

STUDENT'S WORKSHEETS

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME FOR
LITERACY, NUMERACY AND SKILLS

DANCE



GRADE 9

TITLE OF CARD :

KOLLATAM - A VIBRANT FOLK DANCE OF MAURITIUS



**MOE
MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE
2026**

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GRADE 9

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

Card 3

Title of Card:

***Kollatam - A Vibrant Folk Dance of
Mauritius***

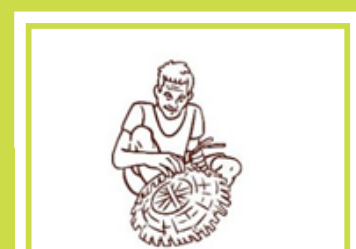


Introduction

Mauritius has inherited a rich cultural background from the various immigrants who came as settlers from Europe, Africa, Madagascar, India and China.



These settlers brought with them their cultural heritages such as languages, traditions, artefacts, food habits, music and dance forms that have been passed on from one generation to another.





Folk & Ritual Dance

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.



There are several folk and ritual dances in Mauritius and Kolattam is one of them.



Kolattam

Kolattam is derived from the words 'kol' meaning small stick, and 'attam' meaning dance.



Kolattam is a dance where the dancers play with sticks. The kolattam dance is a popular folk dance originating from Tamil Nadu in India and practiced mainly by the Tamil and Telegu community in Mauritius. This dance is usually performed by young girls and women holding two sticks in their hands. Dancers strike their sticks while making various patterns in a big circle. They also dance in pairs by striking each other's sticks.



The dance is performed during festivals, processions and cultural events. The young dancers wear the pavadai which is a long-pleated skirt with a blouse and a contrasting stole, while the women wear the traditional sari and blouse.

The musical instruments used are the *Dappu* and *Manjira*.



Dappu



Manjira



Activity 1:

- Start with a warm-up activity (i.e breath in and out for few minutes)
- Teach 2-3 basic sticks pattern for e(i.e right-left, front - tap, side-tap and rotate).
- Practice in pairs moving in simple formations.



Activity 2:

- Start with a warm-up activity (for example slow circles with the neck, leg swings and jumping jack).
- Practice in pairs moving in simple formations and expand to groups of 4 or 6.
- Create a group dance sequence using the learnt steps on folk music.



Self Assessment

Name:

Date:

Multiple Choice questions

1. The word 'kolattam' is made up of two words. What do they mean?
 - a) Music and dance
 - b) Stick and dance
 - c) Rhythm and pattern
 - d) Circle and drum

2. Kolattam originated from which Indian state?
 - a) Kerala
 - b) Gujarat
 - c) Tamil Nadu
 - d) Maharashtra

3. Who usually performs the kolattam dance?
 - a) Young boys only
 - b) Men and boys
 - c) Women and young girls
 - d) Mixed groups of all ages

4. Which musical instruments are commonly used in Kolattam?

- a) Tabla and flute
- b) Dappu and Manjira
- c) Mridangam and veena
- d) Guitar and drums

5. Which type of movements are used in kolattam dance?

- a) Jumping and rolling
- b) Stick striking and circular patterns
- c) Slow yoga movements
- d) Fast martial arts kicks

Answer the following short questions

1. What is Kolattam dance?

.....
.....

2. Name two groups in Mauritius who practiced Kolattam?

.....
.....

3. What do dancers hold in their hands while practicing Kolattam dance?

.....
.....

4. Where is Kolattam performed?

.....
.....

5. Name one musical instrument used in Kolattam?

.....
.....

For each statement, circle or tick the emoji that best describes how you feel about your performance.

I can perform the Kolattam stick rhythmic patterns.

- 😊 I did all patterns correctly and confidently.
- 😊 I did most patterns but made a few mistakes.
- 😐 I tried but struggled to follow the rhythm.
- 😞 I need more help with the patterns.

My Movements were clear, coordinated and in time.

- 😊 My steps, posture and stick movements were very clear.
- 😊 Mostly clear, with a few mistakes.
- 😐 Sometimes unclear or uncoordinated.
- 😞 I found it difficult to perform the step.

I worked well with my group.

- 😊 I stayed in time and worked very well with others.
- 😊 I worked well most of the time.
- 😐 I tried but sometimes lost coordination.
- 😞 I found group work difficult.

I contributed ideas when creating the group dance.

- I shared creative ideas and helped build new movements.
- I shared some ideas.
- I shared a few ideas when asked.
- I did not share ideas; I needed help.

I understand the culture and meaning behind Kolattam Dance.

- I can clearly explain what Kolattam is and why it is important.
- I understand most parts.
- I understand a little but not everything.
- I'm not sure; I need more explanation.

My Kolattam stick design is neat and creative.

- Beautiful, creative and easy to use!
- Neat and good to use.
- Simple design; could be improved.
- Unfinished or difficult to use

My Overall Performance.

Circle one:

- Excellent!
- Good!
- Getting There
- I Need More Practice



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