

STUDENT'S WORKSHEETS

FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR LITERACY,
NUMERACY AND SKILLS

DANCE

FOLK AND RITUAL DANCES IN MAURITIUS



GRADE 8

TITLE OF CARD: PATRIOTISM

STUDENT'S CARD 3



MOE
MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE
2026

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GRADE 8
STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

CARD 3

**TITLE OF CARD:
PATRIOTISM**





ACTIVITY 1

Folk and Ritual Dances in Mauritius

- Introduce Folk and Ritual dances in Mauritius

Mauritius has a rich cultural background from people who came from Europe, Africa, Madagascar, India, and China. They brought their languages, traditions, food, music, and dances, which have been passed on from one generation to another.



Folk and ritual dances are part of the cultural practices brought by the immigrants. These folk and ritual dances played a major role in preserving the identity of the various ethnic groups in the multicultural society of Mauritius.

The common folk and ritual dances prevailing in Mauritius are:

1. Sega
2. Bhojpuri dance
3. Kolattam
4. Jhakri
5. Ramabhajanam
6. Dragon dance
7. Sega Tambour from Rodrigues.

1. Sega



Origin:

- Originated from **Malagasy and African culture.**
- Mainly associated with the **Creole community in Mauritius.**

Dance Movements:

- Swaying the hips to the **rhythm** of the music.
- Women hold the **edges** of their **voluminous skirts** while **dancing**.
- Men move in **shuffling steps** with open arms.
- Dancers sometimes **kneel and move** their torso **forwards and backwards**.



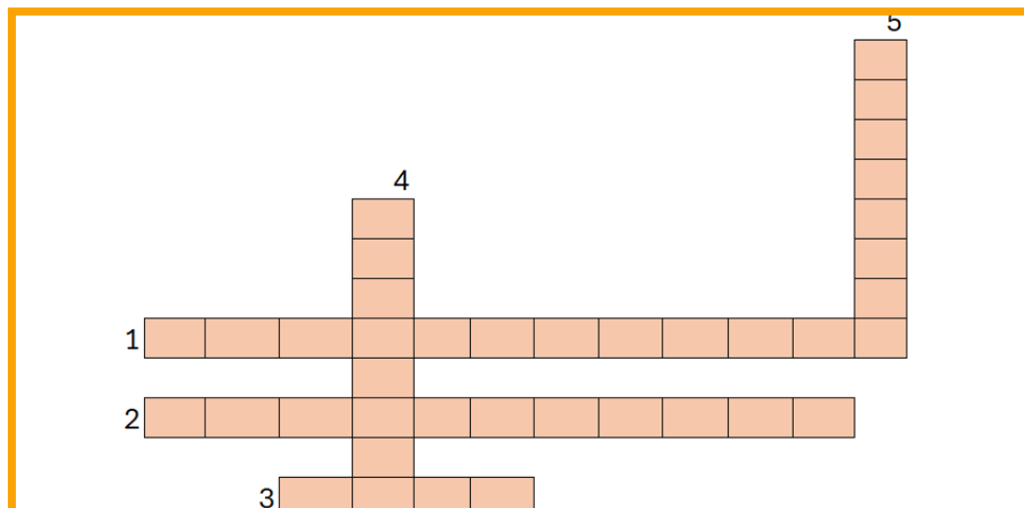
Occasions:

- Performed at **family events**.
- Performed at **cultural events**.
- Part of the **Mauritian tourism industry**.

Costumes:

- Women wear long **skirts** with **short blouses**.
- Men wear informal **pants** and **shirts**.
- **Skirts** and **shirts** usually have **colourful floral designs**.

Musical Instruments:



2. Bhojpuri dance-Geet Gawai

Geet- Gawai is a traditional pre-wedding ceremony combining rituals, prayers, songs, music and dance. Geet-Gawai was inscribed on **UNESCO's** Representative List of **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** in December 2016.



Origin:

- Originated from different regions of **Bihar, India.**
- Practised mainly by the **Bhojpuri and Hindi-speaking community** in Mauritius.

Dance Movement:

- Performed mostly by **women.**
- Dancers use **shuffling steps**, open arms, and hip swinging movements to the **beat** of the **music.**

Occasions:

- Performed during the **pre-wedding ceremony** at the home of the **bride or groom.**

Costumes:

- Women wear **saris with blouse (choli)** or a **lehenga with blouse.**

Musical Instruments:



3. Kollatam

Kollattam comes from the Tamil Words:

- o 'Kol' = small stick
- o 'Attam' = dance

It is a **folk dance** where **dancers** use sticks while dancing.



Origin:

- Originated in **Tamil Nadu, India.**
- Practised mainly by the **Tamil community** in Mauritius.
- Also performed by the **Telugu community** in Mauritius.

Dance Movement:

- Mostly performed by **young girls** and **women.**
- Dancers hold **two sticks** in their **hands.**
- They strike the sticks to make rhythmic patterns while dancing in a **big circle.**
- Dancers also **form pairs** and **strike** each other's sticks in coordination.

Occasions:

- Performed during **festivals, processions,** and **cultural events.**

Costumes:

- Young dancers wear **pavadai** (long pleated skirt), **blouse,** and a contrasting stole.
- Women wear **traditional sari** with **blouse (choli).**

Musical Instruments:



4. Jhakri



Jhakri is a popular ritualistic dance form which is mainly associated with the **Marathi** community in Mauritius.

Origin:

- Originates from **Maharashtra, India.**

Dance Movement:

- Dancers form a **big circle** around the drummer (who is also the **lead singer**).
- Both **men and women** take part in the singing and dancing.
- They move in a circle using **various steps**.
- Dancers also **clap their hands** while performing.

Occasions:

- Performed during the **Ganesh Chaturthi festival**.
- Also performed during **Marathi wedding ceremonies**.

Costumes:

- Dancers wear a **blouse (choli)**.
- Women wear a **kashti**, a type of sari draped around each leg like pants.

Musical Instruments:



5. Ramabhajanam



Origin:

- A Telugu ritual originating from **Andhra Pradesh, India**.
- Practised mainly by the **Telugu community** in Mauritius.

Ritual & Dance Movement:

- Prayers are offered to a **large brass lamp** with several small lamps attached, symbolising a **tree**.
- All **songs** are in praise of **Lord Rama**.
- Men play the **copper Manjira** (small hand cymbals).
- Women **clap their hands** while **dancing in a circle** around the **lamp**.

Occasions:

- Performed during the **Ram Navmi festival**.

Costumes:

- Men: **Kurta and dhoti**.
- Women: **Traditional sari** with **blouse (choli)**.
- Young girls: **Pattulangavoni** – a long pleated skirt with a hip-length blouse or choli and stole.

Musical Instruments:



6. Dragon Dance



Origin:

- A traditional dance of the **Chinese community**.
- Originates from **China**.
- An important part of **Chinese New Year celebrations**.

Dance features and Movements:

- The **dragon's frame** is made of **wood, bamboo, or aluminium**.
- A team of **dancers** carries the **dragon** using **long poles**.
- Lead **dancers** lift, dip, thrust, and sweep the **dragon's head**.
- The coordinated **swinging** of the body creates a **wave-like movement**.
- **Dancers** run in spiral formations to make the **dragon twist and turn**.

Occasions:

- Performed during **Chinese New Year**.

Costumes & Colours:

- Dragons can be made in different **colours**:
 - o **Green** – symbol of good harvest.
 - o **Yellow** – represents the empire.
 - o **Golden & Silver** – symbols of prosperity.
 - o **Red** – symbol of good fortune.
- All dancers wear **matching** pants and upper garments in the **same colour**.

Musical Instruments:



7. Sega Tambour (Rodrigues)



Origin:

- **Rodrigues** is an autonomous outer **island** of the **Republic of Mauritius**.
- Though part of Mauritius, Rodrigues has its **own cultural traditions**.
- **Sega Tambour** is one of its most important **cultural** practices.
- Sega Tambour was inscribed on the **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** list in **December 2017**.

Dance Movements:

- Dancers move **rhythmically** in small steps.
- Feet are struck flat on the ground to create **sound and rhythm**.
- Movements are done in **circles** or in **pairs**.

Occasions:

- Performed during **family events**.
- Seen in **socio-cultural events**.
- Forms part of the **tourism industry** of Rodrigues.

Costumes:

- Men: **Long trousers and shirt**.
- Women: **Colourful dresses**.

Musical Instruments:

Ravanne



Triangle



Accordion



ACTIVITY 2

What I Saw?

- Watch videos of the folk and ritual dances of Mauritius.
- Identify the musical instruments and costumes used in each dance.
- Write the observations in the student observation sheet.

Extension of Activity



ACTIVITY 1

Interpretation of Colours

1. Write one word that describes your movement for each colour.

Colour	Meaning	My Movement / Pose / Gesture
● Red	Bravery, Freedom	
● Blue	The Indian Ocean	
● Yellow	Sunshine and Hope	
● Green	Nature, Growth, Harmony	

2. Create a colourful chart/Poster showing the four colours of the Mauritian flag. For each colour, write a movement that represents it and describe the meaning behind that movement according to you.



ACTIVITY 2

Performing the Colours

1. Perform the described movements of each colour.
2. Combine all the movements and create a patriotic dance with appropriate music.



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