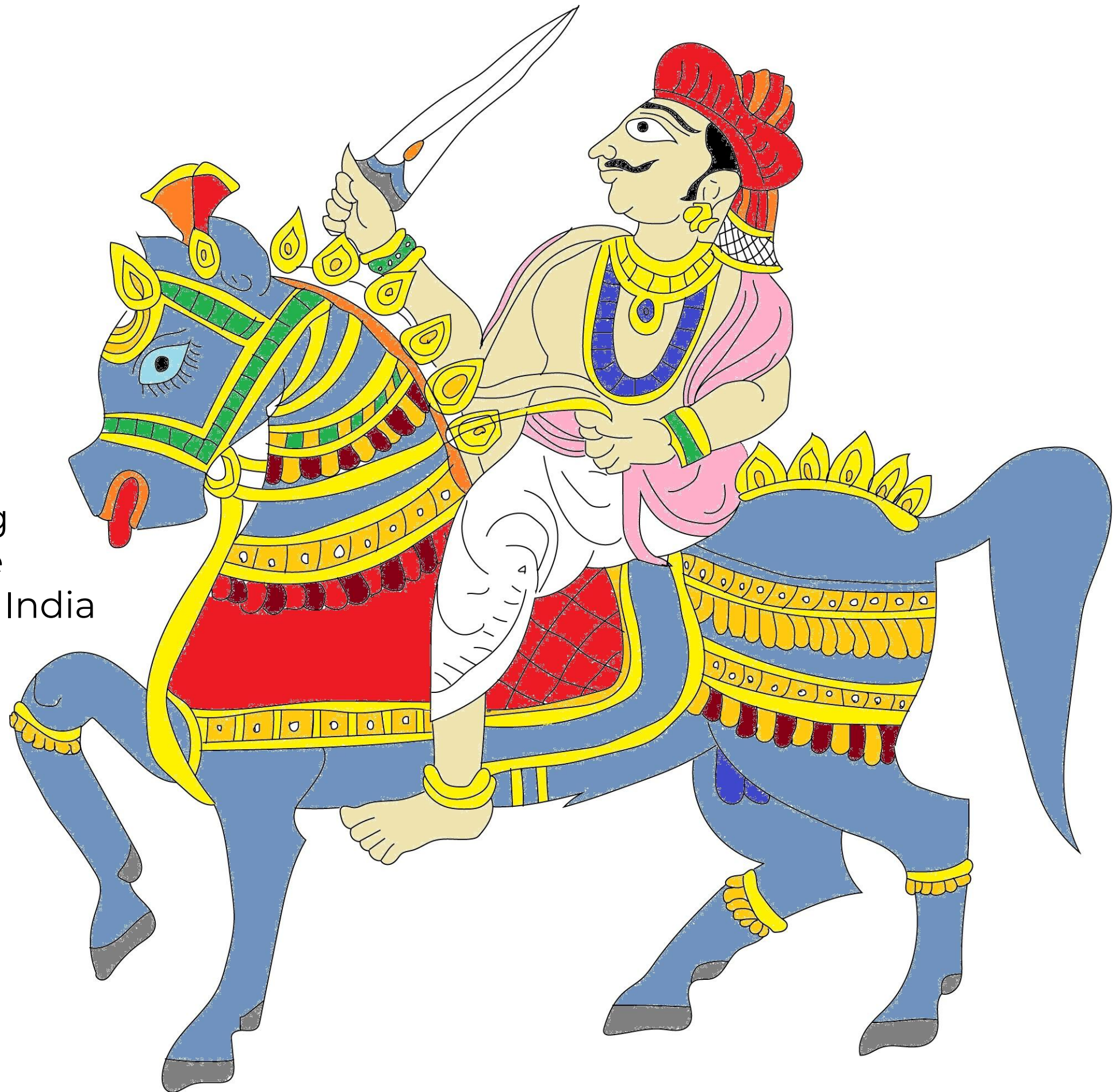


ON A ROLL!

Two Scroll-painting
traditions from the
West and South of India



Across the globe, humankind has been spinning and sharing stories since the beginning of civilisation.

Before there was the television or the internet, storytelling was a very popular medium of entertainment.

India, in particular, has seen the art take countless forms, often accompanied by music, dance or drama.

What story do you think the artist was trying to share with us through this painting?



This pack focuses on two traditional storytelling forms.

They belong to two different parts of the county but have one thing in common. That is the use of a unique prop, the scroll.

Learn more about two other such traditions in our other pack about scrolls in the Discover MAP series.

What do you think these two characters are talking about?

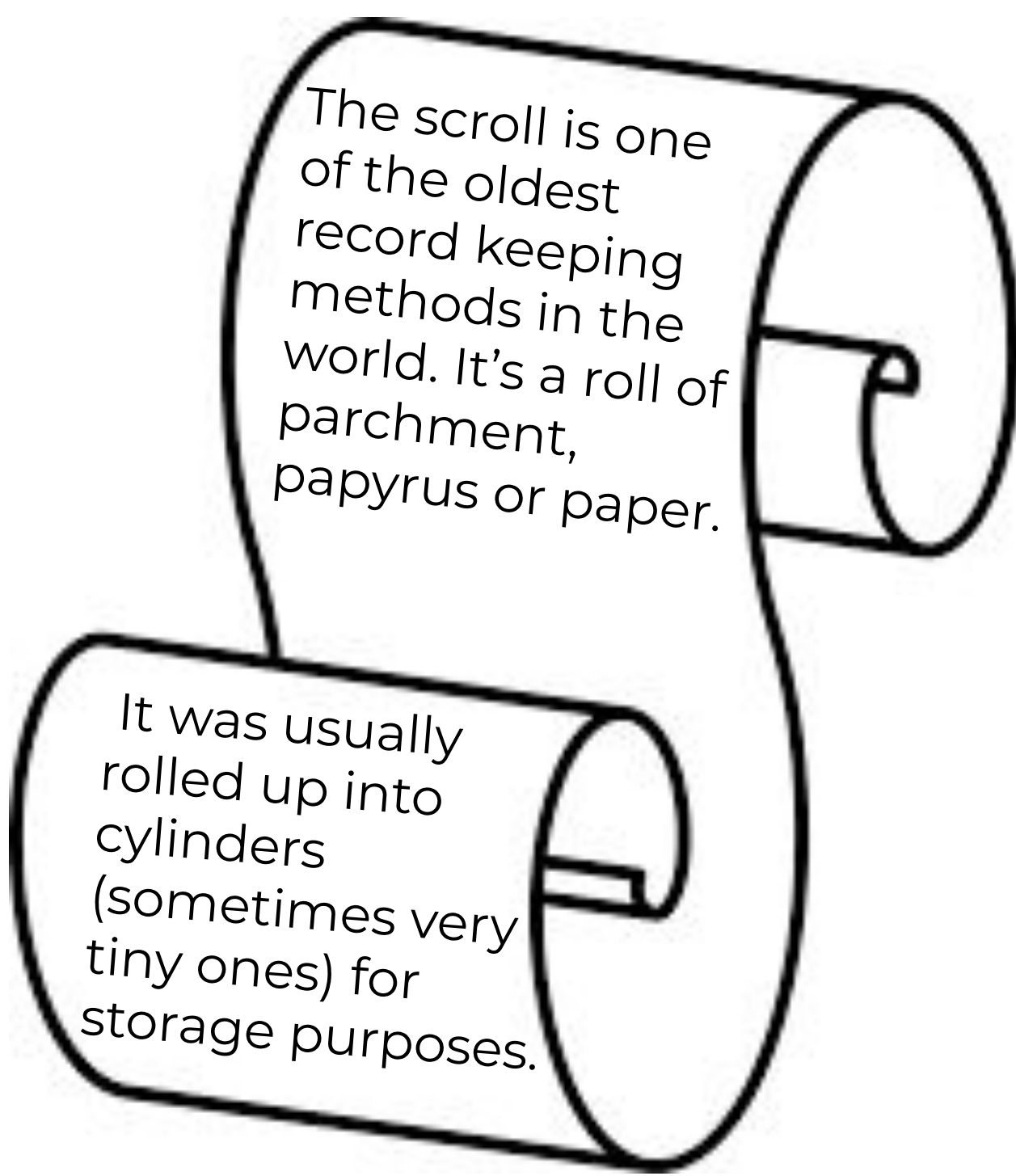


VOCABULARY ALERT!

Is scroll a noun or a verb? The truth is that it's both!

You may know of scrolling being the act on your phone or computer screens to move the display. That's the **verb** form.

Do you know why this action is referred to as scrolling in the first place?



The scroll is one of the oldest record keeping methods in the world. It's a roll of parchment, papyrus or paper.

It was usually rolled up into cylinders (sometimes very tiny ones) for storage purposes.

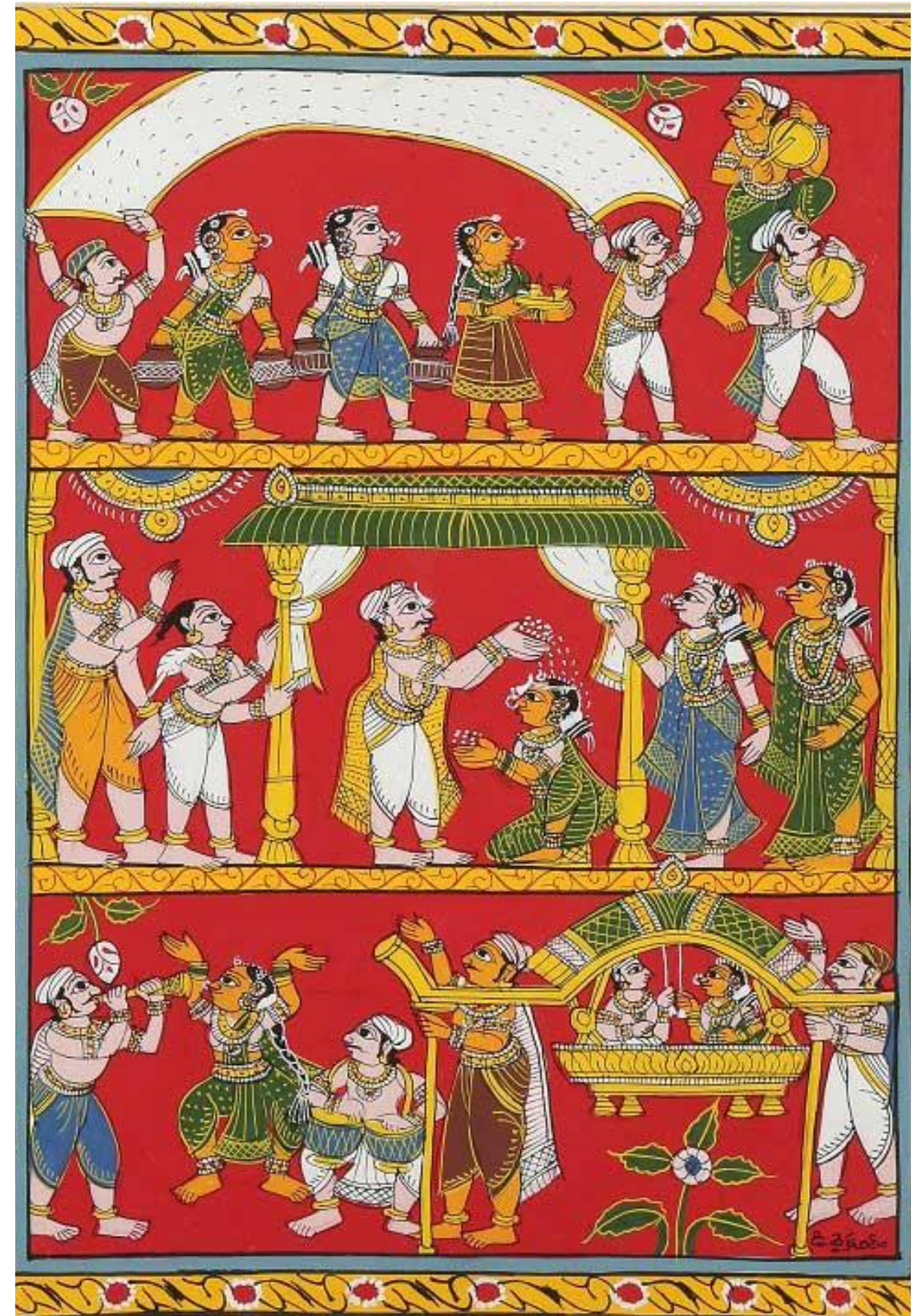
First, we meet the Nakashis of Telangana who create **Cheriyal scrolls**.

The Nakashis were originally map-makers who moved to scroll painting and popularised this artform named after their village Cheriyal.

What five words would you use to describe this painting?

What event do you think it's depicting?

Image: Uploaded by Ragan Datta on Wikimedia Commons, distributed under a CC-BY 2.0 license.



THINK.

These days, using Google Maps is one of the most common ways of finding directions.

Have you seen anyone use a physical map? Do you think we still need maps and map-makers?

Just like a person who makes wooden furniture is a carpenter, there is a name for a person who makes maps! Do you know what it is?

Hint: It's a twelve letter word that starts with 'C' and ends with 'R'.

Answer: A map-maker is also called a cartographer.



In the village of Cheriyal, each community has its own scroll that depicts its unique story.

For instance, the fishermen will have a different story of their origins from the cobblers, which is different from the story of the farmers, and so on.

Can you guess the direction in which the story progresses? What makes you say that?

Why do you think the figure at the bottom is larger than the others?



Here is another detail from the same scroll.

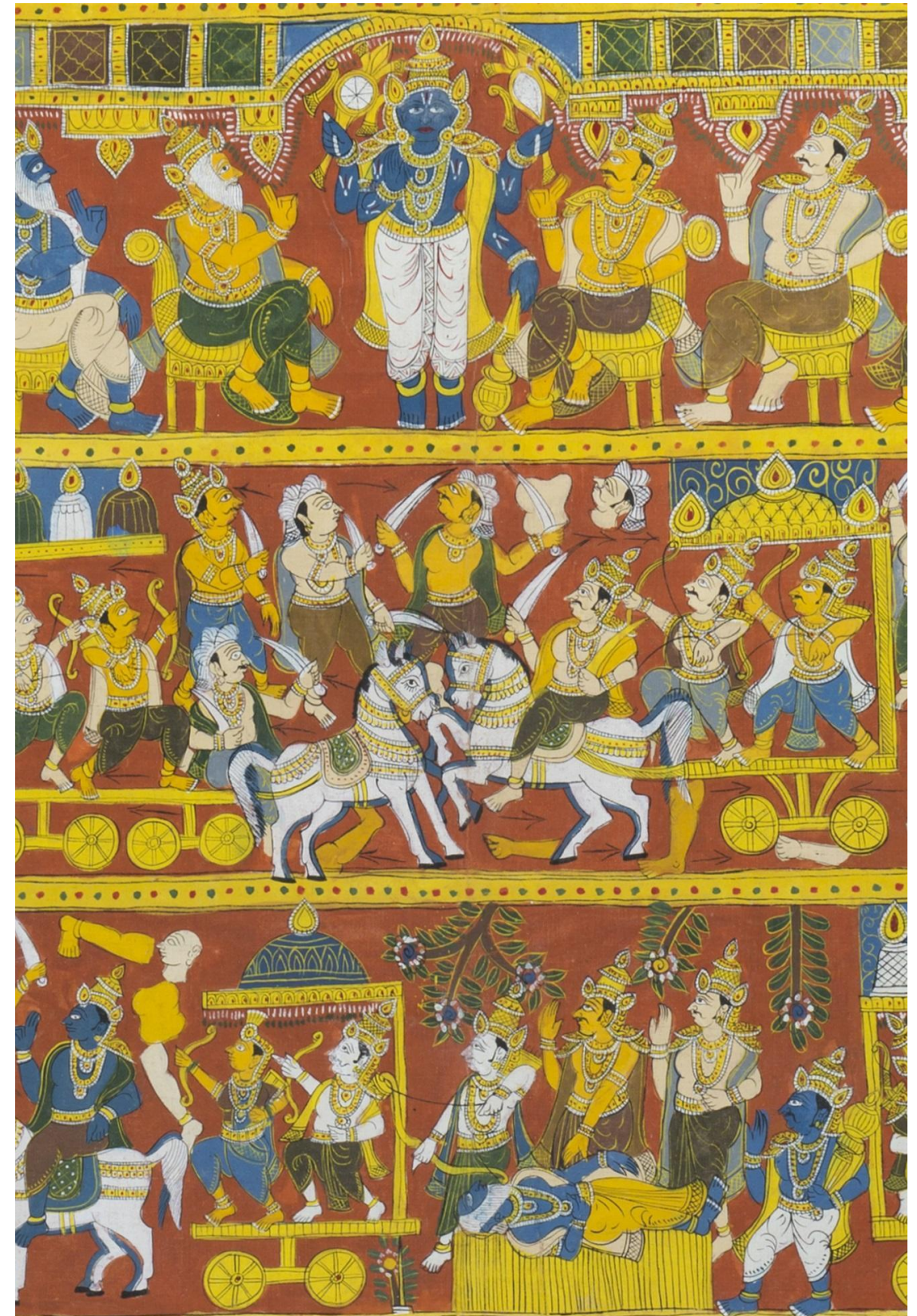
LOOK CLOSELY.

Observe the colours:

- Which are the most prominent colours?
- Do you think there's a reason behind choosing this specific background colour? Why do you think it has been kept plain?

Observe the figures:

- Pay attention to the gestures and poses of the humans and animals. Do they look realistic?
- Can you see any figures that appear more than once?
- What are the differences you can notice in their clothing?



CREATE.

The Cheriyal painters are also make masks (using clay and sawdust) and wooden figurines.

Like the figures in a Cheriyal scroll they are also brightly painted, have big eyes and wear a lot of golden jewellery.

How about creating a mask for yourself?

Find more instructions in the next page!

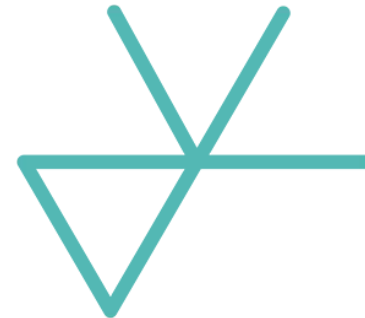


Collection: Indigo Art Gallery

MAKE YOUR OWN MASK!

Try your hand at making masks using a plastic plate and the Cheriyal tradition for inspiration

1: Assemble all your supplies. Now, start with the eyes. Draw where you want them on the back of the plate and cut along the outlines.



2: Next create a nose and mouth by twisting some newspaper into the shape you want, and glue them to the plate.

3: Paint your mask. Try using bright colours such as yellow and green like in the Cheriyal artists do. Look at the Cheriyal mask again and try making your eyebrows, lips and hair in a similar style.



4: With a pencil make two holes on either side of the plate (where your ears would be). Loop a twine through them to help you tie your mask, and that's it! Your mask is ready!

YOU WILL NEED:

- a plastic plate
- acrylic or poster colours
- old newspaper
- a piece of twine
- scissors and glue.

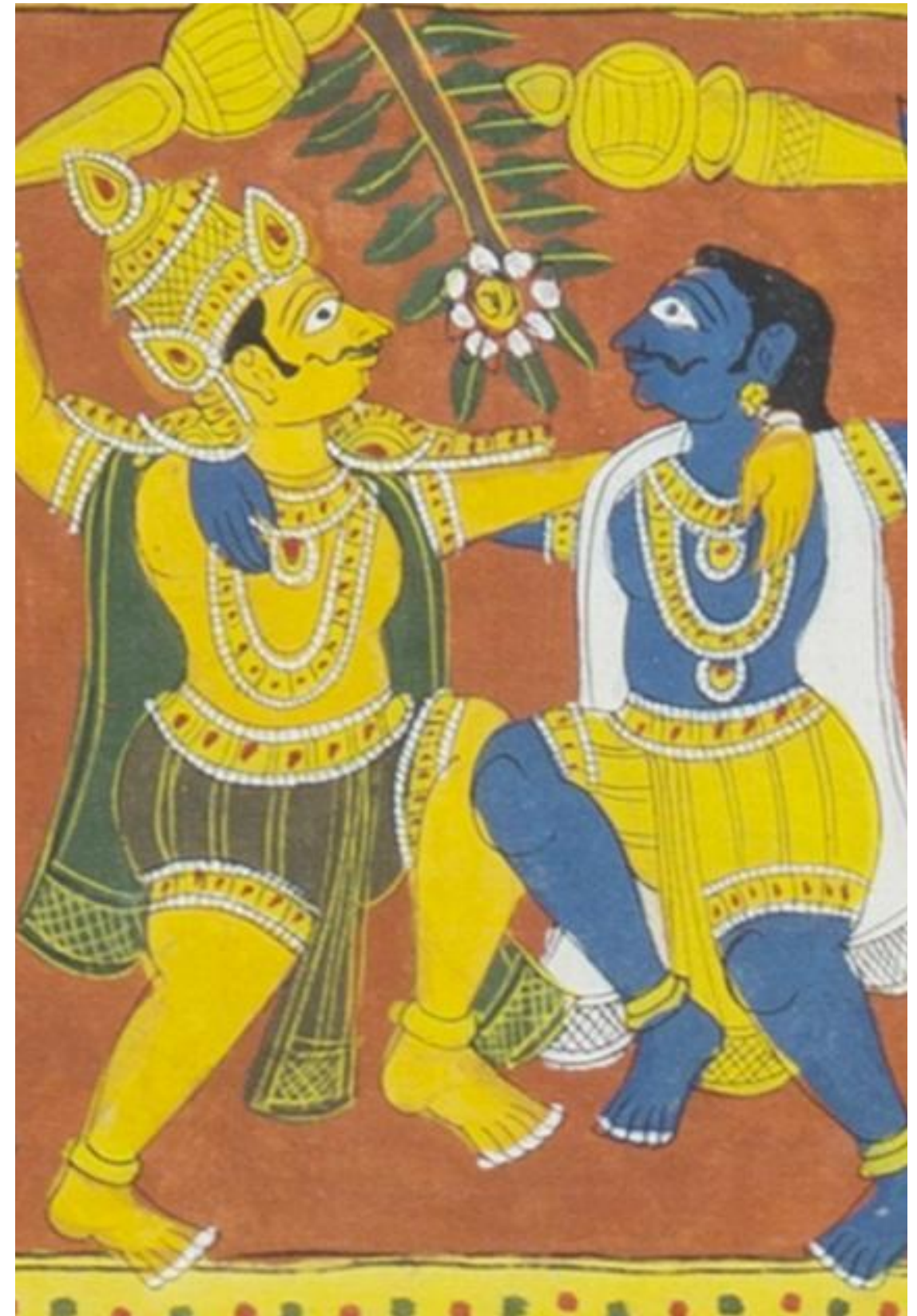
Tip: You can also add accessories, jewellery or anything else that you think might reflect your personality in the mask!

The Cheriyal artists use natural ingredients to make their colours.

In addition to that, they draw on canvases made of khadi prepared specially with sawdust and tree gum, among other things.

Learn more about the colours they use and try colouring some characters from a Cheriyal scroll in our **Colouring Sheets** extra!

**What do you think these two characters are doing?
Fighting? Dancing?
Something else?**





Collection: Sarmaya Arts Foundation

Next, we meet the storytellers of Rajasthan who sing from a scroll called the **phad**.

The phad is a very long horizontal screen, usually about 15 feet long. That is equal to two adult horses standing back to back like this!

One Phad = Two Horses



What are the first three things you notice about it?

The phad contains stories about the life of Pabuji and his brother Devnarayan.

They were, in fact, real people who later came to be worshipped as gods. Phads began to be painted about them, and in this way they stayed in the community's memory forever.

CREATE.

Do you think there is an event, place or person around you that you feel should be remembered forever?

Try creating a poster for this in the style of the phad paintings. Head to our **DIY Guide** extra to help you get started with some tips!

Image: Uploaded by Nomu420 on Wikimedia Commons, distributed under a CC-BY 2.0 license.



LOOK CLOSELY.

This is a detail from a phad.

- Can you find Pabuji?
Remember, he is the most important figure in this entire story.
- Do you notice a small rectangle with an inscription inside?
What do you think that might be?*
- What are all the different animals and birds that you can spot in this detail?



*That rectangle contains the signature of the painter and his address!
If you guessed right, give yourself a pat on the back!



Collection: Sarmaya Arts Foundation

In every phad, Pabuji is first painted in the centre holding court with his brothers. The artist always makes it a point to make him the biggest figure in the entire painting, so that he is easy to spot.

**Can you spot
Pabuji here?**

LOOK CLOSELY.

Here is a detail from a phad.

- What are the most prominent colours that you spot?
- Do you notice any unique traits about the figures?
- Do you think some animals and figures are repeated?
- As you probably noticed, the phad painters leave very little empty space. Why do you think that is?



In a phad performance, Pabuji's priest (called bhopo) unrolls the phad and sings about the various episodes in his life.

The performance always happens in the evening or night. Then how does one see the paintings in the dark?

The bhopi (the priest's wife) holds an earthen lamp and moves it around, illuminating the part that her husband is singing about (like a spotlight on a stage).





A Bhopa and Bhopi before an unrolled phad
Go [here](#) to watch a phad performance.

Image: Uploaded by Nomu420 on Wikimedia Commons,
distributed under a CC-BY 2.0 license.

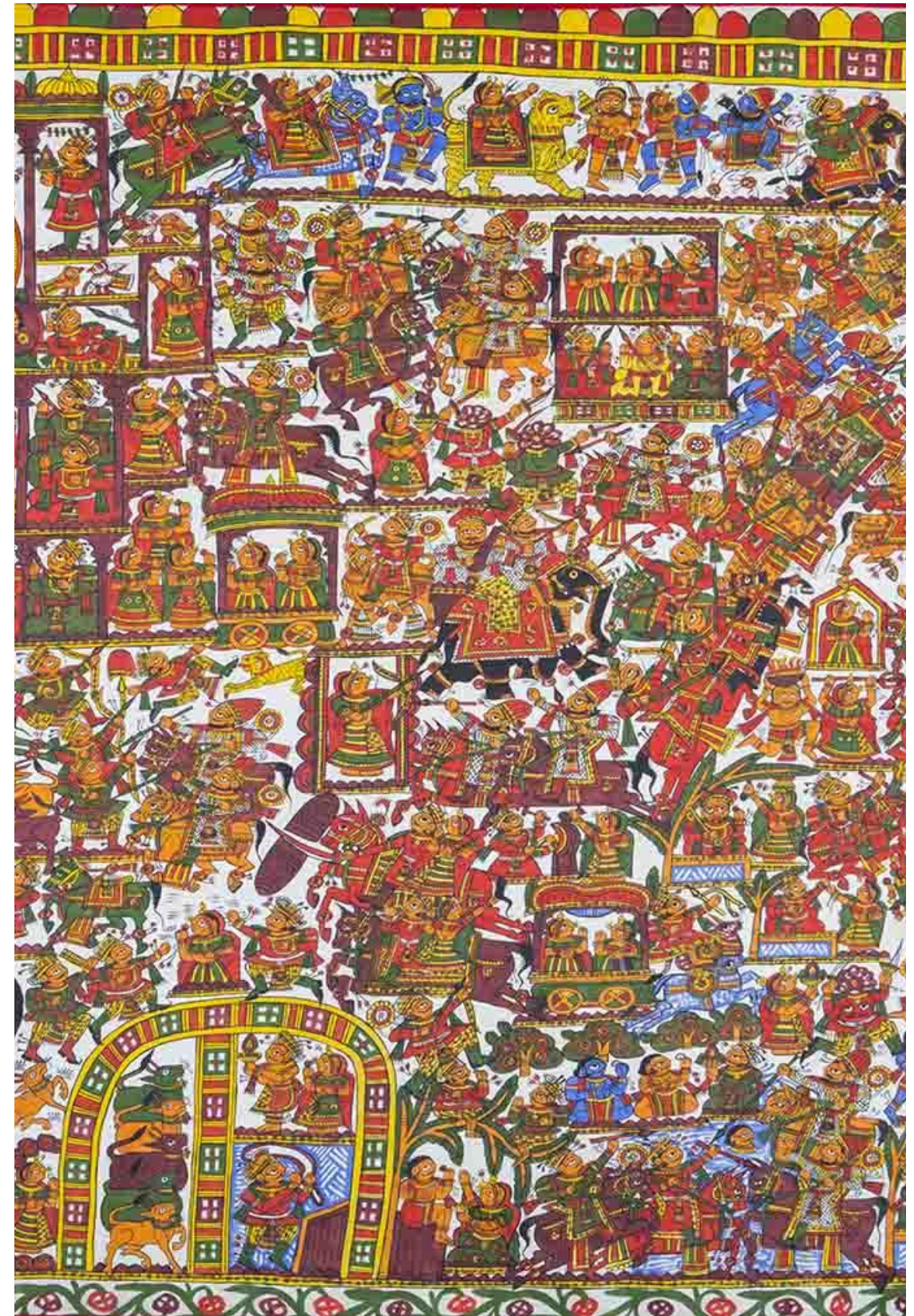
The storyteller and the artist for the phads are two different people.

They work together (or in collaboration), with the painter drawing the episodes that the storyteller will perform.

Take inspiration from this and play a fun game of creative collaborations! Head to the next page for instructions.

Can you spot:

- **five cows in a row?**
- **a woman with a bow and arrow?**
- **two blue horses and a tiger?**



MAKE YOUR OWN STORY SCROLL

Grab a family member or friend as your partner and get your game face on!



1: Recall one of your fondest memories. It could be a trip with your family, that time when you got an award at school or just a fun-day with friends.



2: Narrate this incident to your partner while they take notes.



3: Now take some A4 sheets and stick them end to end horizontally so you have a long surface to draw on.

4: Together with your partner create a storyboard, decide a layout, figure out details about each character.



5: Reverse roles, so your partner narrates their story and you take notes. Repeat steps 3 & 4 for their story as well.

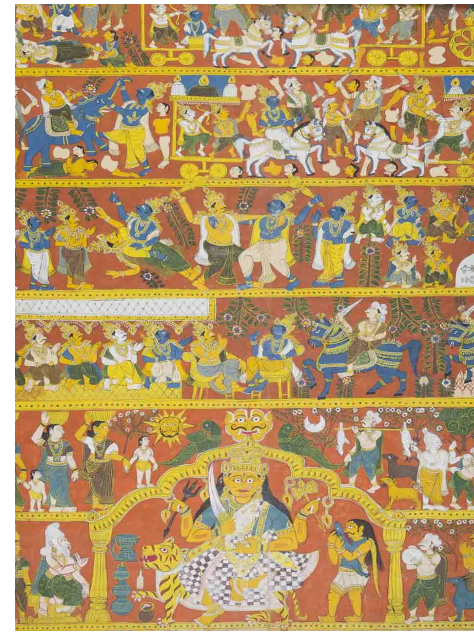


6: Now draw your scrolls and share!

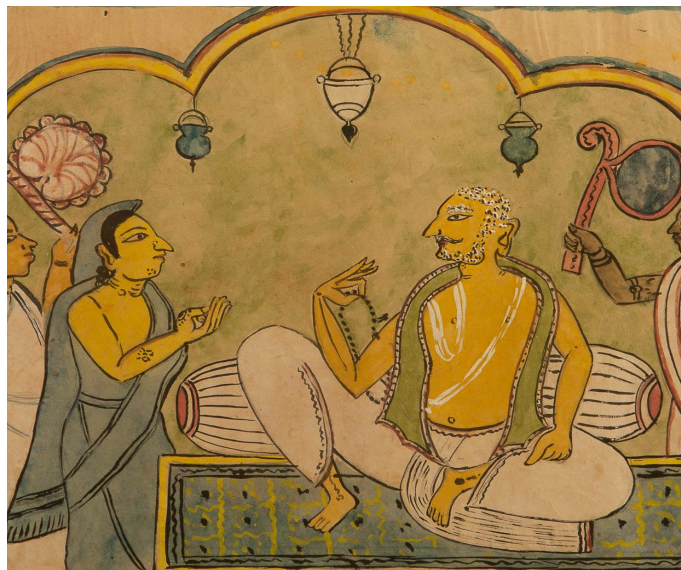
Tip: If you feel extra creative, design a performance with your scroll! Perhaps you could write a poem or song, or make up a dance routine? Once you are ready, gather your family and friends and set up a storytelling performance with your scroll!



Krishna Leela Pata, c. 1930s
Unknown Maker(s)
Natural pigments on paper
H. 435 cm, W. 20 cm
PTG.0615



Cheriyal Scroll, 20th century
Unknown Maker(s)
Natural pigments on paper
H. 51 cm, W. 84.5 cm
PTG.0903



Pata depicting a saint, 20th century
Unknown Maker(s)
Gouache on paper
H. 20 cm, W. 25 cm
PTG.00431



Pabuji ki Phad, 20th century
Unknown Maker(s)
Natural pigments on cotton fabric
H. 147 cm, W. 700 cm
PTG.0887



MAP

Museum of Art
& Photography

MAP

Sua House
26/1 Kasturba Cross Road
Bangalore 560 001, India

map-india.org

 [museumofartandphotography](https://www.instagram.com/museumofartandphotography)

