Comment your opinion, why it is necessary to study Tamil as a language in the curriculum.

Firstly, let us know what is Tamil. **Tamil** (தமிழ்) is a [classical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_languages_of_India) Dravidian language natively spoken by the [Tamil people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_people) of [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia). It is one of the two longest-surviving [classical languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_languages) in India, along with [Sanskrit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit), attested since c. 300 BCE.d"Tamil" has its origins in the ancient Tamil Sangams, where it was first recorded in the [Tholkappiyam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tholkappiyam" \o "Tholkappiyam) around the 2nd century BCE. The language belongs to the southern branch of the [Dravidian language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dravidian_language) family and shares close ties with Malayalam and Kannada. Despite external influences, Tamil has retained a sense of linguistic purism, especially in formal and literary contexts.

Tamil was the [lingua franca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingua_franca) for early maritime traders, with inscriptions found in places like [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka), [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand), and [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt). The language has a well-documented history with literary works like [Sangam literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sangam_literature), consisting of over 2,000 poems. Tamil script evolved from Tamil Brahmi, and later, the vatteluttu script was used until the current script was standardized. The language has a distinct grammatical structure, with agglutinative morphology that allows for complex word formations.

Tamil is predominantly spoken in [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu), India, and the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. It has significant speaking populations in Malaysia, Singapore, and among diaspora communities. Tamil has been recognized as a classical language by the Indian government and holds official status in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Singapore. The language has seen efforts to purify it by reducing the influence of Sanskrit and other foreign loanwords. Tamil maintains its classical literary tradition while adapting to modern changes in colloquial speech and writing. Its phonology is characterized by a rich set of consonants and vowels, and it has a script that differs from other Indic scripts by its use of visible marks to indicate vowel omission.

**Etymology**

The earliest extant Tamil literary works and their commentaries celebrate the [Pandiyan Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandiyan_Kingdom) for the organization of long-termed [Tamil Sangams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Sangams), which researched,  developed and made amendments in Tamil language. Even though the name of the language which was developed by these [Tamil Sangams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Sangams) is mentioned as Tamil, the period when the name "Tamil" came to be applied to the language is unclear, as is the precise etymology of the name. The earliest attested use of the name is found in [Tholkappiyam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tholkappiyam" \o "Tholkappiyam), which is dated as early as late 2nd century BC. The [Hathigumpha inscription](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hathigumpha_inscription" \o "Hathigumpha inscription), inscribed around a similar time period (150 BCE), by [Kharavela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kharavela" \o "Kharavela), the Jain king of [Kalinga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalinga_(historical_region)), also refers to a *Tamira Samghatta* (*Tamil confederacy*)

The [Samavayanga Sutra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samavayanga_Sutra" \o "Samavayanga Sutra) dated to the 3rd century BC contains a reference to a Tamil script named 'Damili'.

Southworth suggests that the name comes from *tam-miḻ* > *tam-iḻ* "self-speak", or "our own speech"[Kamil Zvelebil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamil_Zvelebil) suggests an etymology of *tamShrauta and Jainism.*

*Tamil literary works placed a significant importance on enhancing the lives of women centuries back. There were several women poets like Avvaiyar, Ponmudiyar, Velli Vitiyar and many others during the Sangam period and this reveals the kind of importance that Tamils and the literature attached to women.*

*If you lack the basic knowledge of the Tamil language and are looking for ways to learn Tamil online, there are a plethora of online Tamil classes and resources available. Powerkid Tamil Academy offers one-on-one online Tamil classes to support Tamil learners and the diaspora carry forward the legacy of Tamil language.*

*Freedom movement of India*

*Tamils had played an important role in the freedom movement of India. Marudhu brothers, Puli Thevar, Velu Nachiyar, Veeran Sundharlingam, Dheeran Chinnamalai, Veera Pandiya Kattabomman were some important people who participated in rebellious movements against the British occupation in India. Subramania Bharathi, Si Su Chellappa and many others evoked the sentiments of freedom among the Tamil minds through their literary works. VO Chidambaram Pillai, Kamaraj, Satyamurthi, and Rajagopalachari were other prominent leaders from Tamil Nadu who lead the movement from the front.*

*So, Tamils have played an important role in leading several movements in India. Their contribution to literature will stand good for ages unknown.*

*Tamil people are naturally hard working and contribute to a significant share of the country’s GDP. The entrepreneurial spirit complemented by their hard work has created an industrial revolution in Tamil Nadu.*

*Why is it important to learn Tamil?*

*The Tamil diaspora is spread across the world and to bond with them as a community, it becomes important to know the essence of Tamil language learning. The bond is always stronger when it involves conversations in the native language. If you do not have a strong foothold in Tamil language, learn common words in Tamil so you can participate in the conversation.*

*Beyond bonding with fellow Tamils, learning Tamil widens the exposure to the rich Tamil literature. From code of conduct to the science and maths understanding, Tamils hold a prominent place in the society. Their literature is rich and learning Tamil opens a wide door of possibilities.*

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*Where I can learn Tamil?*

*If you are looking for a reliable online Tamil classes for yourself or for your children so they can*[***learn Tamil online***](https://powerkidtamil.com/)*, Powerkid Tamil Academy is the right place. From basic and beginner level classes to intermediate and advanced classes, Powerkid Tamil Academy offers online Tamil classes in levels. If you are looking to just learn common words in Tamil, our classes can be customized to suit that. Or otherwise, you wish to learn the intricacies of the Tamil grammar, our classes can be customized to meet the requirements of the learner.*

*If you are exploring how to learn Tamil from native Tamil teachers, we are sure you will love the online Tamil classes from Powerkid Tamil Academy because all our classes are handled by native Tamil speaking teachers. Our teachers are child friendly and exercise utmost patience in educating the children. With*[***Powerkid Tamil Academy***](https://powerkidtamil.com/)*, Tamil language learning is easier than ever before.*

*Sign up to our online Tamil classes and learn Tamil online from any*

*-iḻ*, with *tam* meaning "self" or "one's self", and "*-iḻ*" having the connotation of "unfolding sound". Alternatively, he suggests a derivation of *tamiḻ* < *tam-iḻ* < \**tav-iḻ* < \**tak-iḻ*, meaning in origin "the proper process (of speaking)". However, this is deemed unlikely by Southworth due to the contemporary use of the compound 'centamiḻ', which means refined speech in the earliest literature.

The Tamil Lexicon of [University of Madras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Madras) defines the word "Tamil" as "sweetness". S. V. Subramanian suggests the meaning "sweet sound", from *tam* – "sweet" and *il* – "sound".

**Classification**

*Main article:*[*Dravidian languages*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dravidian_languages)

*Tamil* belongs to the [southern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Dravidian_languages) branch of the [Dravidian languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dravidian_languages), a family of around 26 languages native to the [Indian subcontinent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_subcontinent). It is also classified as being part of a [Tamil language family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_languages) that, alongside Tamil proper, includes the languages of about 35 ethno-linguistic groups such as the [Irula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irula_language" \o "Irula language) and [Yerukula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yerukala_language" \o "Yerukala language) languages (see [SIL Ethnologue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SIL_Ethnologue)).

The closest major relative of Tamil is [Malayalam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malayalam); the two began diverging around the 9th century AD. Although many of the differences between Tamil and Malayalam demonstrate a pre-historic divergence of the western dialect, the process of separation into a distinct language, Malayalam, was not completed until sometime in the 13th or 14th century.

Additionally Kannada is also relatively close to the Tamil language and shares the format of the formal ancient Tamil language. While there are some variations from the Tamil language, Kannada still preserves a lot from its roots. As part of the southern family of Indian languages and situated relatively close to the northern parts of India, Kannada also shares some Sanskrit words, similar to Malayalam. Many of the formerly used words in Tamil have been preserved with little change in Kannada. This shows a relative parallel to Tamil, even as Tamil has undergone some changes in modern ways of speaking.

**Tamil language is worshipped as a God**

Tamil cultures places enormous importance on the Tamil language. That Tamil people personify Tamil language and call it ‘Tamil Thai’ meaning mother reveals the significance of the attachment Tamils have with the language

The term ‘Tamil Thai’ was first coined by Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai, a renowned Indian scholar known for his “Manonmaniyam” drama.

Tamils have built a temple for Tamil Thai at Karaikudi where the presiding deity is Tamil Thai.

Tamil is the official language of three countries

Tamil is recognized as one of the national languages amidst 22 other languages by the Indian constitution. Tamil is the official language and mother tongue of people living in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Beyond India, it is also the official language of two other countries including Sri Lanka and Singapore. It is also spoken by more than 3 million people in USA, UK, and Canada. More than 1.2 million people in Malaysia speak Tamil. It is also one of the primary language of education in Malaysia, and one must note that there are more than 500 schools that function on Tamil as a medium of instruction.

Tamil is declared as one of the classical languages

In India, for a language to be recognized as classical, it must meet the following criteria.

* It should be having an ancient origin
* It should have an independent tradition
* It should have an original literature.

Tamil has met all of these criteria to be declared as a classical language by the Indian government in 2004. It has also been added to the ‘Memory of the World Register’, part of UNESCO’s global programme.

Importance of Tamil in India

If you are exploring [**why is it important to learn Tamil**](https://powerkidtamil.com/why-is-it-important-to-learn-tamil/), this section provides the right answer.

Prominence of Tamil literature

Tamil literature is vast and extensive and some of the works are renowned across the world. It has served to communicate the thoughts, ideas, and uniqueness of the lives of the Tamil people.

Tholkappiyam penned by Tholkappiyar is a famous book on Tamil grammar. It was written around 200 BC and contains sutras on a variety of subjects including phonology, morphology, vocabulary, sentence structure, and spotlights the significance of grammar in the Tamil language learning.

Thirukkural from Tiruvalluvar have stood test of time to emerge as one of the most renowned work in Tamil literature. It signifies the art of living and has 133 chapters and each of them have 10 kurals making upto 1330 kurals in total. It talks about human virtues and serves as a code of conduct for Tamils and Indians no matter where they live.

It is said that Mahatma Gandhi considered to be the father of our nation wanted to learn Tamil so he can read Thirukkural in its original form. Such is the prominence of Thirukkural in Indian culture.

The Tamil literature has produced five great epics as to what we call ‘Aimperum kappiyam’ in Tamil – Silapathikaram by Ilango Adigal in 1st century CE describes the tragic love story of Kannagi and her husband Kovalan; Manimekalai emphasizes love and charity as the most important quality of human life; Seevaka Chintamanu by Thiruthakka Devar, a Jain monk describes the forms of music, dance and other arts persistent during the era; Valayapathi is a renowned Jain work of the 9th century CE and Kundalakesi talks about the upperhand of Buddhism over Shrauta and Jainism.

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Tamil culture is significant and as native Tamils, it becomes important to carry forward its legacy no matter where we live. It is a duty to enrich our children and the next generation of kids with the intricacies of Tamil language.

**Learning Tamil as a language in the curriculum can be beneficial for a number of reasons, including**:

* **Cultural awareness**

Learning Tamil can help you understand the history, culture, and traditions associated with the language. This can help you appreciate different perspectives and develop cognitive empathy.

* **Communication**

Tamil is spoken in many countries, including India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Singapore. Learning Tamil can help you communicate more easily with locals in these countries.

* **Cognitive abilities**

Learning a foreign language can improve your cognitive abilities, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, and memory. Tamil is a complex language, so it can help boost your brain power.

* **Understanding South Asia**

Tamil is a modern language that is important for understanding South Asia. It also has a classical history of writing that goes back about 2,500 years.

Tamil is the official language of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Singapore, and Sri Lanka.

**Tamil culture** refers to the culture of the [Tamil people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_people). The Tamils speak the [Tamil language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language), one of the oldest languages in India with more than two thousand years of [written history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_literature).

[Archaeological evidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological_evidence) from the [Tamilakam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamilakam" \o "Tamilakam) region indicates a continuous history of human occupation for more than 3,800 years. Historically, the region was inhabited by Tamil-speaking [Dravidian people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dravidian_people). It was ruled by various kingdoms such as the [Sangam period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sangam_period) (3rd century BCE to 3rd century CE) [triumverate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Crowned_Kings" \o "Three Crowned Kings) of the [Cheras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chera_dynasty" \o "Chera dynasty), [Cholas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chola_dynasty) and [Pandyas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandya_dynasty" \o "Pandya dynasty), the [Pallavas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pallava_dynasty) (3rd–9th century CE), and the later [Vijayanagara Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vijayanagara_Empire" \o "Vijayanagara Empire) (14th–17th century CE). [European colonization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_India) began in the 17th century CE, and continued for two centuries until the [Indian Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India%27s_Independence) in 1947. Due to its long history, the culture has seen multiple influences over the years and have developed diversely.

The Tamils had outside contact in the form of diplomatic and trade relations with other kingdoms to the north and with the [Romans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_empire) since the Sangam era. The conquests of Tamil kings in the 10th century CE resulted in Tamil culture spreading to [South](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia) and [Southeast Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Asia). Tamils form the majority in the [South Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_India) state of [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu) and a significant portion of northern [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). Tamils have migrated world-wide since the 19th century CE and a significant population exists in Sri Lanka, [South Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa), [Mauritius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritius), [Fiji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiji), as well as other regions such as the Southeast Asia, [Middle East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East), [Caribbean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean) and parts of the [Western World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_World).

***Art and architecture***

*According to Tamil literature, there are 64 art forms called [aayakalaigal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kal%C4%81" \o "Kalā).*[*[66]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-66)[*[67]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-67)*The art is classified into two broad categories: kavin kalaigal (beautiful art forms) which include architecture, sculpture, painting and poetry and nun kalaigal (fine art forms) which include dance, music and drama.*[*[68]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-68)

***Architecture***

*[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Andal_Temple.jpg)The large*[*gopuram*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gopuram)*is a hallmark of*[*Dravidian architecture*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dravidian_architecture)

[*Dravidian architecture*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dravidian_architecture)*style of temple architecture consisted of a central sanctum (*[*garbhagriha*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garbhagriha)*) topped by pyramidal tower or*[*vimana*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vimana)*, porches or [mantapas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantapa" \o "Mantapa) preceding the door leading to the sanctum and large gate-pyramids or*[*gopurams*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gopuram)*on the quadrangular enclosures that surround the temple. Besides these, they consisted of large pillared halls and one or more*[*water tanks*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushkarni)*or wells. The gopuram is a monumental tower, usually ornate at the entrance of the temple forms a prominent feature of*[*Hindu temples*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koil)*of the Dravidian style. They are topped by [kalasams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalasam" \o "Kalasam) (*[*finials*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finial)*) and function as gateways through the walls that surround the temple complex.*[*[73]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-73)

*There are a number of early*[*rock-cut*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_rock-cut_architecture)*cave-temples established by the various Tamil kingdoms.*[*[74]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-74)[*[75]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-75)[*[76]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-76)*The*[*Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Group_of_Monuments_at_Mahabalipuram)*, built by the*[*Pallavas*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pallava_art_and_architecture)*in the 7th and 8th centuries has more than forty rock-cut temples, monoliths and*[*rock reliefs*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_relief)*. The Pallavas, who built the group of monuments in*[*Mahabalipuram*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahabalipuram)*and*[*Kanchipuram*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanchipuram)*, were one of the earliest patronisers of the Dravidian architectural style.*[*[77]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-UNC-77)[*[80]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-80)*These gateways became regular features in the*[*Cholas*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chola_art_and_architecture)*and the*[*Pandya architecture*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandyan_art_and_architecture)*, was later expanded by the Vijayanagara and the [Nayaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madurai_Nayaks" \o "Madurai Nayaks) and spread to other parts such as Sri Lanka.*[*[81]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-81)[*[82]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-82)[*[83]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-83)[*Madurai*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madurai)*(also called as "Temple city"), which hosts many temples including the massive*[*Meenakshi Amman Temple*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meenakshi_Amman_Temple)*and*[*Kanchipuram*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_temples_in_Kanchipuram)*, considered as one of the*[*seven great holy cities*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapta_Puri)*are amongst the notable centres of Dravidian architecture. The [Srirangam Ranganathaswamy Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranganathaswamy_Temple,_Srirangam" \o "Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam), which is amongst the biggest functioning Hindu temples in the world, has a 236 feet (72 m) high [Rajagopuram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajagopuram" \o "Rajagopuram). The*[*state emblem*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emblem_of_Tamil_Nadu)*also features the*[*Lion Capital of Ashoka*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lion_Capital_of_Ashoka)*with an image of a Gopuram on the background.*

[*Vimana*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vimana_(architectural_feature))*, which are similar structures built over the inner sanctum of the temple are usually smaller than the gopurams in the Dravidian architecture with a few exceptions such as the [Brihadisvara Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brihadisvara_Temple" \o "Brihadisvara Temple) in [Thanjavur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanjavur" \o "Thanjavur). There are more than 34,000 temples in Tamil Nadu built across various periods some of which are several centuries old. The influence of Tamil culture had led to the construction of various temples outside India by the Tamil dispora.*

*The [Mugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mugal_Empire" \o "Mugal Empire) influence in medieval times and the*[*British*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire)*influence later gave rise to a blend of*[*Hindu*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu)*,*[*Islamic*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic)*and*[*Gothic revival*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gothic_revival)*styles, resulting in the distinct*[*Indo-Saracenic*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Saracenic)*architecture with several institutions during the British era following the style. By the early 20th century, the*[*art deco*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_deco)*made its entry upon in the urban landscape. In the later part of the century, the architecture witnessed a rise in the*[*modern*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modernism)[*concrete*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concrete)*buildings.* ***Sculpture and paintings***

*[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Krishna_Rukmini_Satyabhama_Garuda.jpg)*[*Krishna*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krishna)*with*[*Rukmini*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rukmini)*and*[*Satyabhama*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satyabhama)*and his mount*[*Garuda*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garuda)*(12th–13th century CE) Tamil sculpture ranges from stone sculptures in temples, to detailed*[*bronze*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronze)*icons The bronze statues of the Cholas are considered to be one of the greatest contributions of Tamil art. Models made of a special mixture of*[*beeswax*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beeswax)*and [sal tree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sal_tree" \o "Sal tree)*[*resin*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resin)*were encased in clay and fired to melt the wax leaving a hollow mould, which would then be filled with molten metal and cooled to produce bronze statues.*

*Tamil paintings are usually centered around natural, religious or aesthetic themes.* [*Sittanavasal*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sittanavasal_Cave)*is a rock-cut*[*monastery*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monastery)*and temple attributed to Pandyas and Pallavas which consist of*[*frescoes*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresco)*and*[*murals*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mural)*from the 7th century CE, painted with vegetable and mineral dyes in over a thin wet surface of lime plaster.*[*[106]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-106)[*[107]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-107)[*[108]*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_culture#cite_note-108)*Similar murals are found in temple walls, the most notable examples are the murals on the [Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranganathaswamy_Temple,_Srirangam" \o "Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam) and the Brihadeeswarar temple at Thanjavur. One of the major forms of Tamil painting is*[*Thanjavur painting*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanjavur_painting)*, which originated in the 16th century CE where a base made of cloth and coated with*[*zinc oxide*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zinc_oxide)*is painted using dyes and then decorated with semi-precious stones, as well as silver or gold threads.*

*A Tamil curriculum typically encompasses several key components to promote language proficiency, cultural understanding, and critical thinking. Here’s an overview of what it might include:*

*1. Language Skills Development:*

*Reading and Writing: Focus on grammar, vocabulary, and composition.*

*Listening and Speaking: Emphasis on conversational skills and comprehension.*

*2. Literature:*

*Study of classical and contemporary Tamil literature, including poetry, prose, and drama.*

*Analysis of major works and authors to understand themes and cultural contexts.*

*3. Cultural Studies:*

*Exploration of Tamil culture, traditions, festivals, and arts.*

*Understanding the historical evolution of the Tamil language and its significance.*

*4. Grammar and Linguistics:*

*In-depth study of Tamil grammar, syntax, and phonetics.*

*Comparative studies with other languages to enhance linguistic awareness.*

*5. Creative Expression:*

*Encouragement of creative writing, storytelling, and poetry composition.*

*Activities like debates, presentations, and drama to enhance oral skills.*

*6. Modern Applications:*

*Use of technology and media in learning Tamil (e.g., digital resources, films).*

*Exposure to contemporary issues in Tamil-speaking communities.*

*7. Assessment and Evaluation:*

*Regular assessments through exams, projects, and presentations to gauge proficiency.*

*Feedback mechanisms to support continuous improvement in language skills.*

*This comprehensive approach ensures that students not only learn the language but also appreciate its cultural significance and practical applications.*

Studying Tamil as a language in the curriculum is important for several reasons:

1. Preserves Cultural Heritage: Connects students to a rich literary and cultural tradition.

2. Strengthens Identity: Fosters a sense of belonging in Tamil-speaking communities.

3. Enhances Cognitive Skills: Improves critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

4. Boosts Communication: Facilitates effective communication in Tamil-speaking regions.

5. Encourages Multilingualism: Prepares students for a globalized world by promoting language diversity.

Overall, it enriches education and preserves an important aspect of human heritage.

Incorporating Tamil into the curriculum not only enriches students’ education but also helps in preserving and promoting a vital part of human heritage.