




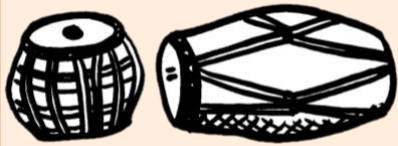
Watch an excerpt of the performance, *Ranai Kalah Kadai Neram* by AK Theatre, and complete the activities.

INTRODUCTION

Villu Pattu is an ancient Indian traditional musical-storytelling form. It is loads of fun, with music, dance and narration. The artform is usually performed in places such as temples, village squares and basically anywhere with space. However, in these days the form has modernised and can take place with pop songs, modern dance and anything that you can dream up!

Activity 1

A *Villu Pattu* ensemble is made up of different parts. After you have watched the video recording of the performance, come back to this activity and put a tick “✓” next to the boxes provided if you had spotted the respective parts in the video you have watched.

 <p>The main storytellers</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>The Chorus</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>The <i>Villu</i> A string attached to a bow, decorated with bells</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Percussion instruments to accompany the <i>pattu</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Activity 2

This performance is a depiction of Sang Nila Utama, and how he founded Singapore. Arrange these plot moments in the correct order.

a.	Sang Nila Utama stands on a stone and saw a beautiful island in the distance.	
b.	Sang Nila Utama and his army encounter a storm.	
c.	Sang Nila Utama felt sad one day and sat on a rock to think.	
d.	Seeing that it was a lion, Sang Nila Utama names the island Singapura.	
e.	Having no choice, Sang Nila Utama threw his crown overboard to calm the storm.	
f.	Sang Nila Utama gathers his army to set sail towards the island.	
g.	Sang Nila Utama encounters a mystical creature.	
h.	The storm calms, and they land on the beautiful island.	

Ans: a. 2, b. 4, c. 1, d. 8, e. 5, f. 3, g. 7, h. 6

Activity 3

The *Villu Pattu* contains the following elements:

1. Greetings to the audience
2. A brief introduction to the story
3. The performance of the story
4. Closing and Goodbyes

This performance is contemporary. Contemporary means modern and new. It infuses several modern elements to entertain audiences. Name some of the ways this performance is modern:

1. ____
2. ____

Ans: (they use pop songs from popular Tamil movies, Performed indoors)

Activity 4

The performance infuses several pop songs from popular Tamil movies to illustrate certain plot moments. Can you name the songs used to depict the following scenes?

1. The Introduction to Sang Nila Utama who is a mighty king who likes to hunt.

Name of Song _____ from the film _____

2. Sang Nila Utama face a confrontation with the mystical creature on the beautiful island, and exchange a few verses.

Name of Song _____ from the film _____

Ans

1. மரண மான், ஷேட்.
2. ரௌடி பெயி, மாரி 2.

Activity 5

Now it's your turn!

Write a short story based on the picture below. Perform it to your classmates. Include your favourite Tamil song to illustrate a special moment in the story.



(Heritage Murals as part of Artwalk Little India, illustrated by Psyfool)

<https://www.roots.sg/Content/Places/landmarks/little-india-heritage-trail-serangoon-in-the-1900s/Mural-of-Traditional-Trades-of-Little-India-by-Psyfool>

Interested to learn more about the arts?
Check out www.esplanade.com/offstage/schools for more resources!