Many Arrows from Rama’s Bow: Paintings of the Ramayana
September 1–December 2, 2012

BOOKS FOR STUDENTS

A delightful collection of Indian folk tales retold for children.

Short descriptions of Hindu god and goddesses, with original illustrations.

An East Indian American daughter pleads with her mother to be allowed to wear one of her mother’s colorful saris in honor of her seventh birthday.

Retelling of an Indian folktale about how Prince Rama rescues his wife from the evil demon king.

Illustrated and adapted by animator Sanjay Patel, a retelling of one of the central legends in the Hindu mythology.

This is a vividly-told, vibrant children’s version of the epic Ramayana.

Sita’s Ramayana by Arni, Samhita; and Chitrakar, Moyna. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2011. BL 1225 S57 A7
This graphic novel version of the Ramayana shifts the point of view to bring a woman’s perspective into this timeless epic.

This Indian comic book is based on what is believed to be the first poetic work written in Sanskrit.

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

Books & Resource Guides

5,000 Designs and Motifs from India by Mookerjee, Ajit. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1996. NK 1476 A1 A18
Collection of copyright-free designs from a wide range of unique and decorative Indian artistic styles.

This packet contains CD of images exclusively illustrating art from India.

Step-by-step instructions, tied to curricula, for over thirty art activities related to Asia.

Prominent Indian art historian describes Hinduism and its symbolism and imagery.

For anyone who wants their children to understand and love the art of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas, this guide has questions and answers about thirty amazing objects.

Combining a clear overview with much fascinating detail, this book brings to life the diversity of Indian culture.

Catalogue for a 2007 exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center, which includes reproductions of the original paintings with brief artist biographical information.
Media (CDs/Videos/Posters/Slides)

Examines the rendering into visual and performance art of four beloved tales of India (Ramayana), Indonesia (Gita govinda), Korea (Korean Masked Dance Drama) and Japan (The Tale of Genji). 82 min. DVD format.

Music played and sung by native musicians of India. CD format.

Kit includes five posters, explanatory text, timeline, teacher’s guide, discussion questions and activity suggestions.

Sita Sings the Blues by Paley, Nina. Film Karavan, 2009. VIDEO PN 1997.5 P35
An animated reinterpretation of the Indian epic Ramayana blends the stories of Sita, a goddess separated from her husband Rama, and Nina, an animator whose husband moves to India, then dumps her by email. In English, with optional English, French, Italian and subtitles. 82 min. DVD format.

Historian Michael Wood chronicles the history of the Indian subcontinent, the richness and diversity of its peoples, and its continuing relevance in today’s world. 360 min. DVD format.

Outreach Activities

www.seattleartmuseum.org/trc
With objects representing stories from contemporary Korean art to ancient Indian sculpture, this new suitcase will allow students to explore the arts of Asia across cultures, countries and time periods. Includes an educator resource guide with background information, looking questions and activity suggestions, along with a CD of high resolution of images from SAM’s permanent collection.

www.seattleartmuseum.org/trc
Newly updated for Fall 2012, this suitcase uses objects related to SAM’s permanent collection to help students think critically about how we can understand Indian power structures through myth and stories. The suitcase includes an educator resource guide with background information, looking questions and activity suggestions introducing Indian stories and art-making practices.

Online Resources

Experience the Permanent Collection by the Seattle Art Museum.
www.seattleartmuseum.org/emuseum/
Learn more about the works of art in the Seattle Art Museum’s online collection.

Epic India: Scenes from the Ramayana by The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2010/epic-india
Online presentation of a 2010 exhibition, including images of 28 works of art.

http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/lessons-indian-epics-ramayana
Extensive set of lesson plans for grades 9-12 on the Ramayana. Focuses on exploring the work in the context of an epic hero poem tradition.

Mithilia Painting: Folk Art of India by the Office of Resources for International and Area Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
http://orias.berkeley.edu/Mithila/OverviewMithila.htm
Lesson Plan on Mithila painting for middle school and above. Students will learn about the traditions and characteristics of an ancient folk art practiced in rural India and will analyze how these traditions are evolving in response to international and economic influences.

Sacred Texts: Ramayana by The British Library.
www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/sacredtexts/ramayana.html
Features excellent high-resolution images of one of the paintings from an illustrated manuscript, along with background information on Hinduism and the Ramayana.