

Activity: Make that Pose

Please note: These activities were originally designed for use in the Museum galleries. As written here, they reflect adaptations for classroom use.

Classroom resources related to India are available to local teachers for free loan.

Please contact Beth Shaw McGuire for more information: bas5705@email.unc.edu or 919-962-0479 (voice), 919-962-0837 TTY).

Recommended grade level: K - 5

Use images of the following sculptures. (These may be downloaded from this website.)

- **Celestial Female**
Possibly Rajasthan, Mewar Region, 12th century or later
Sandstone; 63.10.1
- **Yakshi**
Mathura Region, 2nd century CE
Sandstone; 84.2.1
- **Consort Goddess**
Tamil Nadu, Kaveri delta region, mid to late 10th century
Bronze; 91.23
- **Vishnu/Shiva**
Tamil Nadu, Kaveri delta region, 11th century
Granite; 82.6.1
- **Krishna/Saint Sambandar**
Tamil Nadu, Kaveri delta region, late 12th or early 13th century
Bronze; 97.8
- **Standing Vishnu**
Mathura region, Kushan period, late 2nd to 4th century
Sandstone; 99.13.1
- **The Offering of the Four Bowls to Buddha**
Gandhara Region, 2nd century CE
Schist; 90.35

Materials:

- Images of the Indian sculptures
- Optional: Catalogue of the exhibition, *Fashioning the Divine*, available for purchase from the Ackland Art Museum (\$15)

Time needed: 15-30 minutes








Objectives:

- See images from another culture(s).
- Experience sculpture kinesthetically without touching it.
- Examine the importance of body language.
- Work together as a small group.

Instructions:

1. Explain to the students that you are going to look at some sculptures from India and place that in a context that is age appropriate.
2. Divide your students into groups of 3-5. Give each group one image of a sculpture and give them a moment to examine it. Ask them each to practice making the same pose as the sculpture. Begin with the feet, making sure that your feet are in an appropriate position and work upward. End with the face and make the same facial expression that you see on the sculpture. Ask each member of the group to look at the others in his/her group to see that the pose is correct. When the groups have had adequate practice time, collect the images.
3. Ask one group to assume the pose they were imitating and ask the rest of the class to examine the photos of the sculptures and identify the sculpture that the group is imitating. Show the group the photograph the class has chosen and ask if it is their photograph. Move on to the next group and repeat until each group has had a chance to pose for the class.
4. What did they notice about the poses? What mood would go with each? Which pose did they like the best? Why?
5. Divide the students into groups of 5 and ask them to work together to form the poses they see in *The Offering of the Four Bowls to Buddha*. Each student will be one character in the sculpture. What do they think is going on in this scene? (The sculpture depicts a story told about the Buddha: The two attendants standing on each side of the Buddha offer him a meal after he attained enlightenment. In order not to show favoritism to any one attendant, he changes their four bowls of food into one bowl. This scene freezes the moment just before the four bowls become one.)

Learning style(s) addressed:

logical 123	kinesthetic 	musical 	spatial 	linguistic <i>ABC</i>	interpersonal 	intrapersonal 	naturalistic 	existential 
-----------------------	--	--	--	--------------------------	--	--	---	--

Created by Education Staff
Ackland Art Museum
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
for more information, contact: lbalkany@email.unc.edu
(919) 962-3342 (voice)/962-0837 (TTY)