Map of McCarthy's edition	d. Siam Devadhiraj	e. Stone Inscription
f. Tom Yum Kung	g. Ban Chiang Pottery	h. Walking Buddha	i. Tuk Tuk	j. Leg o' mutton sleeve blouse

- (1) The significant evidence is considered to be the beginning of Thai history.
- (2) The Buddha image that is defined as the most beautiful and classic traditional Thai art.
- (3) The first geographical map has shown the Thai territory in 1900.
- (4) The blue stripe that was represented the monarchy was created in the reign of King Vajiravudh.
- (5) Thai deity that has believed to protect Thailand from disaster since the reign of King Mongkut.
- (6) The three-wheeled vehicles that symbolize Thailand tourism.
- (7) The major agricultural production of Thailand that reflects the roots of Thai food culture.
- (8) An object reflects a pre-historic civilization and attests to Thailand's long history. Its antiquity makes it a perfect representation of Thainess.
- (9) The fashion from England that had influenced to the royal court during King Chulalongkorn period.
- (10) A Thai film that presented Thai boxing and martial art becomes well-known worldwide.

Thainess is diverse and has been changed from times to times that makes 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 interpretation.

Case Study: Tuk Tuk Thailand

The national costume that represents “Thainess” had worn by Ms Anipon Chalermburanawong during Miss Universe beauty contest in 2015 and won the best national costume of that year.

Mr Hiranakrit Pattaraboriboonkul, the Designer, revealed that his inspiration came from the Tuk Tuk, it has been a modern Thai identity and well-known among foreigners and it can be found only in Thailand.

Did You know?

Thailand is the top country 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.)



What do you think about “Tuk Tuk Thailand costume”? Is it looked Thainess? Please share your idea.

If you were a fashion designer, what will be your inspiration for a national costume?

Sketch your idea about the national costume.



A large, empty white rectangular box for sketching the idea about the national costume.

3

Magnificently Thai Room

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



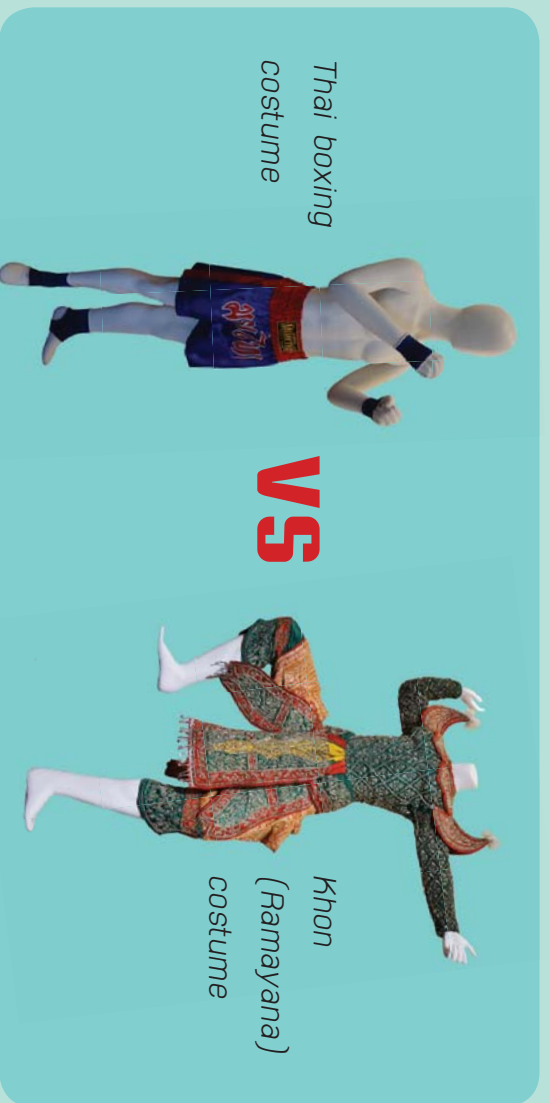
According to Brahma-Hindu and Buddhist belief. Where is the foothill of Mount Meru?

- a. Himmapan Forest
- b. Trayastrimsa
(The 2nd heaven realm
in cosmology)
- c. Isipatana (The deer park)
- d. Lumpiniwan Garden

4

Degrees of Thainess Room

In this gallery, the mannequins are displaying different types of Thai clothing at various degrees of Thainess from the past to present.



Look at these models; Khon and boxing costume are represented to “Thainess.”
Can you explain why these two costumes are different in level of Thainess?

5

Thainess, Borrowed Room

This room shows the development of the so called “Thai things” that have been brought from other culture but has been adapted as “Thainess.”

10 Thai Borrowed from the others

ROYAL BARGE	D	C	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
SAILOR SHIRT	L	H	W	I	A	K	O	E	F	T	S	Z	Y
CHONG KRABEN	E	O	L	M	U	E	X	J	U	Q	H	M	V
GARUDA	I	N	R	O	Y	A	L	B	A	R	G	E	B
PRANG	F	G	N	K	L	T	H	A	I	G	O	W	N
TUK TUK	R	K	T	W	Q	U	J	M	B	I	R	E	X
THAI ALPHABET	E	R	G	G	A	K	R	A	T	H	O	N	G
KHON	P	A	A	V	B	T	H	M	X	Y	U	C	Z
THAI GOWN	O	B	R	R	N	U	E	G	O	G	B	X	Q
KRATHONG	C	E	U	K	T	K	W	V	N	U	D	F	Z
	D	N	D	R	H	C	X	A	Z	J	C	L	I
	I	S	A	I	L	O	R	S	H	I	R	T	M
	V	G	S	A	C	P	N	O	R	U	T	H	K
	A	J	Y	K	L	R	P	E	S	F	Y	N	X
	D	T	H	A	I	A	L	P	H	A	B	E	T

6

Taste of Thai Room

Thai dish is unique in adapting other cooking style to meet Thai taste with various ingredients and flavors. There are various spices of Massaman curry.

Write down the letters that match the numbers in the blanks.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
13	26	18	2	19	7	21	10	1	24	6	11	23	5	8	12	9	17	22	4	15	20	16	14	25	3

12	19	12	12	19	17
P	E	P	P	E	R



พริกไทย



กระวาน

18	13	17	2	13	23	8	23

18	11	8	20	19



กานพลู



ดอกจันทน์เทศ

23	13	18	19

18	1	5	5	19	23	8	5



อบเชย



ยี่ห่วย

18	15	23	1	5

True or False? Test your knowledge about Thai Food.

Find the QR code on the back of plates and put on the table for scanning.

- 1. The main ingredient of Som Tam is papaya.
- 2. Red color of Tom Yum Kung soup comes from shrimp fat.
- 3. Chicken or pork basil is one dish menu that was created by a Chinese chief in Thailand in the 1950s.
- 4. Kapi has been one favorite for Thai people eat with steamed rice since Sukhothai period (14th century)
- 5. Phaneang is white curry with coconut milk and has a sour taste.
- **X** 6. Pad Thai is adapted from Japanese stir-fried noodles and assumed as national dish after the WWII.
- 7. Thai-style omelet is a simple dish, cheap and easy find on Thai street food.
- 8. Authentic Thai desserts normally consist of flour, sugar, and coconut.
- 9. Satay is grilled meat which originated from kebabs, Middle Eastern recipes.
- 10. Thai coconut milk ice cream originally made using coconut milk, white sugar, and salt.



Tradition, festival and Thai ethics are Thai traditional culture that passed on from generation, but has been adapted from times to times. Write 3 names that Thai people use or do in common practice during the festival or event.

Songkran festival

1.

2.

3.

Valentine's day

1.

2.

3.

If water shortage occur during Songkran festival and the government put on campaign not to use water for this traditional festival. Do you think the tradition should be changeable for solving the variance situation or not? If so, what is the most proper for using instead of water during the Songkran festival? Please share your idea.

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8

Thai Beliefs Room

The belief of Thai people comes in different style or format; Buddhist, Brahma and animism, thus, can harmoniously intermingle and ties with everyday life of every social class.



Emerald Buddha



Ganesha



Goddess of grain



Siam Devadhiraj

Common Thai people believed in talisman that will bring them good luck. If you are in the exam competition for overseas scholarship, what would you do for encouraging yourself?

If you would like to have a talisman, which one you will choose for praying?
Please explain.

A Brief Background of Thainess

What is Thainess?

“Thainess” denotes that which represents the identity of Thai people distinguishable from that of other ethnicities. What features seen everyday portray “Thainess” that are different?

Which group of people defines “Thai”?

The oldest record found tells that those in Ayudhya (1351-1767) called themselves “Tai” to distinguish themselves from Yuan (of Lanna), Lao (of Lanchang), Kaek (the Chams), etc. This word continued to be used in the Ratanakosin (Bangkok) Era.

The origin of “Thainess”

During the reign of King Chulalongkorn (1868-1910), major reforms were undertaken in response to pressures from Western colonialism. Important among them were administrative centralization and the use of maps to indicate national borders. The idea of the nation-state was adopted to foster oneness. Administrative centralization was accompanied by the inculcation of new cultural traits.



National crest was first used during the reign of King Chulalongkorn bearing the shield under the crown which denotes all Siamese frontiers, eg., northern frontier (3 headed elephants), Laos (white elephant) and Malayu (crossed kris).



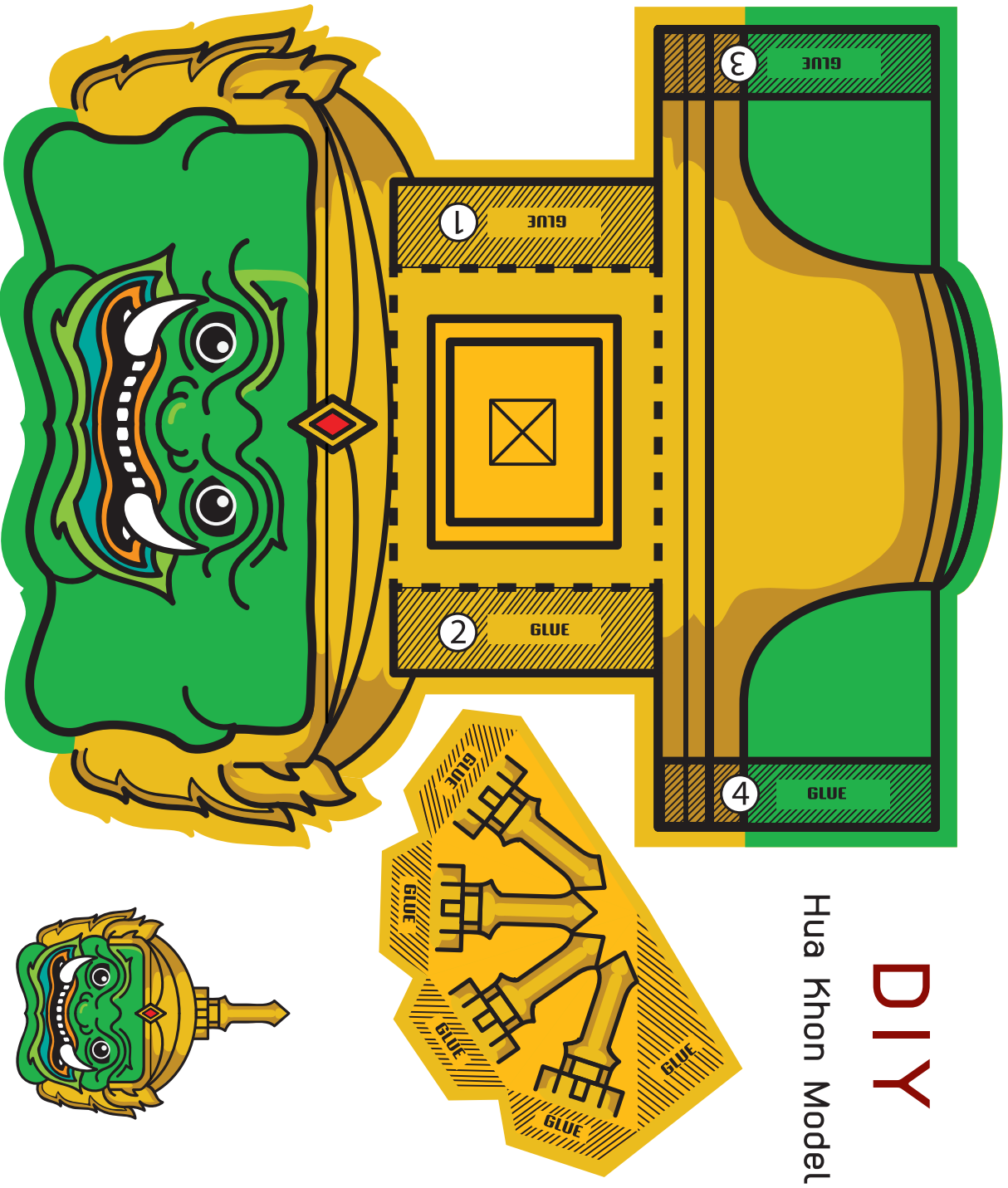
It began with the use of Central Thai as the national language and the attendant downgrading of local identities, the introduction of “Raja Patent” uniforms for civil servants, for instance. Modern Siam had the Thai language and Central Thai customs and culture to represent Thai characteristics in general. These dovetailed with the nationalism of King Vajiravudh (1910-1925) that had as its core the institutions of “Nation, Religion, Monarchy” that designated Thainess from then on.

After the change in the form of government from Absolute Monarchy in 1932, Thai society and culture was reformed once again. During the Prime Ministership of Field Marshal Pibulsongkram (1938-1944), the word “Thai” came into prominence. In 1939, the Field Marshall ordered the change in the names of the country, the ethnicity and the nationality of the people from “Siam” and “Siamese” to “Thailand” and “Thai.” The Edicts covered many

cultural innovations, for example, the National Anthem.

During the year 1987 to the present in line with capitalist economic policy, “Thainess” was considered as cultural capital for value-addedness. It became a “commodity” for tourism. There thus emerged the phenomenon of projecting “Thainess” in multifarious ways to promote tourism for both foreigners and Thais. It included the blending together in new ways features Thai and not so Thai. Ancient places and traditional practices were presented as expressions of Thainess. Examples included the Temple of Dawn, the Reclining Buddha at Wat Pho, the Grand Palace, Songkran festival, tuk-tuk, floating markets, temple fairs, Thai classical dance, flower garlands and “Phi Ta Khon” or ghost parade.

In summary, “Thainess” is being both diverse and complex according to the social content of particular period.



DIY

Hua Khon Model

Did you know? Khon or Thai mask dance is a traditional performing art which has influenced form the Indian Ramayana. This is derivation, dating from the late Ayutthaya period. The actors wear masks or headdresses known as “Hua Khon”.

Create you own Khon mask!

1. Carefully press out the two finished pieces, fold back along the dash lines.
2. Glued area No. 1 & No. 2 then attached together with No. 3 & No. 4
3. Glued area No. 1 & No. 2 then attached with the ears of model, let glue dry.
4. Top spiral, fold back along the dash lines and glued piece at the X mark,
let glue dry. Done!

Discovering History, Discovering You



สำนักงานกฤษฎามนตรี

okmd

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