

BATIK  
NYONYAS

Three Generations of  
Art and Entrepreneurship

A Tale of  
**Three  
Nyonyas**

Suitable  
for ages  
7 and up

This activity booklet belongs to:

## Once Upon a Time in Pekalongan...

There lived a family of three nyonyas.  
This is the tale of their love of batik.



The three nyonyas were masters of their craft. Their batik making heritage inspired each of them to create one-of-a-kind batik designs that continue to influence artists today. They overcame hardships and succeeded in running a batik business.



When you encounter challenges, who do you turn to for support? Draw a picture below and share the story behind it.

A large, blank white rectangular area intended for a student to draw a picture and write a story.

Worried about getting lost?  
Fear not... check the back pocket of this booklet  
for maps to guide you on your journey!

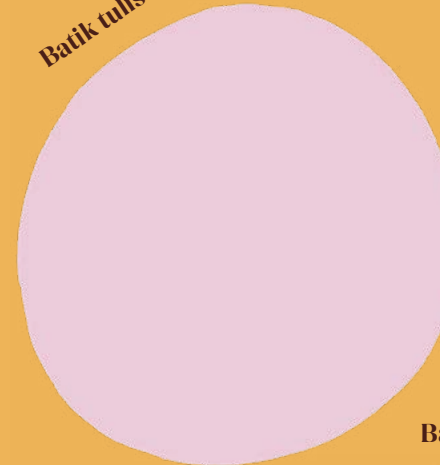
## The Magic of Batik!

Batik is an art form that uses wax and dyes to create detailed patterns on cloth. These beautiful designs tell stories through the colours, motifs, and patterns chosen by the artist.

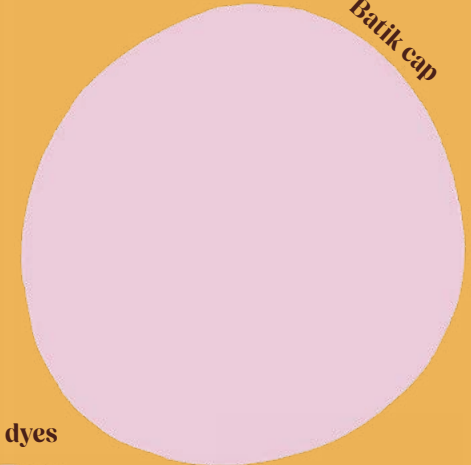


As you explore the galleries, look for Discovery Corners to experience the magic of batik making. After completing each corner, transfer a rubbing of a special motif below. Can you collect all three and become a batik master?

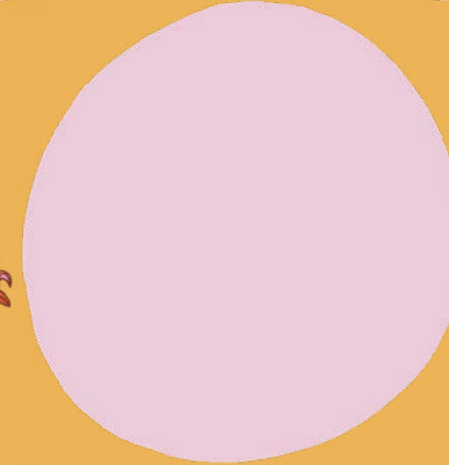
Batik tulis



Batik cap



Batik dyes



Curious about the batik process?  
Scan this QR code to listen to audio clips  
and learn more about the magic of batik!





## Master Dyer: Nyonya Oeij Soen King



Let's travel back to the late 19th century to meet Nyonya Oeij Soen King. She was the first of three generations from the Oeij family to create batiks. She ran a batik workshop from her home - one of several women who started successful batik businesses during this time.



How would you feel if you had to run a business like Nyonya Oeij Soen King? Circle words below that describe how you might feel.

Inspired

Excited

Tired

Confident

Worried



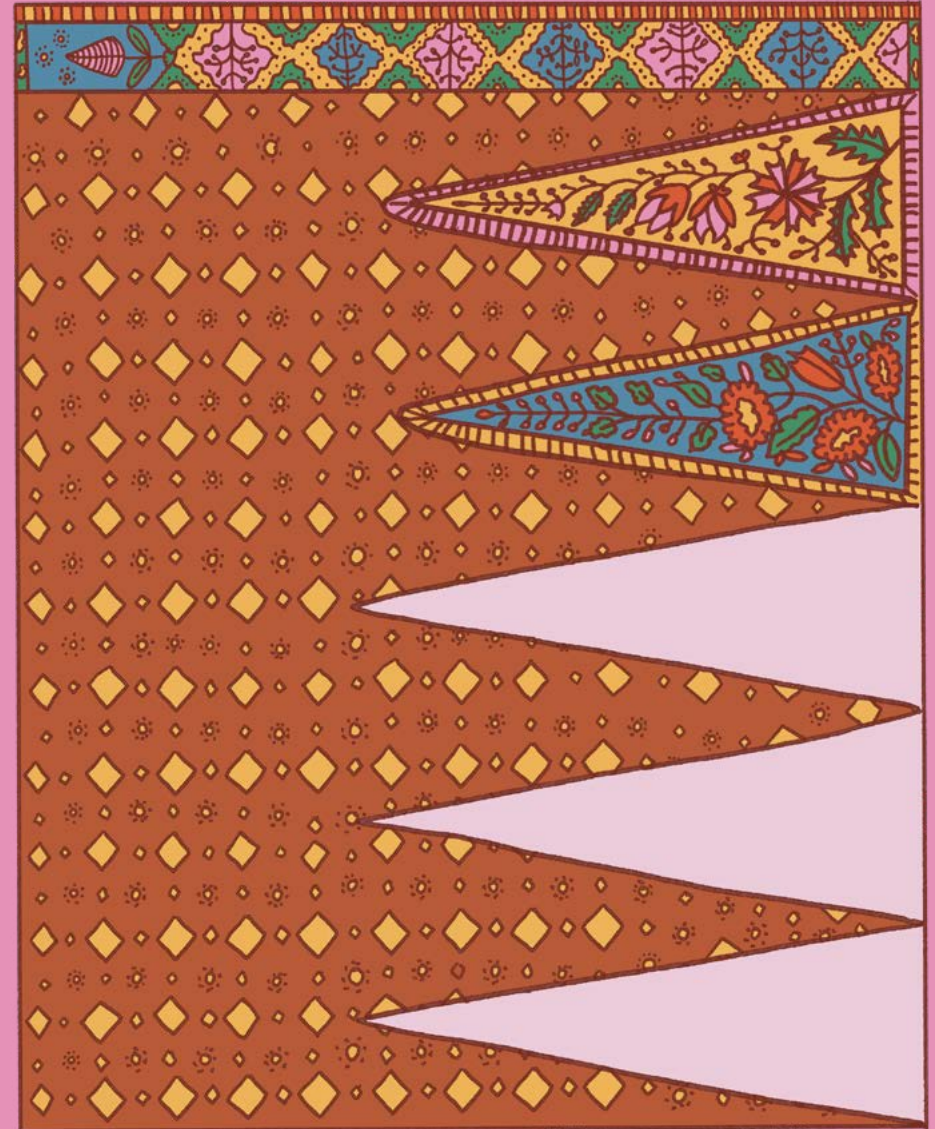
Nyonya Oeij Soen King's batiks feature natural red and blue dyes on an undyed background. Look closely to see motifs like the ones below. What do you think the ones below show?



Head to the Batik Tulis Discovery Corner to try your hand at creating motifs.



Can you spot the saw-tooth pattern? Nyonya Oeij Soen King was known for making batiks with this pattern, called *tumpal*. The design is placed at the head of a *kain panjang* (skirt cloth) or sarong. Use your imagination to complete the *tumpal* pattern below.



## Batik Brilliance: Nyonya Oeij Kok Sing

Fast forward to the 1930s, where we meet the talented artist Nyonya Oeij Kok Sing. The daughter-in-law of Nyonya Oeij Soen King, she took over the batik business after apprenticing in the family workshop.



Nyonya Oeij Kok Sing had a keen eye for detail and a mind brimming with creativity. Her creations were unique and she seldom repeated designs. She was also the only Indonesian artist of her time that marked her batiks with the dates when they were made.



Take a close look at the batiks on

display by Nyonya Oeij Kok Sing. Notice that her backgrounds are full of small motifs, called *isen* (filler patterns).



Nyonya Oeij Kok Sing's batik business struggled during the Second World War but she worked hard to keep it running. What is one difficulty you have overcome?

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If you love colours, you're in for a treat! Nyonya Oeij Kok Sing's batiks are decorated in a range of colours and patterns that were made possible by synthetic (artificial) dyes. These were imported from Europe, and became available in Indonesia by the 1930s.

Can you guess which colours below are synthetic or natural?



Today, some batik makers try to be environmentally-friendly by using natural dyes. Find out more about the batik dyeing process and the plants used to create natural dyes at the Batik Dyes Discovery Corner.



## Batik Revolution: Jane Hendromartono



Now we're in the bustling 1940s, where a young woman began making exquisite batiks under the guidance of her mother, Nyonya Oeij Kok Sing. This batik artist was Jane Hendromartono.

Before Jane, she went by other names. Find out what they were and write them below.

Producing batik in the 1960s presented many challenges for Jane. Although her family workshop closed, she grew her business with the help of her Javanese friends, creating long-term partnerships.

Some batik makers included their signatures on their works, which helps us identify who made them. Can you spot Jane's signatures on the batiks displayed in the exhibition?



Create your own signature here and sign your artistic creations with it in the future!

Answers: Dijen Nio, Nyonya Liem Stok Hien

What's unique about Jane's work? Although she drew inspiration from her grandmother and mother, she developed her individual style, characterised by graphic designs of flora and fauna. Her batiks also often feature mythical animals.



Jane's batik designs were one-of-a-kind. Draw your own special motif here.

(Use your favourite animal, flower, or mythical creature for inspiration.)



Head to the Batik Cap Discovery Corner and create your own unique batik pattern with special motifs.

## What's Your Story?

The art of batik making lives on in the Oeij family. Now that you've learned the story of the three nyonyas, their resilience, and love for batik, it's time to write your own story!



If you could open a shop today, what would you sell? Would it be a family business? Use the stickers in the back pocket to decorate your shop. Don't forget to give your shop a name!



Use the fabric sheet in the back pocket of this booklet to create a unique batik piece inspired by your favourite memories, people, and places. Add your signature at the top left to complete your design!

It's not the end yet! Drop by the Exploration Zone and immerse yourself in a 1970s-inspired batik shop. Interact with props on display, and keep your eyes peeled for little fun facts hidden throughout the shop.



Scan this QR code to take our Batik Revealed mobile quiz to discover your batik style! Complete the quiz to unveil a surprise at *The Batik Shop* and redeem a special souvenir!





Stay tuned for more tours, workshops, and exhibition-related activities. Connect with us on [tpevents.peatix.com](https://tpevents.peatix.com) or check out our website [www.nhb.gov.sg/peranakanmuseum](http://www.nhb.gov.sg/peranakanmuseum) for updates!



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