

ACTIVITY BOOKLET: I AM HANG NADIM

**HERITAGE RESOURCE FOR
TEACHERS, PARENTS & CAREGIVERS**

WHAT IS 'I AM HANG NADIM'?



- 'I am Hang Nadim' was adapted from the activity booklet for Malay Heritage Centre's special exhibition, '*Seekor Singa, Seorang Putera, dan Sebingkai Cermin: Reflecting and Refracting Singapura*' (12 October 2019 – 26 July 2020).
- Teachers, parents and caregivers are encouraged to facilitate the observation and learning process by referring to the actual artefacts on display in the gallery, or through artefact images and information available in this resource.
- You can also visit the children's space in MHC "Adventures in Nusantara" for other learning opportunities that will be shared in the later slides.
- 'I am Hang Nadim' aims to provide an opportunity for
 - Students/children to learn about the story of Hang Nadim and its connection to the Singapore story; develop their language, literacy as well as motor skills ; engage their critical thinking
 - Teachers, parents and caregivers to delve further into a multi-disciplinary discussion and exploration using a local folktale



We would love to hear how you have facilitated this activity. Please share your experience with us so we can continue to improve on our resources and benefit others too!

Reach us at shereen_tan@nhb.gov.sg

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADULTS

You will need..

1. A printer
2. A4 papers
3. Scissors
4. Glue or tape
5. Stapler

Putting the
booklet
together

Step 1: Before printing the activity booklet, select the following print settings “double-sided” and “short-edge binding”

Step 2: Arrange your booklet according to the pages and staple the binding to hold the booklet together.

You may wish to cut out the puzzle on the back cover for your child/student in advance.

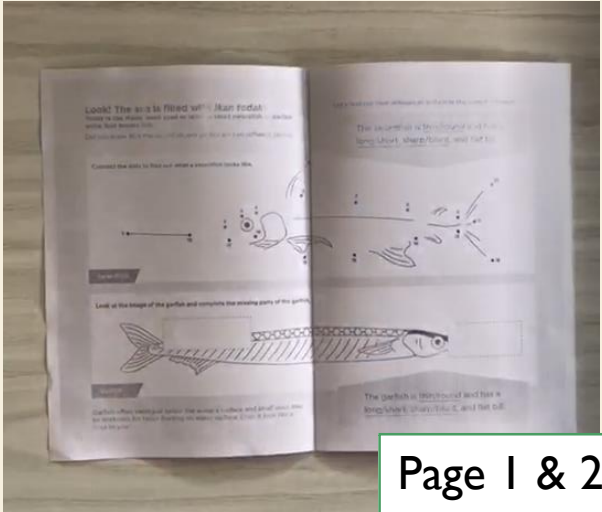


INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADULTS

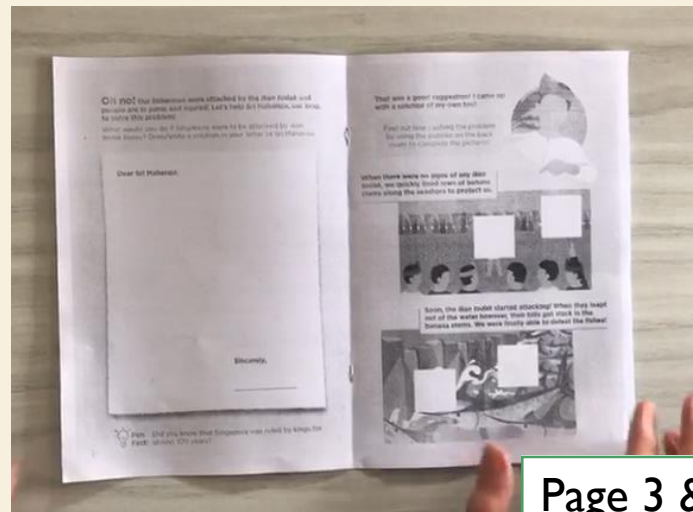
Your booklet should look like this.



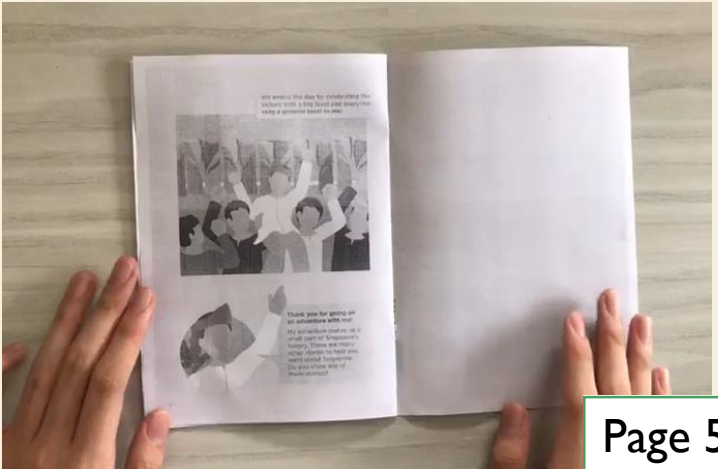
Front Cover



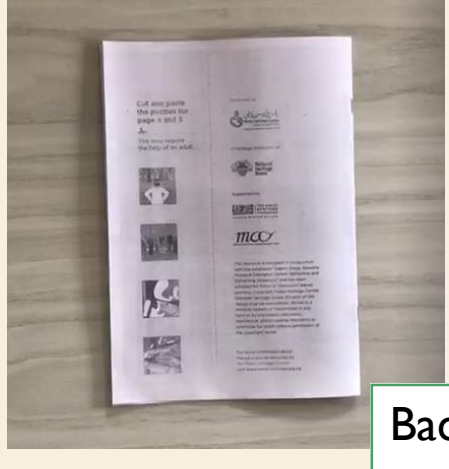
Page 1 & 2



Page 3 & 4



Page 5



Back Cover

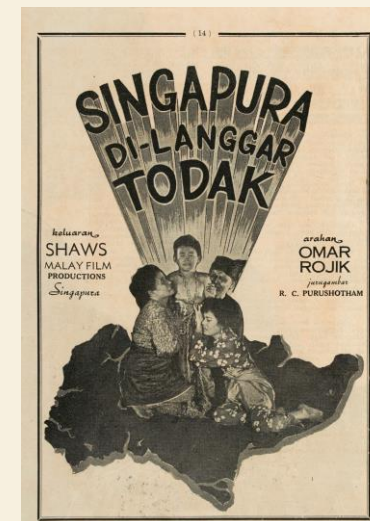
ABOUT HANG NADIM

- The peculiar phenomenon of garfish attacking Singapore begins with a mystic named Tun Jana Khatib who cursed Singapura with a plague of vicious garfish after the Maharaja unjustly puts him to death fearing his supernatural powers.
- After several garfish attacks which claimed scores of lives, a precocious youth came up with an ingenious plan to plant a barricade of banana stems to trap the fishes' sharp beak-like snouts. Despite the success of the strategy, the child was assassinated by the sultan's men as the royal court was fearful that his success, compared to the earlier failures of the sultan and his royal advisors, would undermine the sultan's standing. However, because the sultan had acted unjustly, his wrongdoing is exposed by Nature and reflected in the "blood-red" earth of the hill (hence named Bukit Merah or "Red Hill") where the child was killed.

ABOUT HANG NADIM

- In 'Sejarah Melayu', the youth is unnamed and the gender left unspecified. However, in later retellings of the story, the youth is identified as a boy named Hang Nadim, the son of Panglima Hang Jebat, and foster son of Laksamana Hang Tuah. In another oral account, Hang Nadim is tied up in chains, cast into sea and drowned at Batu Berhenti (The Stopping Stone) in the Straits of Singapore.
- It was believed that Tanjong Pagar was where the banana stems were erected to protect Singapura from the attack.

Teachers, parents and caregivers who are interested can also watch *Singapura Dilanggar Todak*, a movie based on the adaptation of Hang Nadim's story online.



ABOUT GARFISH

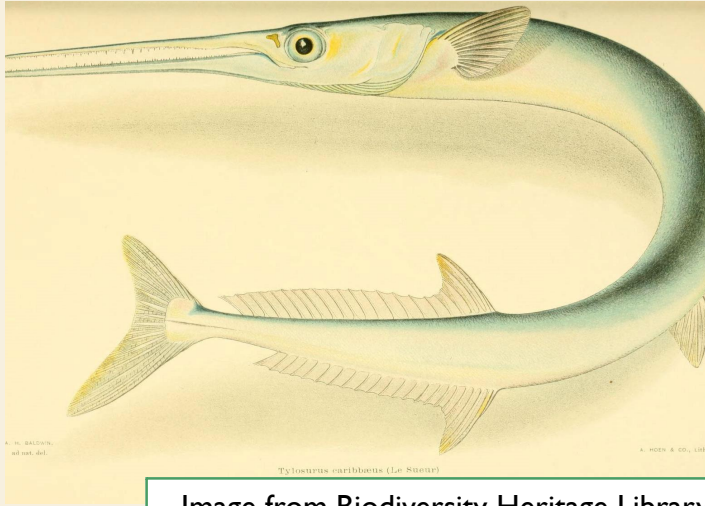


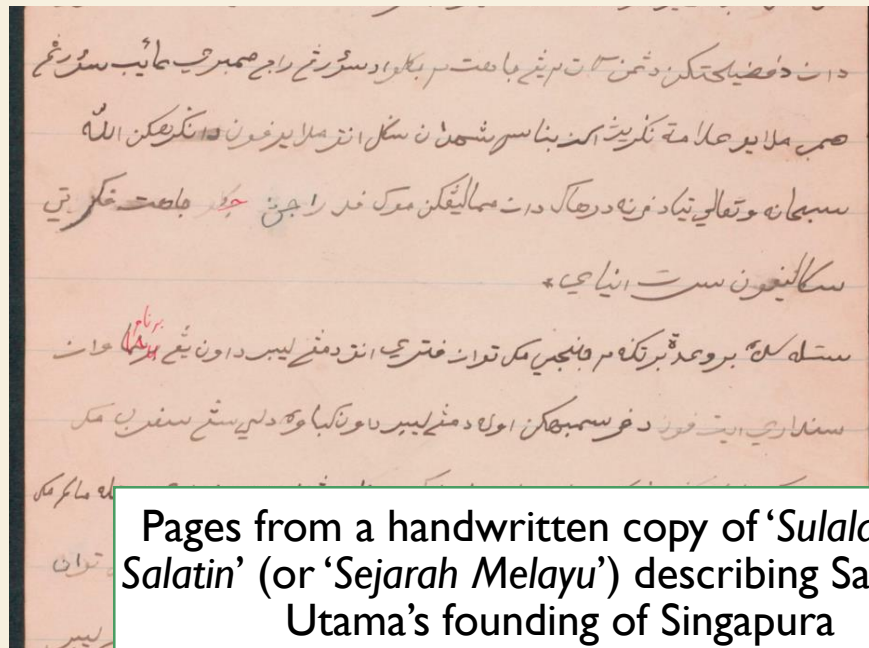
Image from Biodiversity Heritage Library

- The garfish may appear small and harmless, but along with swordfish or needlefish, they belong to a species of ray-finned beloniforms. The garfish attacks in the story are attributed to a curse although they can be explained by animal behavioural science. As garfish swim in schools near the water's surface, any disturbance can cause them to jump out of the water towards the source, thereby making it seem that they are on the attack.
- Garfish are capable of making short, darting jumps at high speeds out of the water, and their beak-like jaws has been reported of being able to puncture wounds. Hence the possibility of a vicious attack as described in the legend may not be as far-fetched as it seems.



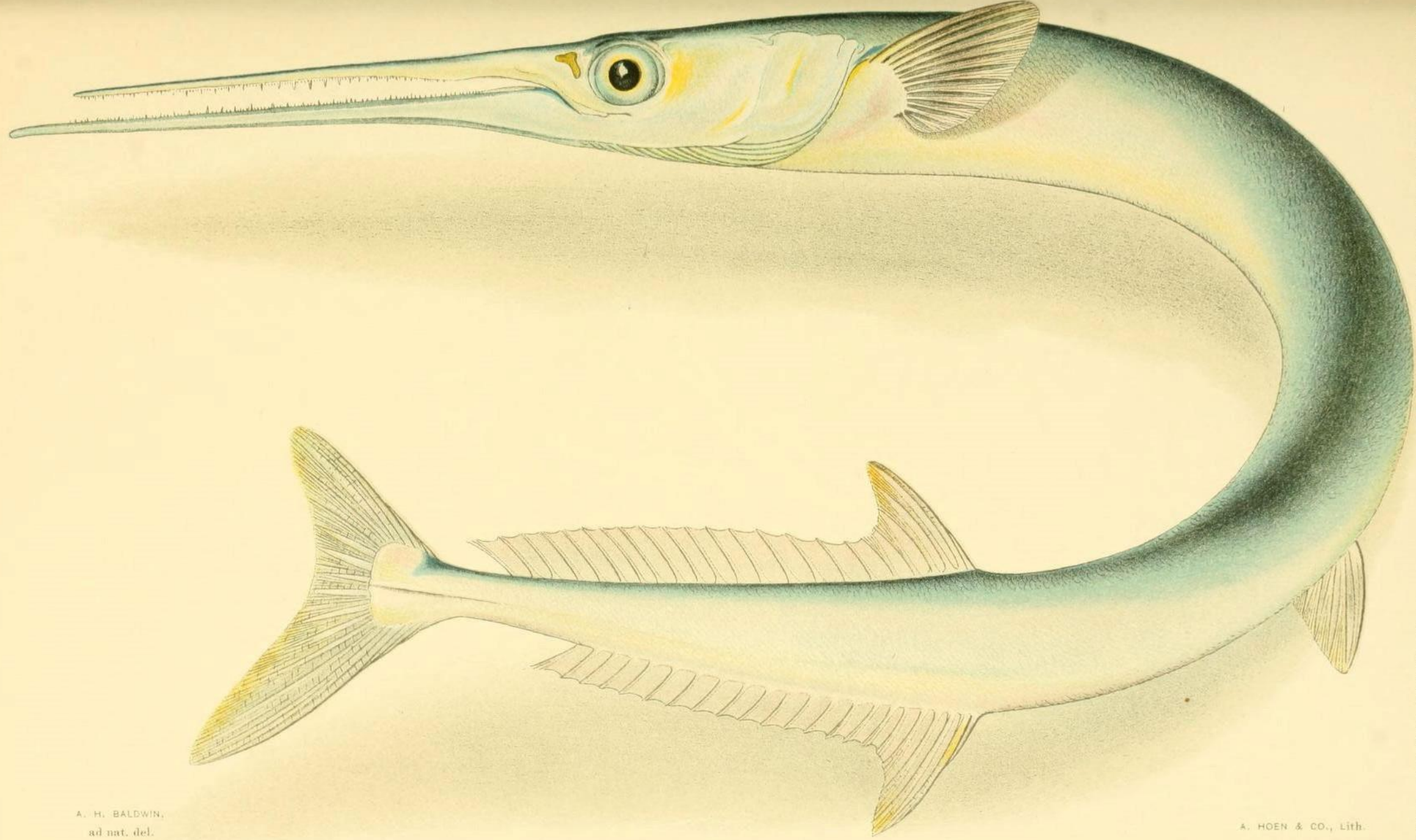
See the garfish (*Tylosurus crocodilus*) specimen on loan from Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum in Gallery 2 of the special exhibition.

ABOUT SEJARAH MELAYU (MALAY ANNALS)



Pages from a handwritten copy of 'Sulalatus Al-Salatin' (or 'Sejarah Melayu') describing Sang Nila Utama's founding of Singapura
Malay Peninsula | Collection of National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

- *Sulalat- al-Salatin*, or more commonly known as 'Sejarah Melayu' (Malay Annals) is a manuscript that details the lineage of the rulers of Melaka, the rise and fall of the great port city and the relationship between rulers and the people they rule. It also contains a number of legendary Malay episodes such Hang Tuah, Badang, the garfish attack on Singapura, the fall of Singapura to Majapahit (or Siamese) forces and the founding of Melaka.



A. H. BALDWIN,
ad nat. del.

A. HOEN & CO., Lith.

Tylosurus caribbaeus (Le Sueur)

HOUND FISH

$\frac{2}{3}$ NATURAL SIZE

دارهن تبتق دستيا فورا * بدنن ترصنتر دنگاوي *

القصة جبر ترا بنگسندله *

هات صاحب الحكاية اد براق لما اشار ان مك دقله تودق صبرخ ستيا فورا
 برهنا تن لاله كداره دان سكل اورخ دفتي ايت بايق حاتي دلخفا تي اوله
 تودق ايت جكه كنادا دقرويسس كبر الكرخ جكه كناديهر دان فقلخ ترويسس كسبله
 هك تيدقله دافت اورخ برديري دفتي ايت لاکسي بايق حاتي هك كمنه له اورخ
 برلارين كسان سين سمورن هفتا کن تودق صبرخ کين بايقله کت حاتي اورخ
 کين ديونهن هك فادک سري صهر ارج فون سکلر نا يک شاهه لاله کلور ديري فکلن
 اوله سکل فومنتري سيدام صلبالغ سکلين تله داتع کفتي هك بکند فون حيران
 حلعت فوي مال تودق ايت بارخ اورخمنج کنا دلخفا تين ايت تباد سلاصه
 هك مالين بايق اورخ حاتي دتيکمن اوله تودق ايت هك بکند فون هتيمکن
 سکلين اورخ برکو بوکن بتيسس هك دلخفا تي اوله تودق ايت ترويسس كسبله اد
 فون تودق ايت سفرت فومين روف داتفتن اورخ حاتي فون ترلالو بايق *

هك فد اشار ايت برسات سورخ بودق افی كوج کين برکو بوکن بتيسس ايت کين

بارخساون مشو هکن فر ميناجين ايت دبايقن الله بمبوني من کبار و سکلين تيفتن ساتس
 ايتوله سجهن وانگر هکن الله سبحانه وتعالی ند سکل راجر بر ملا يوتباد غرن ممبرع حايب
 فد سکل حجب ملا يوتولو سکلين سکلينون بسرد وسات تباد ايت دات دنگوتورخ
 دات دفتياي تکن دشمن سات م تير جاعت م بکلو اورخ سورخ راجر ممبرع حايب سورخ
 حجب ملا يوت علامه کنر تير کمن بنا سر شجر ن سکل انز ملا يوتون وانگر هکن الله
 سبحانه وتعالی تباد غرن درهاک دات مماليقن مورک فد راجر حجب جاعت هکن تي
 سکلينون سر است ايتاي *

ستله کن بروعد تيرنگه م فنجين مک توات فترعي انز دفتي لير داون ينج ^{بر نام} عات
 سنداري ايت فون دغو سمبهکن اوله دفتي لير داون کباوه دلير ستر سفري مک
 دبا واپه کمالی کنلر فون مک ستر سفري خون کهر يفته دشمن عات سنداري ستله ماکر مک
 بکنر فون بوا دله دشمن توات فترعي ستله عاري ستر مک دلحيت اوله بکنر اکن توان
 فترعي تباد کمال مک ترلالوله سکلين سکلين هک بکنر مپورک برعي تاجو دفتي لير
 داون مک دفتي لير داون فون سکلر داتع مک دلحيت ستر ستر ايت سلاصه
 سرات فون تباد مريهان مک اينون ترلالو سکلين مک سمبه دفتي لير داون

HANG NADIM

*as mentioned in 'Sejarah Melayu' ('Malay Annals') (15th century)
seperti yang disebut dalam Sejarah Melayu (abad ke-15)*

Hang Nadim was a 7-year-old boy who came up with an innovative idea to solve the attack of the garfishes on villagers in Singapura. Look around this space and make a guess – what could his suggestion be? It was to plant banana stems along the shore in order to trap the fishes' sharp bills! However, the Sultan's trusted advisors were worried that the clever and well-liked Hang Nadim would undermine the standing of the Sultan. They decided to kill Hang Nadim in the middle of the night and, when they murdered him, Hang Nadim's blood stained the hill where he lived. It was believed that this was how present day Bukit Merah, also known as "Red Hill", got its name!

Hang Nadim adalah budak lelaki berusia 7 tahun yang telah menyarankan idea yang inovatif untuk menangkis serangan ikan todak ke atas penduduk-penduduk kampung di Singapura. Lihatlah sekeliling ruang ini dan cuba teka - apakah idea yang disarankan Hang Nadim? Ia adalah untuk menanam batang-batang pisang di sepanjang pantai untuk memerangkap muncung tajam ikan-ikan todak itu. Bagaimanapun, penasihat-penasihat yang dipercayai oleh Sultan rasa bimbang bahawa Hang Nadim, seorang budak yang pandai dan disukai ramai itu, akan melemahkan kedudukan Sultan. Mereka membuat keputusan untuk membunuh Hang Nadim pada tengah malam. Sebaik sahaja mereka membunuhnya, darah Hang Nadim mengalir mengotori bukit di tempat tinggalnya. Ia dipercayai bahawa Bukit Merah kini, yang juga dikenali sebagai "Red Hill", adalah tempat di mana berlakunya pertumpahan darah itu.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- Describe the object/image/animal – what do you see?
- Where is it from?
- When is it produced/made?
- How was this object made?
- What is it made of?
- What do you think this object is used for?
- What does this object make you wonder?




TEACHING IDEAS

- Read the story of the Attack of the Swordfish, also known as the story of Bukit Merah together. You can use the *keris* from our “Craft-efact: Create your own *Keris*” as a prop for a dramatised storytelling with/for your student or child at home or at the children’s space in MHC.
- Watch a YouTube video animation on the Attack of the Swordfish.
- Learn more the garfish and swordfish by doing a search online. You may also wish to compare the similarities and differences too.
- Visit MHC’s special exhibition to see the objects and garfish specimens on display. You can also watch a modern interpretation of the story through an animation created by students from Nanyang Polytechnic.
- Read other stories featured in *Sejarah Melayu* to learn more about the stories of Singapore, or attend a storytelling session at MHC.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Craft-efact! Create your own Keris by MHC
- Singapore – Attack of the Swordfish by Asean Folktales
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgiGS2aZTHs>
- Attack of the Swordfish on Roots.sg (National Heritage Board)
<https://www.roots.sg/learn/stories/attack-of-the-swordfish/story>
- Needlefishes (Belonidae) on the Shores of Singapore on Wild Singapore
<http://www.wildsingapore.com/wildfacts/vertebrates/fish/belonidae/belonidae.htm>
- A Matter of Accessibility: Printing Sejarah Melayu on Biblioasia
<http://www.nlb.gov.sg/biblioasia/2019/01/25/a-matter-of-accessibility-printing-sejarah-melayu/>
- Nadirah Noruddin (National Library, Singapore) on Munshi Abdullah’s Sejarah Melayu on Object Lessons Space
<https://objectlessons.space/posts/2019/nadirah-norruddin>



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