Many many years ago, a Chinese princess called Hang Li Po was married to the Malacca Sultan Mansoor Shah. 500 Chinese men accompanied her to Malacca islands. Now these men married Malaysian women and their children were called Peranakans. The word Peranakan comes from a Malay word ‘Anak’ which means ‘child’. Over the years a lot of traders travelled by ship to these islands and other parts to trade. Some of them liked the Malacca Straits so much that they decided to live there permanently.

Imagine that you lived in this house, what are the things that you would want?

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 

You have seen the things that the Peranakans brought from so many countries. Can you circle those countries on this map?

Draw your favourite object from the exhibition here.
1. Do you see the old couple sitting in the living room? The Peranakan women were called Nyonya and the men Baba.

2. Look at the clothes carefully, find these in the clothes.

   - How do you think the designs are made?
     - Embroidery
     - Weaving
     - Painting

   These have been made using Batik. Is the word familiar to you?

   In this technique designs are made on the fabric using wax resist. The cloth is painted with wax on the designs and then dyed in various colours. The parts which are not covered with wax get dyed.

3. Do you know what an altar is? The Peranakan practiced the Tao religion. You can see the statue of Guan Gong. Have you seen a god like him before?

4. There are a lot of dragons carved on the table. Count the number of dragons that you can see on the table and write here.

   Why do you think the dragons are carved on the table?

   The dragon is one of the four mythical animals in Chinese mythology, it signified power, strength and good luck.

   Colour the dragon.

5. Do you see the pretty cloth? It is an altar cloth, it was used to decorate the altar on special days like festivals. Have you ever heard of the qilin?

   The Qilin is one of the four divine creatures in Chinese Mythology. It is a very popular motif in Peranakan art.

   Can you find the qilin on the altar cloth on the ancestor veneration table?

6. Did you know that the Peranakans were gifted noodles on their birthdays because the length of the noodle would signify long life?

   What kind of food do you think was served in this?

7. A Peranakan Wedding

   The wedding is a very important event for the Peranakans. A typical Peranakan wedding lasts around 12 days!

   Why don’t you make your own altar cloth with your favourite animals?

   Do you see these colourful things in the cabinet? They decorate their beds with these.