

## FOLK ARTS

Everything on this earth is created for the benefit of man. He observed, the rain water falling on the ground with a rhythm and the fully ripe grain pods tossing their heads gently in the breeze. He saw the peacock dancing gracefully at the onset of monsoon and he could see some grace and poise even in the deadly tiger and snake.



He imitated them in various dance forms. He used these dances to express his happiness when a child was born in the family, during weddings, to welcome the monsoon and during harvest.

When do you feel like dancing? \_\_\_\_\_

Which dance form you like best? \_\_\_\_\_



Folk art is the expression of cultural identity. It expresses the values of different groups and their sense of beauty. They identify with each other and with the society at large. Tamil Nadu has developed the art of entertainment in three ways namely **Iyal** (Literature) **Isai** (Music) and **Nadagam** (drama). These three have their roots in the rural folk art. Folk artists traditionally learn skills and techniques from the elders in an informal community setting.



**THERUKOOTHU, KARAGATTAM, OYILATTAM, KAVADI KUMMI, KOLATTAM** are the most celebrated form of village folk dances.

## THERUKOOTHU

Therukoothu is the most prominent among the village folk arts. It is performed in the open air where people meet usually. The stories are taken from Puranas, Ramayana, Mahabharata and local folklore. In this art form music and singing are given importance.

The stories are told in such a simple way that people remain spellbound during the performance.



They use very few properties like crown and sword. They use glittering costumes as they perform during the night under the lantern.

The performers of Therukoothu have been providing useful information to the people at a time when there was no proper communication system. Therukoothu artists are living in groups in [Purisai](#), a small village in [Thiruvannamalai](#) district of [Tamil Nadu](#).



What type of stories are used in Therukoothu?

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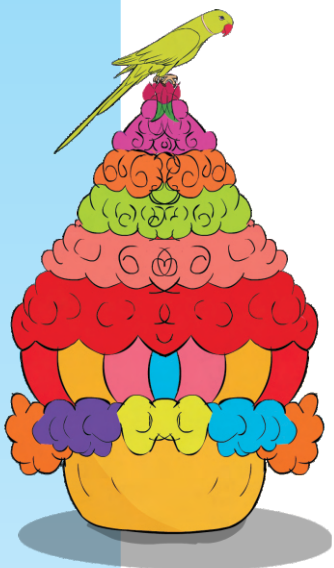
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Therukoothu had developed into stage dramas nowadays.



## KARAGATTAM

This is the most popular folk art. Karagam is a small metal pot which is filled with grains. This pot is decorated in the shape of a cone with flowers and zari. The top of the cone is decorated mostly like a parrot or a peacock. The performer balances this decorated pot on his/her head and dances to the rhythm and music. This is performed during temple festivals and processions.



## OYILATTAM

'Oyil' means 'Beauty', both men and women wear the same costume and dance gracefully. These performers wear a turban on their head, anklets around the leg and keep a piece of cloth in different colours. [Madurai](#), [Theni](#) and [Virudhunagar](#) Districts are known for this art form.





## KAVADIATTAM

In the beginning either side of a smooth piece of wooden leg, the articles needed for worship were tied and the devotee carried it on his / her shoulders to worship God. This in course of time took the shape of a bow. A Kavadi performer keeps the decorated Kavadi on his shoulder and head.

He balances and rolls them on his head and shoulder. This art form has a special type of songs called 'Kavadi Sindu'.



## KUMMY



In the folk art, kummy has a special place. Usually women keep an idol of a deity or a 'Kuthuvillaku' in the centre and go round it clapping to the rhythm set for the song sung by them. This is performed during festivals or during social and family celebrations. The tamil poets like Bharathi and Bharathidasan have written a number of Kummi Songs.







## KOLATTAM



The performers of Kolattam keep colourful sticks in their hand and beat them rhythmically and dance to the music.

Both men and women perform this art. It is a sight to see the girls wearing colourful dress and perform. A special type of Kolattam is called 'Pinnal Kolattam' in which the performers weave a plait by moving and changing places systematically.



## PURAVIYATTAM

This is one of the oldest folk arts of Tamil Nadu. Both men and women perform this. Men dress like a king and women dress like a queen. It is called as Poikal kuthirai (dummy horse) because the performers tie wooden legs and get into the decorated dummy horse made for the performance.



Facial expressions, to and fro movement of the horse, the swiftness with which the dance is performed adds beauty to this art form. This is one folk art which is appreciated and enjoyed by the people of all ages.

Write a few lines about your favourite folk dance?

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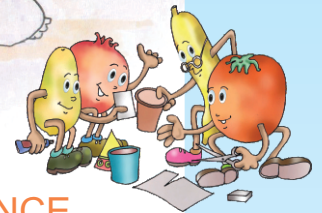
Silambattam and Bommallattam are other famous folk dances of Tamil Nadu

## VILLUPATTU

This art form is used to give useful information to people. The main person who tells the story sits in the middle. He holds the decorated bow along with two slender wooden rods called veesukol. He beats the bow to the rhythm set for the song. Usually a group of eight persons performs this. They usually take stories from Puranas, Ramayana, Mahabharata or topics of historical events or social reforms.



### ACTIVITIES



#### 1.COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT ANY FOLK ART DANCE.

S.NO	FOLK ART	MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS	PLACE

2. HAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF THE VARIOUS DANCE FORMS IN THE CLASS.
3. INVITE A GUEST DANCER AND ASK THEM TO PERFORM IN THE SCHOOL.
4. THE STUDENTS CAN ENACT THE VILLU PATTU SEQUENCE.
5. COLLECT PICTURES OF VARIOUS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND MAKE A SCRAPBOOK.



## 6. WRITE THE NAMES OF THE FOLK ARTS RELATED TO THE PICTURES




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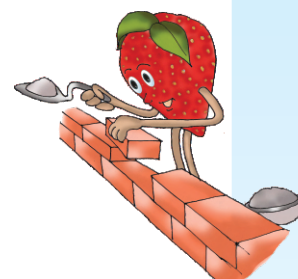
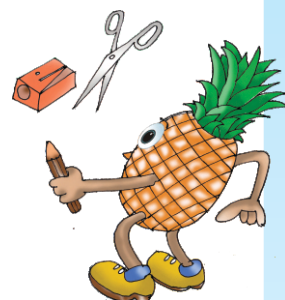



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### EXERCISE

#### I. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

- Purisai village is in \_\_\_\_\_ district.  
a) Vellore    b) Thiruvannamalai    c) Kanjeeपुरam
- Oyil means \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) beauty    b) intelligence    c) love
- The folk art that gives useful information to people is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Kummy    b) Villupattu    c) Kavadiattam



#### II. FILL IN THE BLANKS

- A folk art that is performed in open air \_\_\_\_\_.
- An art in which the performer dances with a decorated metal pot on his/her head \_\_\_\_\_.
- A dance form in which the performers go round in a circle clapping their hand rhythmically \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

1. Write a few sentences about Therukoothu.
2. Write the names of any 5 folk art forms.
3. How do they decorate a Karagam?
4. How does a Kavadi look like ?
5. Write 5 sentences about any folk art that you have witnessed.



### IV. DRAW / PASTE THE THINGS USED FOR YOUR FAVOURITE FOLK DANCE .