

# Dancing with Shiva

Supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust in memory of Paul Hamlyn

A counting trail for young children



## Dancing with Shiva

This trail leads young visitors and their families on a journey to discover some of the British Museum's treasures from India and Southeast Asia. On the way, there are counting activities and the chance to meet the Buddha and the Hindu gods Shiva and Ganesha.

**The Joseph E Hotung Gallery, Room 33, is on the Main floor.**

**Starting point:** Room 33 in the north of the Museum. Turn left on entering the gallery.

**Time:** about 30–40 minutes

**Suitable for age:** 3–6 years

**Access:** 13 low steps up to Room 33. North lift adjacent to steps.



If you have enjoyed this trail, there are other journeys round the British Museum you could try. Ask for them in the Reading Room:

- Sailing on the Nile: a voyage through ancient Egypt
- Travelling through time: ancient Greece through the ages
- Tracking fantastic creatures: a trip across the globe
- Searching for treasures: Anglo-Saxons and Vikings revealed

**Also for young children:**

- Chasing rainbows with Mama Wata: a trail about colour and shapes

**You can also visit our special websites for children:**

[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass)  
[www.ancientcivilisations.co.uk](http://www.ancientcivilisations.co.uk)

### Credits

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# 1

Use the directions on the back cover to find Room 33. Turn left.

## Shiva Nataraja

My name is Shiva.  
I am the Lord of the Dance.  
My dance is the dance of the stars.  
My dance is the dance of time.  
My dance is the dance of life.  
Come and dance with me!

Can you find me?



Clue: Case 37 in the centre of the gallery



Time to count!  
Can you count how many...



arms you can see?

That's right! 4 arms

hands you can see?

That's right! 4 hands

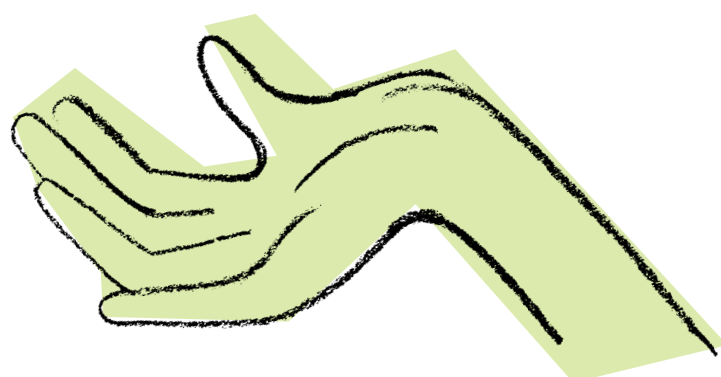


legs I am  
standing on?

That's right! 1 leg

Time to look!

Look closely at my hands.  
Can you copy how I hold my fingers?  
Some are difficult to do,  
so well done!



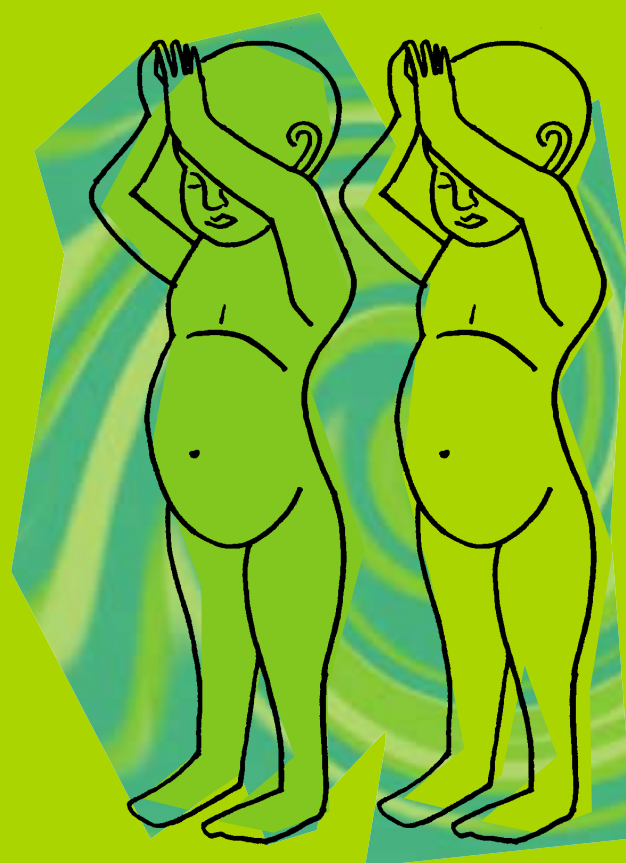
Let's dance to the next stop...!



# 2 Thungedaw Figures

We are Thungedaws.  
We stood near the throne of  
the King of Burma.

Can you find us?



Clue: look near the ground in Case 45



Time to count!  
Can you count how many...  
of us you can see?

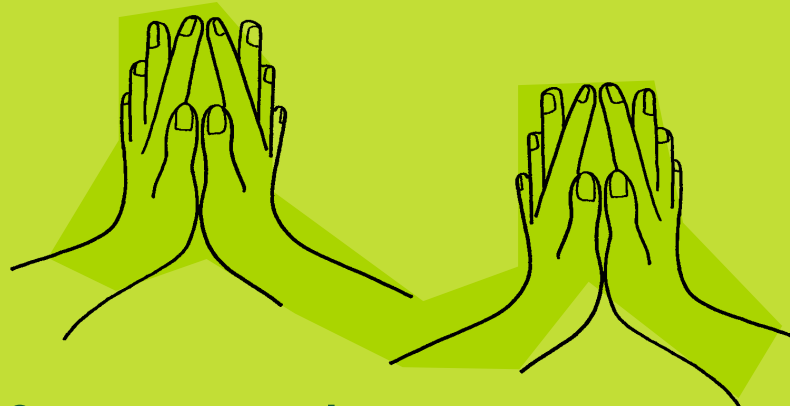
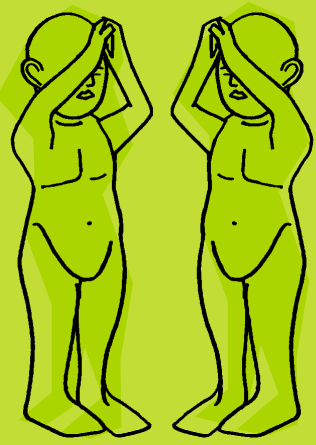
That's right! 2 of us

heads we have?

That's right! 2 heads

hands we have?

That's right! 4 hands



fingers we have?

That's right! 20 fingers

belly buttons we have?

That's right! 2 belly buttons

Time to look!

What colour are we?

That's right! We are gold.

Do you have a tummy like us?

Don't forget to cover your tummy again!

Can you stand with your  
arms like ours?



If we could sing, what sort  
of song would we sing?

Let's dance to the next stop...!



# 3

## Seated Buddha from Thailand

I was a prince.  
I gave up all my riches to walk  
the world with nothing  
and to search for the truth about life.  
Now they call me the Buddha.

Can you find me?



Time to look!

Am I...  
calm or angry

That's right! I am calm.



quiet or loud

That's right! I am quiet.

Are my eyes wide open or  
partly closed?

That's right! They are partly closed.



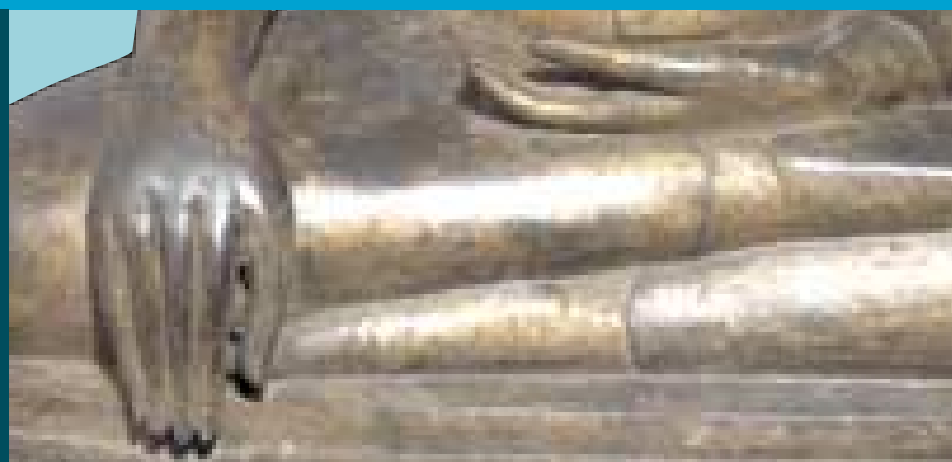
Can you sit like the  
Buddha?



Let's dance to the next stop...!

Can you see my long ears?

When I was a Prince,  
I wore heavy gold earrings  
which stretched my ears.





4

# Brass lion from Tibet

I am a lion from a land  
of mountains.  
I am the Snow Lion.

Can you find me?



Time to count!  
Can you count how many...

paws I have?

That's right! I have 4 paws.

claws I have on one paw?

That's right! I have 5 claws.

tails I have?

That's right! I have 1 tail.



ears I have? That's right! I have 2 ears.

teeth I have?

That's right! I have 14 teeth.



noses I have?

That's right! I have 1 nose.



Time to look!

Can you see my long tongue?

Don't do that to strangers  
or they may think you are rude!

Let's dance to the next stop...!

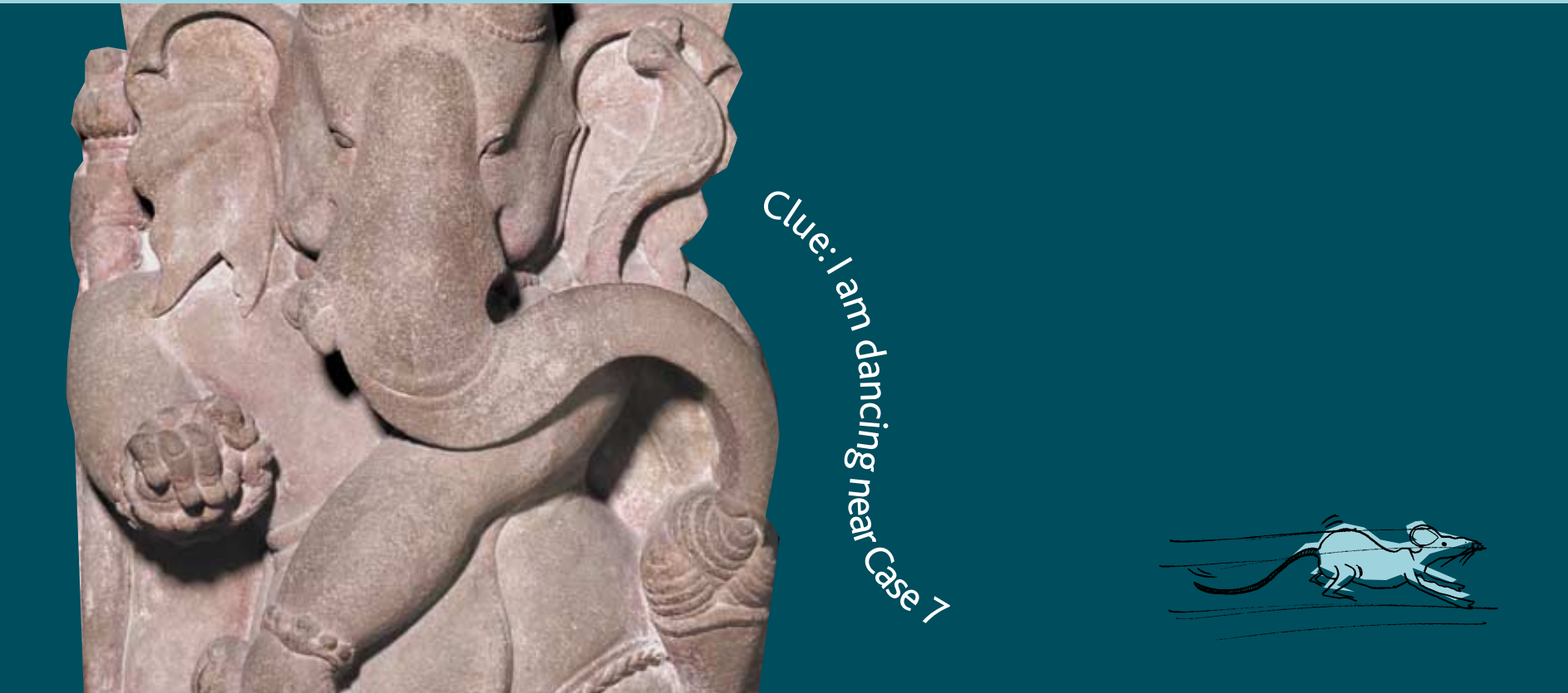
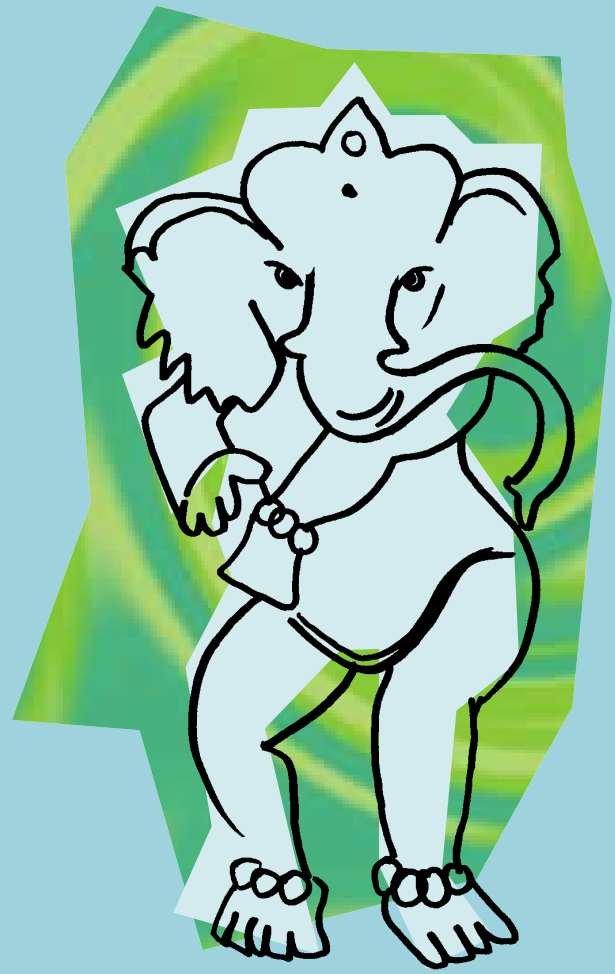


# 5

## Dancing Ganesha

My name is Ganesha.  
I bring good luck.  
I ride on a rat.  
I am HUGE and my rat is tiny.

Can you find me?



Time to look!  
Can you see my long trunk?  
Can you see my tusks?

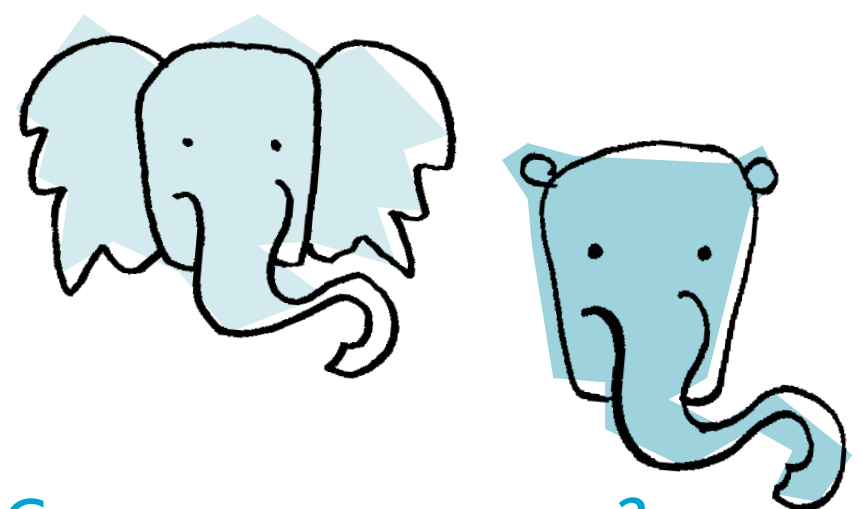
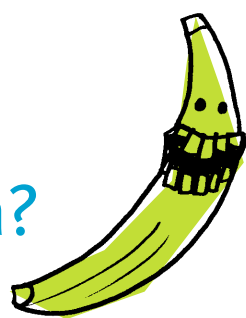
These are banana shaped teeth.

Do you have teeth shaped like a banana?

No, that's silly!

Do bananas have teeth?

No, that's sillier!!



Can you see my ears?  
Are they BIG or are they small?

That's right! My ears are BIG.

What noise does a rat make?  
That's right! Rats squeak!  
Can you squeak?

What noise does an elephant make?  
That's right! Elephants trumpet!  
Can you trumpet?

Can you hold your arm to your nose like a trunk and trumpet?

Can you hold your arm to your nose like a trunk, walk like an elephant and trumpet?



Can you wave your arms like elephant ears, walk like an elephant and trumpet?  
Well done! That's a lot to do all at once.

Can you see my ENORMOUS tummy?  
Mine is the BIGGEST tummy of all!  
I eat lots of sweets. Can you see my sweets?

Let's dance to the last stop...!



# 6

## Shiva Nataraja

... back to the beginning.

Now dance like me!  
Find a glass case where you  
can see yourself.

Give yourself a wave!



Ask someone to sit behind you.  
Now, all hold out your arms.  
You have 4 arms!  
Now, lift one leg if you want to.  
Now, everyone move your  
arms up and down.  
**You are dancing like Shiva!**



**You have danced in a circle.  
You have danced back to  
the start.**

Now you can dance off  
somewhere else!