

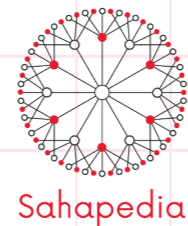
My City
My Heritage

My Puducherry

Explorers' Book

Activity Book for Children

- TO DO LIST
1. Food
 2. Culture
 3. Craft



Located on the Coromandel Coast, Puducherry, also known as Pondicherry, is a little pocket distinct from the landscape it inhabits - for it is shaped by a blend of local Tamil traditions, French cultural influence, and the enduring presence of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. Best known for its compact heritage town, the city carries visible traces of nearly two centuries of colonisation, seen in its coloured houses, gridiron streets, and seaside promenade.

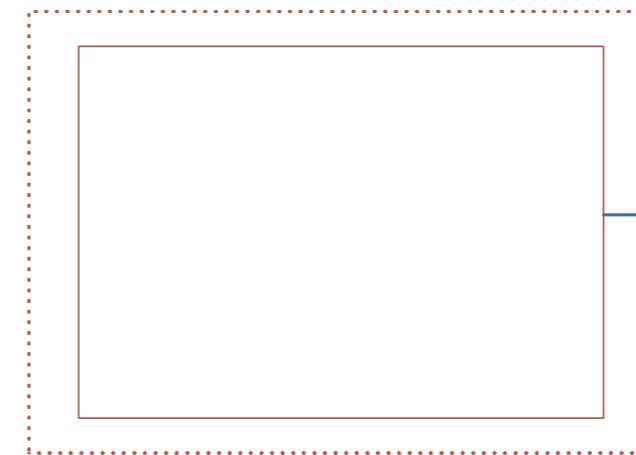
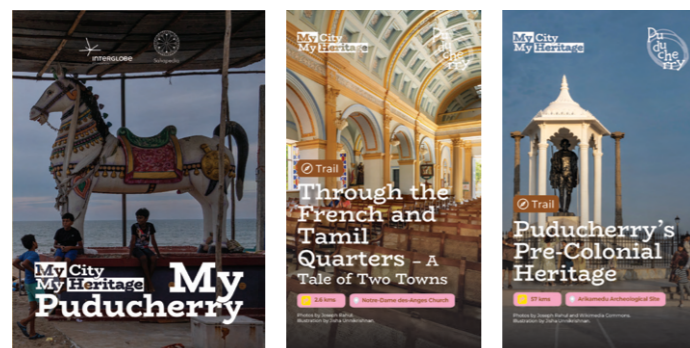
Yet there is much more to Puducherry. Ancient temples, renowned research institutions, wetlands and mangroves, bustling markets, and fishing settlements come together to form this unique coastal city.

This activity book invites you to explore Puducherry through quizzes, puzzles, and illustrations, inviting you to hear stories about its landscapes and everyday life. Think of it not as a test of what you know, but as a journey through the city from afar—one that has something to offer whether you are curious about history, architecture, nature, or culture!



Discover More:

Learn about Puducherry with curated articles and numerous recommendations with the MCMH My Puducherry Booklet and 2 heritage trails on <http://www.sahapedia.org/my-city-my-heritage/celebrating-puducherry>



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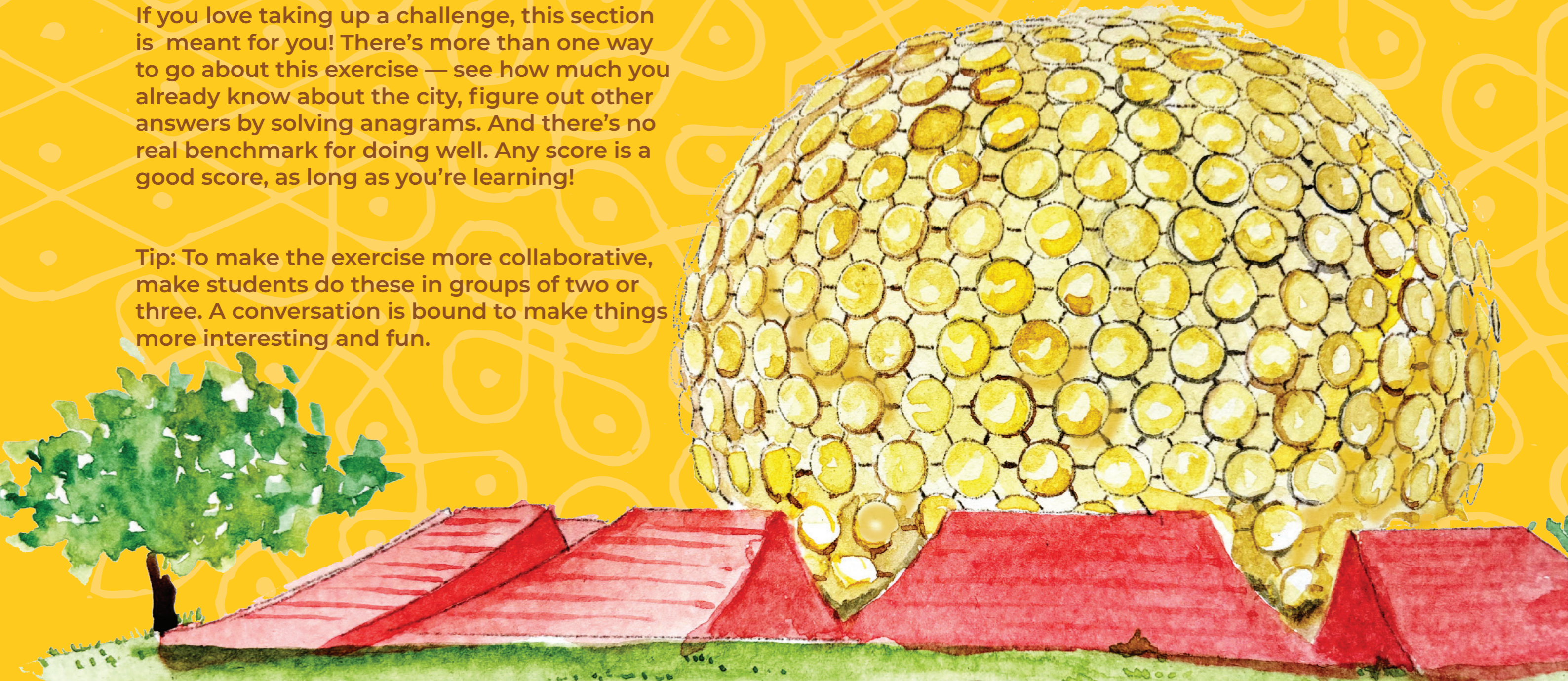
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City in Puzzles

If you love taking up a challenge, this section is meant for you! There's more than one way to go about this exercise — see how much you already know about the city, figure out other answers by solving anagrams. And there's no real benchmark for doing well. Any score is a good score, as long as you're learning!

Tip: To make the exercise more collaborative, make students do these in groups of two or three. A conversation is bound to make things more interesting and fun.



Crossword

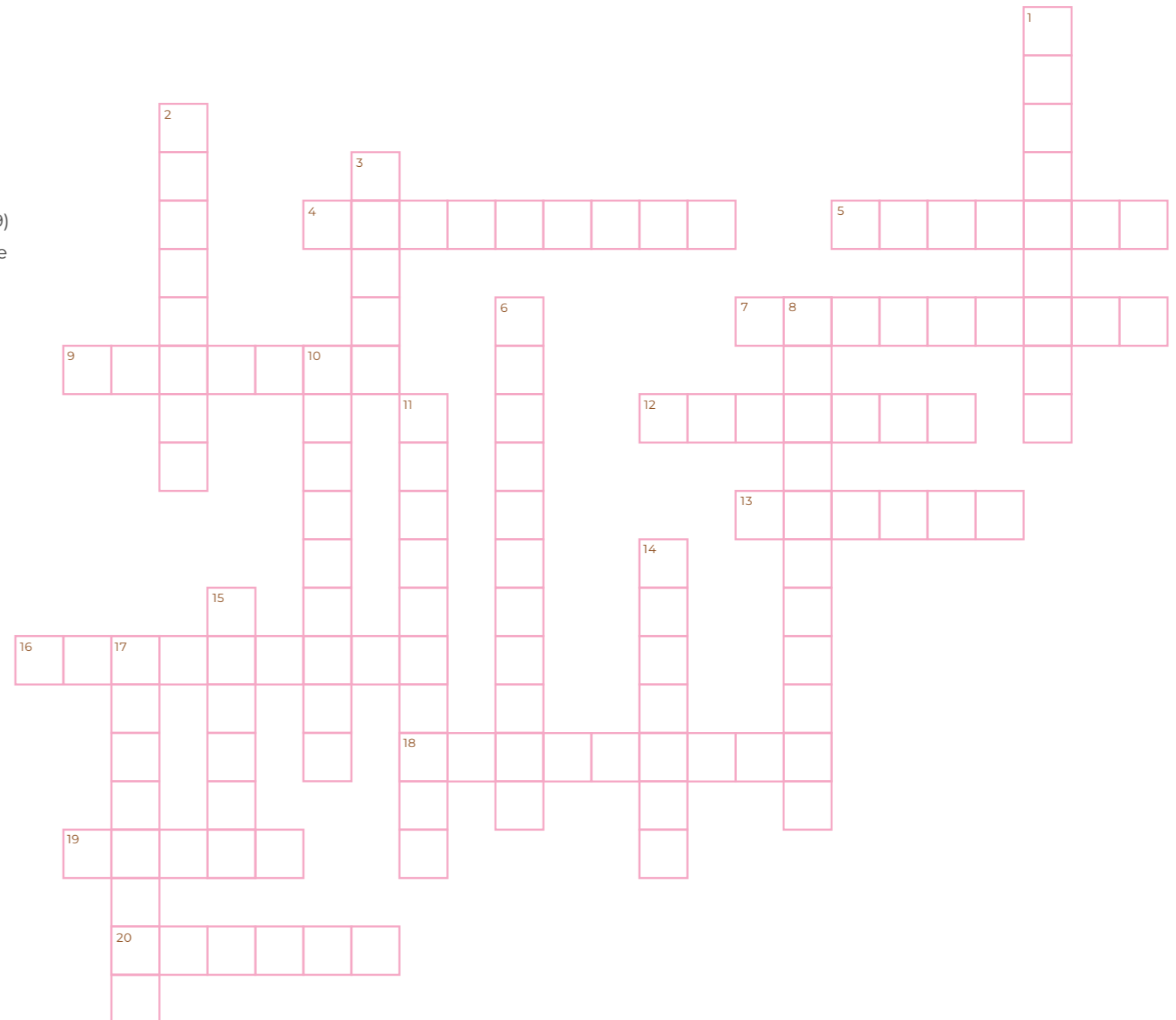
Follow the clues to crack this crossword about Puducherry!

DOWN

1. The long walkway by the beach in the heritage town (9)
2. A famous leather brand from Puducherry (8)
3. She was the famous temple elephant from the Manakula Vinayagar Temple (5)
6. A green public park in the heart of the heritage town (7,4)
8. A species of turtle that nests on the beaches near Puducherry (5,6)
10. First name of the famous philosopher, poet, and founder of the ashram in Puducherry (9)
11. A major, historically significant irrigation reservoir and heritage water body located in one of the communes (6,4)
14. A fragrant flower commonly worn in the hair by women in Puducherry (7)
15. A traditional system of medicine like Ayurveda practiced in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry (6)
17. A famous novel set partly in Puducherry about a boy stranded at sea (4,2,2)

ACROSS

4. A Tamil festival celebrated by the beach in Pondicherry (9)
5. Governor General of French India whose statue stands at one end of the beach (7)
7. An open space inside a house found in traditional homes in both the Tamil and French quarters (9)
9. A traditional raised veranda outside houses in the Tamil town for sitting and chatting (7)
12. A fragrant grass used in the region for making mats, cooling drinks, and perfumes (7)
13. A famous cafe by the beach in Puducherry in a building that was earlier the harbour office (2,4)
16. A local form of pottery which has the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag named after one of its communes (9)
18. An intentional community established near Puducherry devoted to peace and unity (9)
19. Beautiful floor designs made with rice powder outside homes in the Tamil region (5)
20. A French outdoor game played with metal balls, popular in Puducherry (6)



Scramble

We love untangling words as much as discovering Puducherry's stories! Take the hints and unscramble the words that connect to this coastal city.

1. EUTRSOI

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HINT: An important wetland lying on the border of Puducherry and Tamil Nadu.

2. MEKUDARAI

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HINT: An archeological site near Puducherry where glass beads and vats from Roman times have been found.

3. RIMARTADNIM

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HINT: The spherical structure clad with golden disks, central to the city's plan in Auroville.

4. SANHATIDARAB

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HINT: A celebrated 20th-century Tamil poet, playwright, and writer who adopted the name meaning "disciple of Bharathi" after his mentor.

5. RAVEDLUOB

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HINT: A road that forms the boundary ring of the heritage town. The word means 'a wide street lined with trees' in French.

6. LURAMIPAHAMBA

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HINT: Famous coastal town and UNESCO World Heritage Site near Puducherry known for its ancient stone temples and sculptures.

7. LENDAROMOC

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HINT: The name of the southeastern coast of India where Puducherry is located.

8. EDNOCOLOG

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HINT: A famous modernist building built in the early twentieth century by the ashram disciples in the heritage town.

9. RANIPARAKNAHSA

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HINT: Another name for the Ginghee river that flows through parts of Puducherry.

10. ELOREC

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HINT: A culture which is a combination of French and local culture.

Trivia

Puducherry's history, from the days of the Pandyas and Cholas, down to more recent French rule, has shaped its present. It's a city rich with buildings, foods, crafts and stories. Here's a quiz that gives you a glimpse of much that Puducherry has to offer.

The questions range from easy to somewhat tricky. But don't sweat it even if you don't get something right! The point is to showcase and imbibe as much information as you can.



Heritage Quiz

Easy

1. Which famous place in Pondicherry is home to many exotic plants and flowers?
 - a. Botanical Garden
 - b. Raj Niwas
 - c. Serenity beach
 - d. Sacred groves
2. Which European country colonised Pondicherry for more than a century?
 - a. Portugal
 - b. Netherlands
 - c. England
 - d. France
3. In which year did Pondicherry officially become part of India?
 - a. 1947
 - b. 1954
 - c. 1961
 - d. 1935
4. What can you often see along the beaches near Pondicherry?
 - a. Fishing boats
 - b. Camel rides
 - c. Hot air balloons
 - d. Ferris wheels
5. Which traditional craft, involving paper, is practiced in Pondicherry?
 - a. Pottery
 - b. Papier Mache
 - c. Wood carving
 - d. Weaving
6. What is the distinctive color of the buildings of the Aurobindo Ashram?
 - a. Pink and blue
 - b. Yellow and blue
 - c. Grey and white
 - d. Green and red
7. What is the beach near the northern part of Pondicherry named?
 - a. Sandy beach
 - b. Rocky beach
 - c. Coral beach
 - d. Black sand beach

8. Which historical monument in Pondicherry is built in memory of a courtesan?
 - a. French War Memorial
 - b. Ayi Mandapam
 - c. Duplex Park
 - d. Old Lighthouse



Intermediate

9. What was the traditional French-style hand-pulled rickshaw in Pondicherry called?
 - a. Pousse-pousse
 - b. Auto
 - c. Cycle rickshaw
 - d. Taxi

10. Which is a vibrant local market with a clock tower in the center?
 - a. Odiampet Market
 - b. Craft Market
 - c. Sunday Market
 - d. Goubert Market
11. Which famous temple in the heritage town is dedicated to Lord Ganesha?
 - a. Varadaraja Perumal
 - b. Manakula Vinayagar
 - c. Gokilambal Thirukameswarar
 - d. Vedapureswarar
12. Which village near Pondicherry is famous for its chariot festival?
 - a. Kuruchikuppam
 - b. Ariyankuppam
 - c. Veerampattinam
 - d. Mannadipet
13. Which fort near Pondicherry is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site?
 - a. Gingee Fort
 - b. Bekal Fort
 - c. Vellore Fort
 - d. Golconda Fort
14. Who is the famous Tamil poet and freedom fighter who lived for a decade in Pondicherry?
 - a. Vinayagam Pillai
 - b. Aurobindo Ghosh
 - c. Subramania Bharathi
 - d. Ilanko Adigal
15. What is the traditional figure associated with village guardian deities in Tamil culture called?
 - a. Ayyanar horse
 - b. Bankura horse
 - c. Manjusha horse
 - d. Nandi bull
16. Which island village is known for its coconut groves and traditional livelihood?
 - a. Kalapet
 - b. Veerampattinam
 - c. Ariyankuppam
 - d. Thengaitthittu

Heritage Quiz

Difficult

17. Trees of which non-native coastal species are planted on the Puducherry Promenade?
- Casurina
 - Mangrove
 - Seagrapes
 - Coconut
18. Which craft involves making colorful figurines in Pondicherry?
- Thirukannur papier mache
 - Channapatna woodturning
 - Kondapalli toymaking
 - Asharikandi terracotta
19. Which French writer, who spent time in India, has a street named after him in Pondicherry?
- Victor Hugo
 - Romain Rolland
 - Voltaire
 - Jules Verne
20. Which industry was Pondicherry valued for during French rule?
- Papiermache
 - Pottery
 - Embroidery
 - Textiles
21. Which traditional open-air theatre performance is popular in Pondicherry?
- Bharathanatyam
 - Kathakali
 - Therukotthu
 - Katputhli
22. Which territories, along with Pondicherry, were part of French India?
- Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam
 - Chandernagore, Daman, Diu
 - Cochin, Calicut, Tellicherry
 - Madras, Tranquebar, Nagapattinam
23. For what does Puducherry have a 'UNESCO Memory of the World' inscription?
- Collection of Shaiva palm-leaf manuscripts
 - Architectural drawings of the French Quarter
 - Archives of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram
 - Colonial maps of the Coromandel Coast

24. In which ancient Greek text, and as what is the trading port of Arikamedu near Puducherry believed to be mentioned?
- As Muziris in Geographica by Strabo
 - As Poduke in Periplus of the Erythraean Sea
 - As Barygaza in Natural History by Pliny the Elder
 - As Nelcynda in Indika by Megasthenes

25. Why do certain streets in Pondicherry still retain their French names?
- Because the French still administer Pondicherry
 - Because they show goodwill between the countries
 - Because the streets were rebuilt by the French after Independence
 - Because of the Treaty of Cession, which allowed French names and institutions to be retained



Heritage on a Plate



The Pondicherrian cuisine is a coastal one. Many dishes use coconut milk because coconuts grow easily near the coast. Coconut milk makes the food soft, creamy, and mildly sweet. Rice, vegetables, fish, and lentils are cooked with simple spices and lots of flavour. You will often find tasty curries, rasam, and pongal made a little differently from other parts of Tamil Nadu.

In this activity, let's explore two unique dishes — *Tengaiy Paal Rasam* and *Moonu Raja Pongal* — both of which use coconut milk. Let's also take a step into our own kitchens to document a family recipe with the help of our grandparents or elders!

**The cooking steps of the following recipes are mixed up!
Can you put the steps in the right order?**



Tengaiy Paal Rasam

This coconut milk rasam is very unique to Pondicherrian cooking and noted by author Lourdes Tirouvanziam-Louis in her cookbook *The Pondicherry Kitchen*. She says that nowhere else in South India does one come across this kind of rasam.

Ingredients:

- Coconut milk : 2 ½ cups
- Tomatoes : 3 large, crushed
- Coriander leaves : 1 tbsp, finely chopped
- Tamarind pulp : 1 tsp
- Spices (asafoetida, peppercorn, cumin) : ½ tsp each, crushed
- Oil : ½ tbsp
- Mustard seeds : ½ tsp
- Dry red chillies : 2 nos
- Curry leaves : 1 sprig
- Garlic cloves : 6, coarsely crushed

Scrambled Recipe Order:

- Pour in the coconut milk mixture and stir gently till it starts bubbling.
- Serve with warm rice.
- Mix half the coconut milk with tomatoes, salt, coriander leaves, and tamarind pulp. Set aside.
- Add salt and taste.
- Heat oil in a deep pan.
- Turn off the stove. Add the other half coconut milk with crushed garlic, pepper, and cumin. Cover the pan and let it rest for 15 minutes.
- Add mustard seeds and let them splutter, add dry red chillies, curry leaves, and a pinch of asafoetida.

Correct Order:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____



Moonu Raja Pongal

The first Sunday of January is a special day called Epiphany. It remembers the day when the Three Kings visited baby Jesus. Author Manjula Bharath who has shared this recipe on her blog desifiesta.com tells us that in Pondicherrian Catholic families, this day is celebrated as Moonu Raja Pongal. She describes how families cook a special pongal and gather together to celebrate. In many parts of Tamil Nadu, pongal is made with milk. But in Puducherry and Karaikal, it is made with coconut milk. A small portion of the pongal is first offered to God. Then it is shared with neighbours, friends, and relatives. This is the recipe noted by her.

Ingredients:

- Rice : 1 cup
- Coconut Milk : 2 cups
- Cashewnuts : few
- Raisins : few
- Ghee : 1 tbsp
- Cardamom : 1 pod
- Sugar : 1 cup
- Salt : a pinch

Scrambled Recipe Order:

- Add rice and cook on low flame till its of sticky consistency.
- In a pan heat ghee and roast the cashews and raisins. Keep them aside.
- This pongal is served hot with ghee.
- Add sugar thick coconut milk, cardamom, fried cashews and raisins.
- In a sauce pan add coconut milk and salt, cover and boil.

Correct Order:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Document a Traditional Family Recipe!

Talk to your grandparents, parents, or elders in your family and learn about a traditional dish they love to cook. Ask them these questions and write down their answers!

Name of the dish:

Any variation or alternative names:

Who usually makes this dish in your family?

Where did they learn the recipe from?

What ingredients are needed?

(Write down all the ingredients they tell you with their precise quantity)

Write down the step-by-step method of making this dish?

Write down any cooking tips and tricks that are passed down in the family.

Is there a special story or memory attached to this dish in your family?

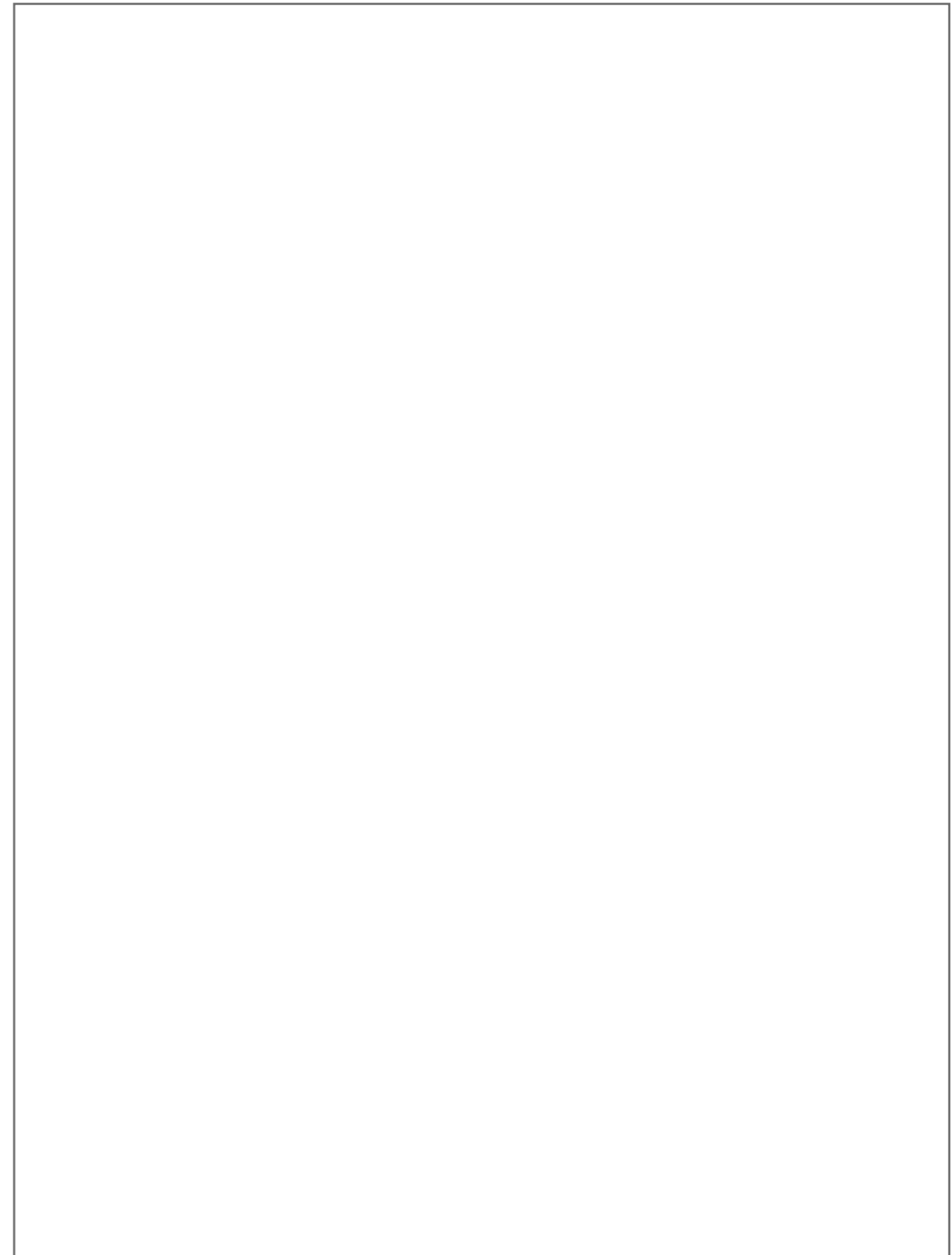
Has this recipe changed over time? If yes, how?

What makes this dish special to your family?

Would you like to make this dish yourself one day?
Why or why not?

Share with Your Friends!

After writing down the recipe, bring it to class and share it with your friends.



Puducherry's Architectural Quest!

Part 1: Match the buildings !

Look at the pictures of some of the oldest buildings in the heritage town and match them with their names and descriptions. Draw a line from the picture to the correct name and description.

- **Manakula Vinayagar Temple** : Existed before the French arrived in 1673. Though rebuilt many times, it is the oldest continuously used structure within the heritage town.
- **Église de Notre-Dame des Anges** : Built in 1855 this church follows a Greco-Roman architectural plan. It has twin bell towers and a central dome with an altar that was imported from France.
- **Cluny Embroidery Centre** : The embroidery workshop runs from a historical mansion that is made of thick walls, a tiled roof, and open verandahs. Built in 1774 it is possibly the oldest colonial structure in Puducherry.
- **Old Lighthouse** : The old lighthouse of Puducherry was commissioned in 1836. Standing 29 metres tall, it once guided ships safely along the Coromandel Coast and is now an important landmark of the city's maritime past.

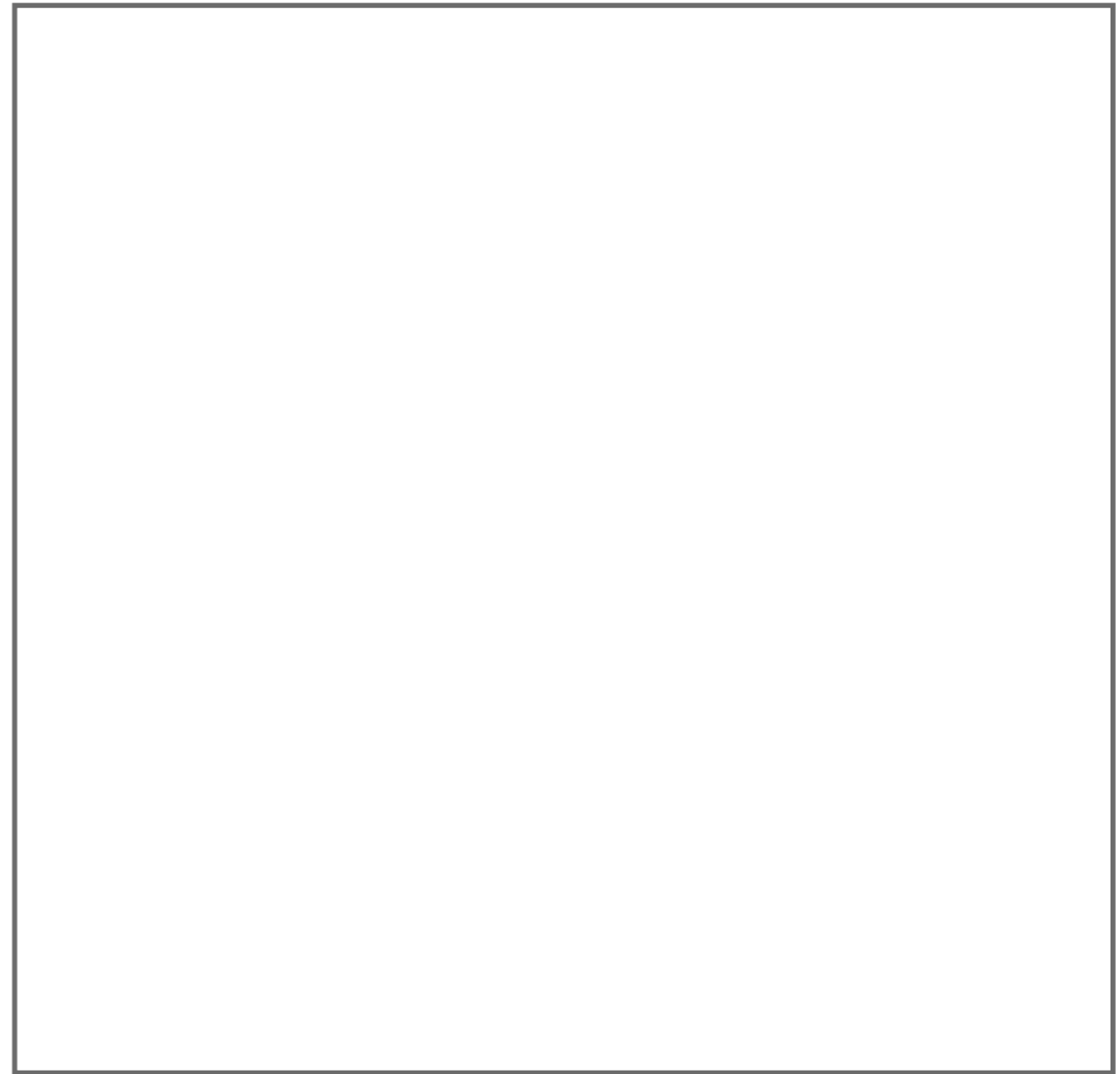
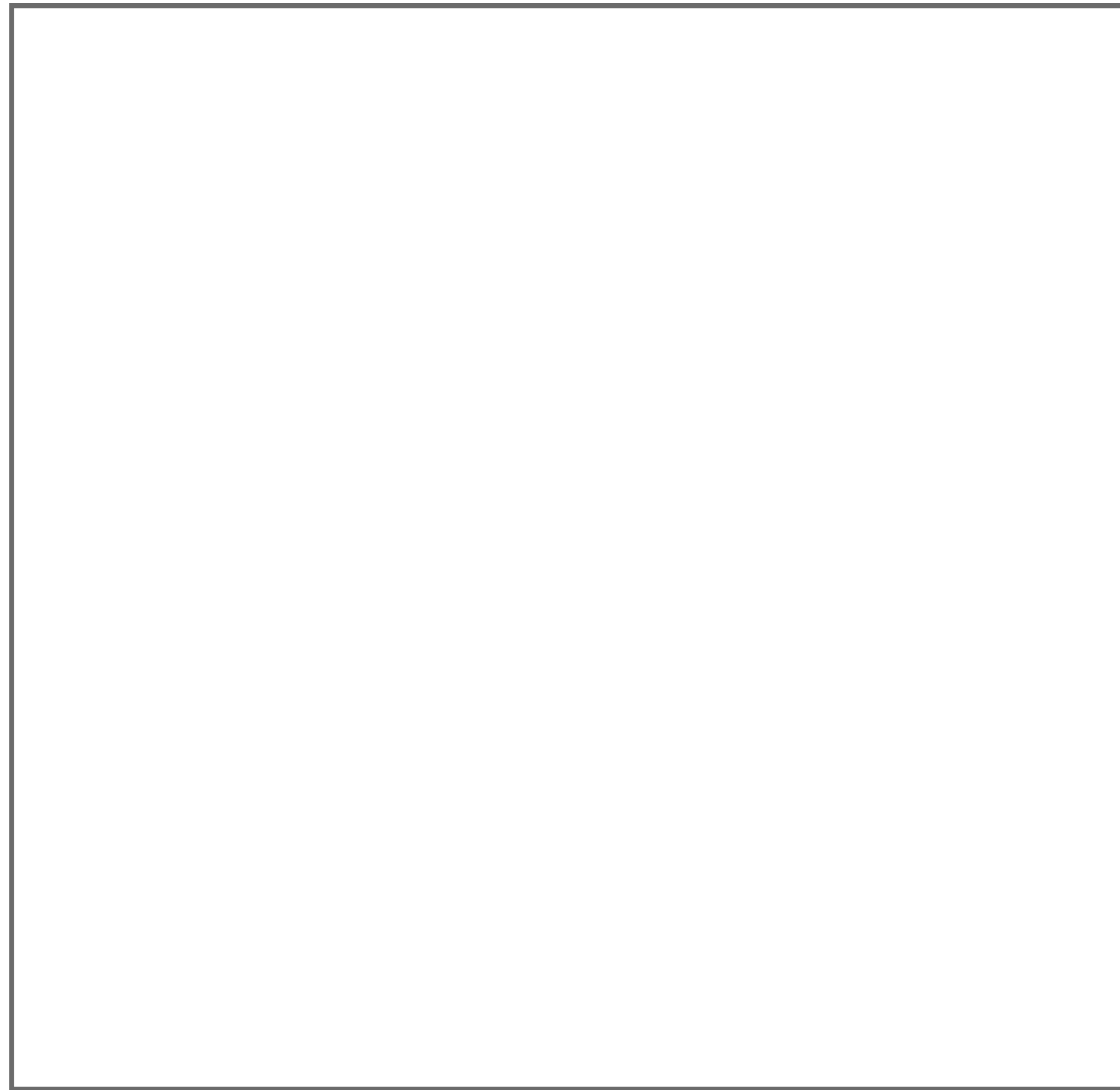


Part 2: Design Your Own Cityscape !

Now it's your turn to be an artist ! Draw your own visuals of Puducherry's cityscapes as you have seen it - in real or in your imagination!

Tips:

- **The seafront:** Think about the sea, fishing boats, a lighthouse and people by the beach
- **The streets:** Think about colourful buildings with arched windows or front verandahs and people on cycles
- Along the Puducherry coast, stone walls called **groynes** are built in the sea to stop the beach from washing away. They slow down the movement of sand along the shore and help collect it in one place. Because of this, new beaches are formed and some lost beaches slowly come back.



Answers

CROSSWORDS

DOWN

1. PROMENADE: The long walkway by the beach in the heritage town
2. HIDE SIGN: A famous leather brand from Puducherry
3. LAXMI: Famous temple elephant from the Manakula Vinayagar temple
6. BHARATI PARK: A green public park in the heart of the heritage town
8. OLIVE RIDLEY: A species of turtle that nests on the beaches near Puducherry
10. AUROBINDO: First name of the famous philosopher, poet, and founder of the ashram in Puducherry
11. BAHOUR TANK: A major, historically significant irrigation reservoir and heritage water body located in one of the communes
14. JASMINE: A fragrant flower commonly worn in the hair by women in Puducherry
15. SIDDHA: A traditional system of medicine like Ayurveda practiced in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry
17. LIFE OF PI: A famous novel set partly in Puducherry about a boy stranded at sea

ACROSS

4. MASIMAGAM: A Tamil festival celebrated by the beach in Pondicherry
5. DUPLEIX: Governor-General of French India whose statue stands at one end of the beach
7. COURTYARD: An open space inside a house found in traditional homes in both the Tamil and French quarters
9. THINNAI: A traditional raised veranda outside houses in the Tamil town for sitting and chatting
12. VETIVAR: A fragrant grass used in the region for making mats, cooling drinks, and perfumes
13. LE CAFE: A famous cafe by the beach in Puducherry in a building that was earlier the port office
16. VILLIANUR: A local form of pottery which has the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag named after one of its communes
18. AUROVILLE: An intentional community established near Puducherry devoted to peace and unity
19. KOLAM: Beautiful floor designs made with rice powder outside homes in the Tamil region
20. PETANQ: A French outdoor game played with metal balls, popular in Puducherry

SCRAMBLE

1. OUSTERI
2. ARIKAMEDU
3. MATRIMANDIR
4. BHARATHIDASAN
5. BOULEVARD
6. MAHABALIPURAM
7. COROMANDEL
8. GOLCONDE
9. SHANKARAPARANI
10. CREOLE

HERITAGE QUIZ

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. D
11. B
12. C
13. A
14. C
15. A
16. D
17. C
18. A
19. B
20. D
21. C
22. A
23. A
24. B
25. D

HERITAGE ON A PLATE

Correct Order: Tengaï Paal Rasam

1. Mix half the coconut milk with tomatoes, salt, coriander leaves, and tamarind pulp. Set aside.
2. Heat oil in a deep pan.
3. Add mustard seeds and let them splutter, add dry red chillies, curry leaves, and a pinch of asafoetida
4. Pour in the coconut milk mixture and stir gently till it starts bubbling.
5. Add salt and taste.
6. Turn off the stove. Add the other half coconut milk with crushed garlic, pepper, and cumin. Cover the pan and let it rest for 15 minutes.
7. Serve with warm rice.

Correct Order: Moonu Raja Pongal

1. In a pan, heat ghee and roast the cashews and raisins. Keep them aside.
2. In a sauce pan add coconut milk and salt, cover and boil.
3. Add rice and cook on low flame till it's of sticky consistency.
4. Add sugar, thick coconut milk, cardamom, fried cashews and raisins.
5. This pongal is served hot with ghee.

MATCH CRAFT

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Stickers

