2. Comparing Buddhism in Southeast Asia

(Delivered by Wat Paknam Phasicharoen Museum for Ritthinarongron School and Yothinburana School)

Concept:

Create dialogues of Southeast Asia's geography and its variation of Buddhism using comparative study of museum objects.

Background:

Wat Paknam Phasicharoen Museum chose to focus the session on the comparative study of Buddhism within the Southeast Asia region. With the consultation from the teacher, the museum staff designed the worksheet for the students based on their backgrounds. This session was successful with groups of 15 students from Mattayom 2 (grade 8) level.

Suitable for:

- 13+ years old students (maximum 20 students per session) preferably with background in Southeast Asian shared histories.
- Museums with collection of particular interest, such as rituals or religion.

Time: 3 hours

Pre-session:

For museum education staffs:

1.) Identify categories of objects in the collection that could show aspects of Southeast Asian shared histories. (i.e. Buddha sculptures or religious scripts showing various languages or craftsmanship from different countries)

2.) Prepare a worksheet for each student, with introduction on Southeast Asia in the context chosen (see example attached).

3.) Prepare a set of objects for handling session

For teachers:

In the classroom prior to the visit, the teacher should do a presentation/ give assignment on different cultures in Southeast Asia, raising questions such as "What do you think are similarities or differences between our countries?"

Session at the Museum:

	Time	Activity	
Introduction / Ice breaking (in Learning center)	15 mins	 Once at the museum, the teacher should remind the students of the pre-visit activity and explain the link of this visit to the curriculum. 	
		 Museum educators welcome the students and teacher into the museum with an introduction which includes health and safety procedures, ask students regarding prior knowledge of the museum and its collection. 	
Briefing for the visit (in Learning center)	10 mins	- Museum educators hand out the worksheets and give them brief:	
		Students are to be divided in to groups of maximum 5 people. Each group will be allocated a category of religious objects to look for in the museum (i.e. Buddha sculptures, Ceremonial fans, Buddhist scriptures). During the tour of the museum, they must take note of details about allocated	

		objects as much as they can. Then after visit, they will have to use those information recorded to complete a task.		
		- Teachers divide the students into groups.		
Tour of the museum (in the museum)	45 mins- 1 hour	Museum educators lead a tour of the museum for the students, highlighting on each category / areas that could be relevant to Shared Histories.		
Activity time	30 mins	Back at the learning center, Museum educators give students their second instruction: each group are presented with an object from their allocated category, they have 30 mins to discuss and come up with answers for following questions:		
(in the Learning center)				
		1.) What could be the origin country/culture of the object? Why?		
		2.) How does this object relate to the ones displayed in the museum? What are the differences/similarities?		
		3.) Do you think it is an important object for today religious practice (in you're your country and in other countries)?		
		The students then could inspect their assigned objects closely and discuss their answers.		
Presentation (in Learning center)	30 mins	Each group do a presentation of their answers (maximum 5-10 mins each) with conclusion by Museum Educators.		
Conclusion (in Learning center)	10 mins	The teachers discuss the relation of this session to the curriculum again as conclusion.		

Post-session:

For teacher:

1. Ask the students to come up with categories of objects that could best illustrate the Southeast Asian shared histories in their opinions.

Worksheets and activity:





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