

DID YOU KNOW?



The festival of Onam (pronounced oh-nuhm) is celebrated in the state of Kerala in South India. It takes place over 10 days filled with yummy food, flower decorations, dances and boat races.



The people of Kerala believe that the great King Mahabali who ruled over Kerala a long, long time ago visits every year during Onam !!

How do you say it? & What does it mean?

Pookalam
(pooh-kuh-luhm)

A flower carpet made outside homes to welcome King Mahabali

Sadya
(suh-dya)

A vegetarian meal with many yummy dishes served on a banana leaf

Kathakali
(kuh-thuh-kaa-lee)

An Indian dance with colourful make up and face masks

PULI KALI DANCE
(pooh-lee-kaa-lee)

Also known as the tiger dance, where people paint themselves with orange and black stripes and dance to the beat of drums. Would you like to dress up like a tiger?



VALLAM KALI
(vuh-luhm-kaa-lee)

An annual boat race held during Onam with upto 50 boats taking part at a time. Also called the Snake Boat race because of the length and shape of the boats.

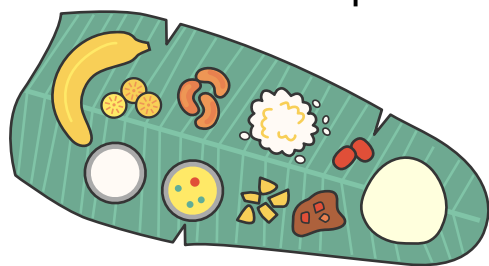
ROW, ROW, ROW
YOUR BOAT !!

More than a 100 people ride on the boat with 25 singers, 125 oarsmen and 4 helmsmen



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Pro Tips for Grownups!!

Filled with fun videos, bits of information and activities, the festival kit is a great way to introduce your little one to another culture.



Use the festival kit to spark fun conversations with your little one, exploring all the same and different elements that they observe in the culture as compared to theirs.

Conversation starters



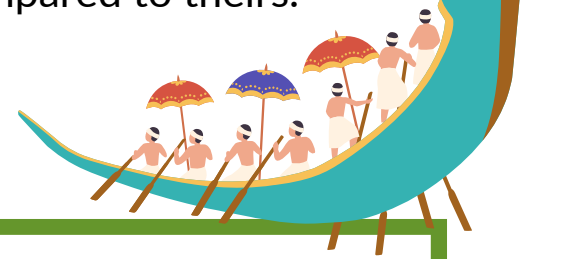
What does your little one like about the way 'Onam' is celebrated? Which aspect seems the most fun?

How do you celebrate festivals at home? What do they notice being similar and/or different?

Have they eaten with their hands before? Or eaten on a banana leaf? Would they like to try it?

Raise kind kids

Exposing your little one to different cultures through stories, food, activities and people, encourages them to ask questions and make their own observations helping minimise their unconscious biases and stereotypes.



Same Same But Different

"During Onam, we celebrate with a big feast with friends and family. Just like Thanksgiving."

"During Onam, we make a 'pookalam' to welcome King Mahabali. During Lunar New year, we wear red and light firecrackers to chase away the legendary monster Nian. "



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