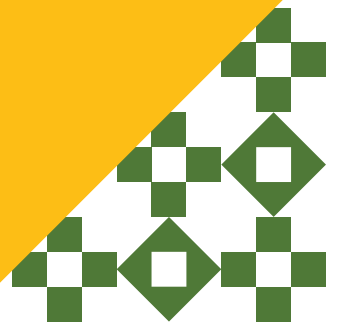
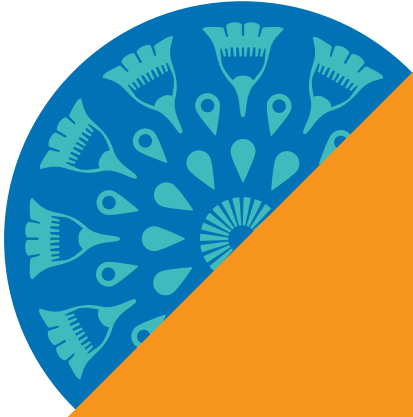


# Des Pardes

## Educator Resources Guide





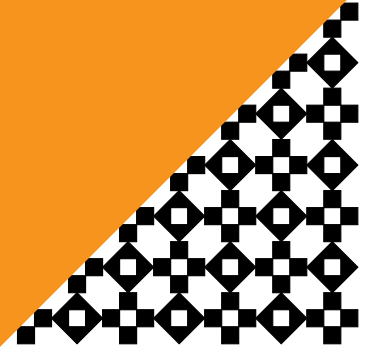
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## About the Exhibition:

*Des Pardes* explores and celebrates the vibrant and diverse South Asian communities in the Fraser Valley. “Des Pardes” translates to “motherland to other land” which immigrant South Asians may use to refer to Canada but which Canadian-born generations might use to refer to the land of their cultural origin.

Community engagement provided personal stories, archival collections, photos and heirlooms, and contemporary works by South Asian artists. Through the themes of **Migration, Faith, Family, Business and Livelihoods, Oppression and Opposition, and Contemporary Culture** *Des Pardes* explores the complexities of identity, heritage and the interplay between tradition and modernity. From the intricate patterns used to create traditional textiles to thought-provoking artwork, the exhibition examines the themes of diaspora, nostalgia, and belonging.

By including personal storytelling, archival and family images and interactive elements, *Des Pardes* aims to challenge preconceived ideas and initiate cross-cultural conversations that lead to a broader appreciation of how diversity can enrich our community when cultures intersect and inspire one another.



## PERSONAL & CULTURAL IDENTITY PROJECTS

During April & May, student project submissions will be on display at the gallery! Inspired by the stories of South Asian Canadians featured in the Des Pardes exhibition, students will develop personal identity presentations on the theme “What are my own family stories and artifacts?” Don’t miss this unique opportunity to exhibit student work at The Reach! Students may use the platform Book Creator, produce audio, video, or visual artworks for inclusion in the exhibition. Student projects will be included in an interactive kiosk in the Contemporary Culture section of the exhibit. Submissions will be categorized by student name, and students are encouraged to bring their families to view their projects in the gallery. Teachers can make use of Curriculum Helping Teachers to support the generation of identity texts as well as existing educational supports for the exhibition. Collateral resources available to teachers outline the Big Ideas and Core Competencies for this special assignment, which focuses on positive personal and cultural identity and has been developed in partnership with District Curriculum Administrators. Email [programs@thereach.ca](mailto:programs@thereach.ca) for more information.

Project Submissions **DUE MARCH 15**



## MATERIAL CULTURE KIT

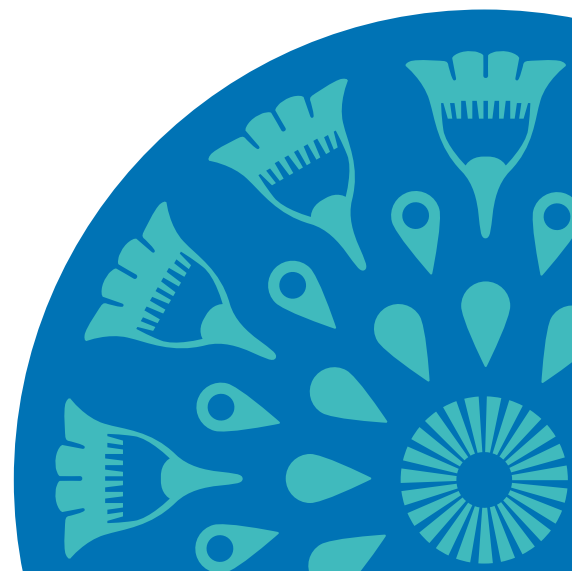
Bring the local South Asian Canadian experience to your classroom with the *Des Pardes* Material Culture Kit! Through historical photographs, cultural objects, artwork reproductions and artifacts of daily living, South Asian students can find familiar items to share with their peers and other students can learn about new cultural traditions. Our easy-to-follow classroom guide presents a photograph of each object included in the kit, a written introduction to the item, and questions that encourage discussion for classroom engagement. Conveniently packaged in a vintage suitcase, the Material Culture Kit is free to reserve and will be delivered to participating schools for three weeks, to allow multiple classes to access the resource. Email [programs@thereach.ca](mailto:programs@thereach.ca) to reserve the Material Culture Kit for your school.

# SAMPLE PAGE: MATERIAL CULTURE KIT

## How to use the Material Culture Kit

The *Des Pardes* Material Culture Kit contains cultural items and photographs for in-class exploration and discussion. Each of the items included in the kit is accompanied by a brief description in the guide, as well as prompts for educators to facilitate classroom discussions. It is our hope that, through this kit, South Asian Canadian students will find items of familiarity and class discussions will focus on peer-to-peer sharing of first-person accounts on the topics of heritage, identity, and cultural practices. Opportunities for cross-cultural sharing of stories and traditions will help students of different backgrounds connect to the items included in the kit, while a broader understanding of these items and their cultural relevance will help students build pride in their identity and/or develop an appreciation of the depth, variety, and significance of South Asian Canadian cultures.

\*Please Note: The spices, pigments, and henna contained in this kit should remain in their sealed packaging to prevent staining, and so that many classes may use these materials. Thank you!



## SAMPLE PAGE: MATERIAL CULTURE KIT



### Photo: Gill family, 1949

Gill family: Nachatter “Nash”, Indar Singh, and Kartar Kaur Gill, Vancouver, May 1950. Indar encouraged Kartar to assimilate, leading her to exchange her traditional clothes for Western styles during her immigration journey to Canada.

Mindy Rama (a local retired school teacher) remembers her mother’s assimilation: “When she had to go out off the farm, they had taken her shopping and she had a blouse, and she would put a broach just below her neck type of thing. And then she would wear a skirt that had a tartan pattern, like a blue green tartan pattern that came to just above her ankles type of thing. So, this long skirt, this white blouse and that was her uniform that she wore when she was out in the Western world type of thing, but on the farm, she wore her East Indian suits.”

1. Does anyone in this photograph look uncomfortable? Can you point them out? Why do you think they look uncomfortable?
2. How do you think it feels for someone to adjust the way they dress or act to fit into a new place or culture? Can you think of times when you’ve felt like you needed to fit in or be different in a certain situation?

# SAMPLE PAGE: MATERIAL CULTURE KIT



## Phulkari

The term “Phulkari,” rooted in Punjabi culture, is derived from the fusion of two words: ‘Phul’ and ‘Kari,’ signifying ‘flower’ and ‘work.’ Consequently, the word Phulkari beautifully translates into ‘floral work’ or ‘flower art.’ This tradition is a testament to the art of rural handmade embroidery in Punjab and is often referred to as the quintessential folk embroidery of the region.

The Phulkari embroidery is a vivid tapestry of colors, and it breathes life into the tapestry of people’s lives, painting them with vibrancy and energy.

In ancient times, the birth of a daughter in a Punjabi family was celebrated as a highly auspicious occasion. As soon as a girl graced a family with her presence, mothers and grandmothers embarked on the sacred task of crafting Phulkaris. Their belief was deeply rooted in the notion that the girl child would become a creator of future generations. These intricately embroidered Phulkaris held a special purpose, as they were destined to be presented at the time of her marriage, carrying with them the rich heritage and blessings of generations past.

1. Does your family have any embroidery pieces that have been passed down (ex: quilts, knitted items, cross stitch etc.)?
2. Have you ever created or worked on something with a family member (any traditions or activities)? What did you make together, and what was the most fun part of working on it with your family?

# SAMPLE PAGE: MATERIAL CULTURE KIT



## Spice Box

This stainless-steel spice container is characterized by its sleek design and a secure, snug-fitting lid with usually seven small circular compartments. Known as a “spice box” or “traditional Indian spice box,” this kitchen essential holds a cherished place in traditional Indian culinary spaces. Referred to as a “masala dabba,” this spice storage container is a vital component of Indian kitchens, keeping essential ingredients readily accessible, streamlining the cooking process.

This ingenious spice box is dedicated to storing the quintessential spices frequently used in Indian cuisine. Its purpose is to offer a convenient means of accessing the indispensable Indian spices required for everyday cooking. This spice box contains salt, black pepper, chili powder, turmeric, cumin seeds, garam masala and fenugreek leaves.

1. Can you think of any unique tools or containers you use at home for cooking or any other activities?
2. If you were to fill the spice box with your own spices, which ones would you include and why?





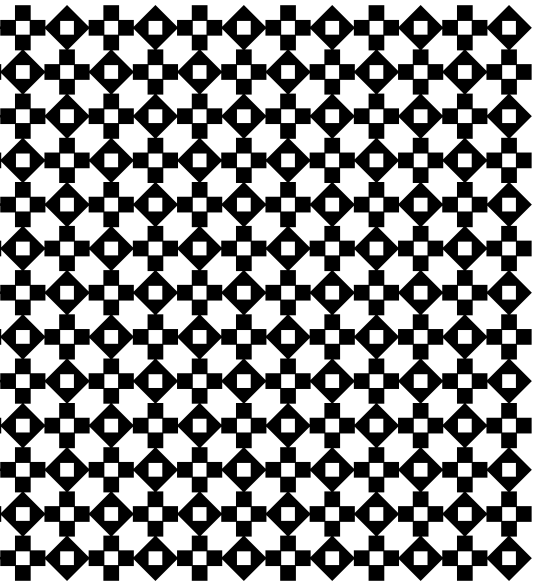
## DIGITAL ACCESS TO HERITAGE

The Digital Access to Heritage Guide brings *Des Pardes* digital content into classrooms using a framework of short videos and discussion questions to explore universal themes and increase cultural literacy.

This free resource provides you with private links to video content featured in our exhibition, followed by discussion questions to deepen student learning.

Each three to five minute video is a compilation of interviews by South Asian Canadian community members on universal themes such as Family, Migration, Contemporary Culture, and more! This guide can be utilized on its own or as preparation for an in-person field trip to the Reach. Email [programs@thereach.ca](mailto:programs@thereach.ca) to receive a digital copy for your class.

# SAMPLE PAGE: DIGITAL ACCESS TO HERITAGE



## MIGRATION



<https://youtu.be/4xGi2SA3Jys>

Saleha tells us about how her grandfather chose to come to Canada instead of his planned journey to the United States. Does your family have any stories about coming to Canada?



Mindy Rama was five years old when she moved to Canada, and Prabhpreet Singh came here recently to study at university. Do you know how long your family has been living in Canada?

Mindy Rama talks about the difficulties her mother went through on their journey to Canada, where so many things were new and different to what she was used to. Have you ever travelled to a new place? Can you think of a time when things were different than what you were used to? What are some things that would make a big move easier, or more difficult?

## FAMILY



[https://youtu.be/\\_pD\\_14r\\_0PI](https://youtu.be/_pD_14r_0PI)

Shakeel tells us about his friends acting like his family in Canada. Who do you consider as part of your family? Do families have to be related?



Harwant talks about having two homelands. Where do you consider your homeland to be? Is it here or somewhere else? He also speaks about living and thinking with a multi-generational mindset. Do you know anyone who lives in a multi-generational household? What do you think would be nice about living together as a big family? What might be difficult? What does thinking multi-generationally mean? How would intentionally considering your ancestors and your descendants affect your decision-making?



Saniya tells us about how her parents' bravery in their lives and how their decision-making helps empower her to take risks. Can you think of a time when you had to be brave or take a risk?

## BUSINESS & LIVELIHOODS

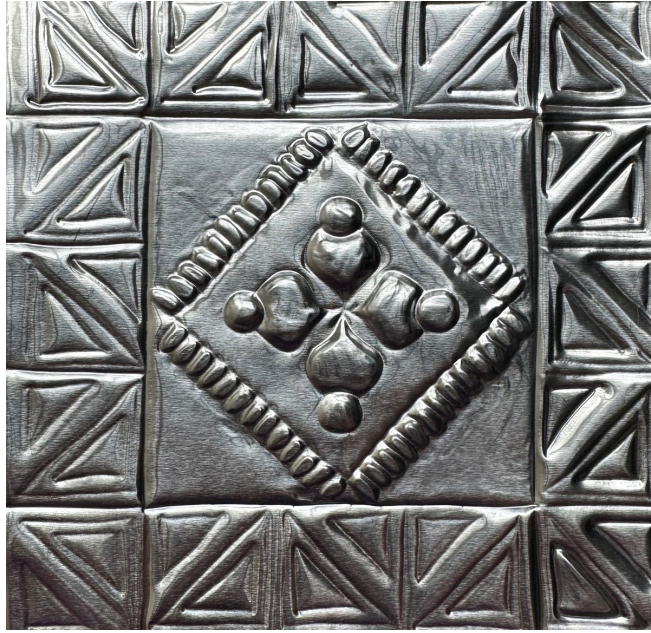


<https://youtu.be/cZgGrMj2W00>

Harpreet tells us about her family's farm, which has been passed down over generations. Does your family have a business? What is it? If you were going to start a business, what would it be?



Dave talks about his parents starting a newspaper, the Punjabi Patrika, to provide local positive news in both Punjabi and English. How would your business benefit the community?



## EDUKITS

Bring arts and culture to life at home with our EduKits!

Each new exhibition season, we offer free kits (while supplies last) with easy-to-follow instructions and all the materials you'll need to create fun and educational art projects.

Our special *Des Pardes* EduKit is inspired by the ancient techniques of metal embossing.

Kids and adults alike will explore personal storytelling using an interesting technique and unique materials. This activity is great fun for all ages! The kit includes information on the process, art materials, educational information about ancient metal artifacts, and a special opportunity to contribute your completed design to the exhibition! Pick up a free kit at The Reach, or order in bulk at \$1 each for your class at [thereach.ca/resources](http://thereach.ca/resources).

**Attention Educators:** Edukits are developed to address many of the learning goals represented in the “Big Ideas” and Core Competencies in BC’s curriculum, and offer an easily administered, complete lesson for K-12. Our *Des Pardes* Edukit complements learning goals in Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Arts Education.



## CLASS FIELD TRIPS

Visiting The Reach is a great way to engage students with art, history & culture in a fun and accessible environment! Through inquiry-based tours and hands-on explorations, students will make connections to exhibition content and themes as they relate to their own lives. School visits are open to groups of children outside of traditional schooling- Camps, clubs, youth groups, day cares, homeschoolers, and agencies serving children with diverse abilities are welcome to access our program!

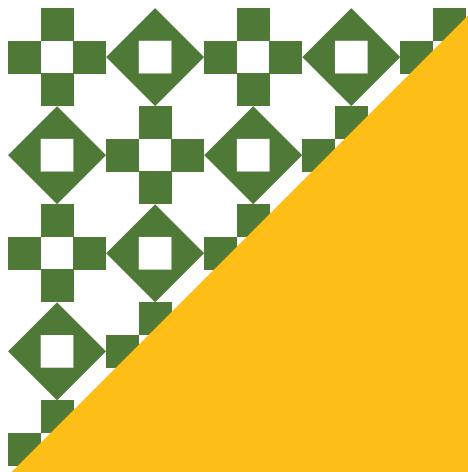
Field trips are available Tuesday – Friday.

**Tour & Try:** Guided tour of our current exhibitions followed by a hands-on, facilitated engagement or art activity. (60-90 minutes total) \$10/person. Minimum 10 participants.

**Tour:** Guided tour of our current exhibitions (30-45 mins). \$7/person.

Groups over 15 will be split into smaller groups and rotate between the tour and activity stations. We require at least one adult chaperone present for every 10 students. There is no charge for chaperones. Maximum group size: 72.

To request a field trip, please register at [thereach.ca/visit](http://thereach.ca/visit) at least two weeks prior to your visit.



# Thank You!

For more information about any of our Educator resources, or to make suggestions for resources you need for your classroom, contact:

Andrea Orlosky  
Curator of Learning & Community Engagement

[aorlosky@thereach.ca](mailto:aorlosky@thereach.ca)  
604-864-8087

