

My City  
My Heritage My  
Kozhikode

# Explorers Book

Activity Book  
for Children



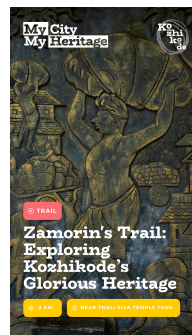
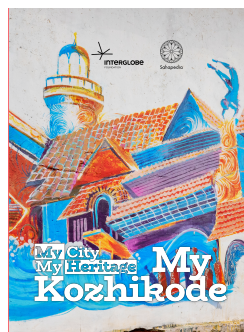
Kozhikode (also known as Calicut) is a fascinating cultural melting pot in the state of Kerala. Located on the Malabar coast, Kozhikode has been an important **maritime** trading centre for centuries. But as with major trading outposts across the world, trade brings a lot more than commodities and money to a city. It brings people, cultures, religions, ideas, architecture, and food with it too! Whether Romans or Arabs, Chinese traders or Dutch explorers, Kozhikode has hosted them all.

Everything from Kozhikode's wooden buildings to its diverse culinary offerings shows these multiple influences. This Activity Book will try to walk you through the landscape of the city through interesting quizzes, puzzles, and illustrations. Think of these less as a test of your knowledge, but more as a tour of the city from a distance. And whether you're a budding chef, quiz master, or artist, Kozhikode—and the Activity Book—has something for everyone!

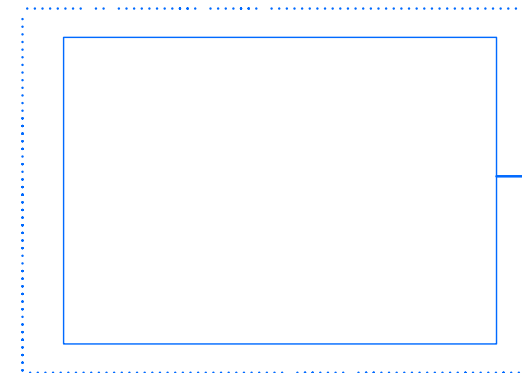


#### Discover More:

Learn about Kozhikode with curated articles, numerous recommendations with the **MCMH My Kozhikode Booklet** and **2 heritage trails** on [www.sahapedia.org/my-city-my-heritage/celebrating-kozhikode](http://www.sahapedia.org/my-city-my-heritage/celebrating-kozhikode)



**\* maritime |**  
**ma·ruh·time**  
Of or related to  
the sea, especially  
in the context of  
trade—think “marine”



#### Size:

A3 (29.7 cm x  
24 cm)

This document  
(25cm x  
35.3 cm)

#### Title:

My City My Heritage My Kozhikode:  
Explorers' Book

#### Publisher:

Sahapedia

#### Supported by:

InterGlobe Foundation (IGF)

#### Copyright:

©Sahapedia and InterGlobe  
Foundation (IGF), 2025. All rights  
reserved.

#### Contributors:

Anjana Premchand, Meenakshi  
Vashisth and Adit Shankar

#### Photos:

Joseph Rahul and Wikimedia  
Commons

#### Design and Illustrations:

Bhavya Magdziarz

We welcome suggestions and  
corrections for future editions.

#### Contact:

Sahapedia

#### Website:

[www.sahapedia.org](http://www.sahapedia.org)

#### Email:

[contact@sahapedia.org](mailto:contact@sahapedia.org)

# Kozhikode through Time

Kozhikode's rich and vibrant past continues to colour its present. So, here is an exercise for the history buffs! Listed here are some important events in its history, but the years are all wrong. Your task is to match the event to the correct year, forming an accurate timeline. The first one gets you off to an easy start (surely we didn't have cinema before the Mughals?), but other options are trickier. Let's see if you can look beyond your years!







Radha Theatre, one of the earliest single-screen cinemas in Kozhikode, is established on SM Street.

The influential newspaper *Mathrubhumi* was established.

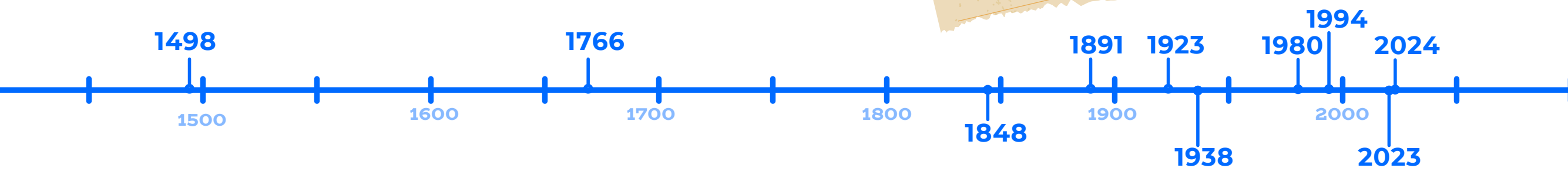


SK Pottekkatt wins the Jnanpith Award for literature, the first from Kerala to receive the honour.

Kozhikode is officially designated as a UNESCO City of Literature, recognizing its literary contributions



Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landed at Kappad, opening the sea route to India for European traders.



Hyder Ali of Mysore captures Calicut.



Kozhikode hosts the first International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), commemorating 100 years of cinema.

The Town Hall near Mananchira was built to commemorate the anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign.

Calicut FC wins the first-ever Super League Kerala championship at EMS Corporation Stadium.

BEM Higher Secondary School was founded by the Basel Evangelical Mission.



Match the events to the correct years.



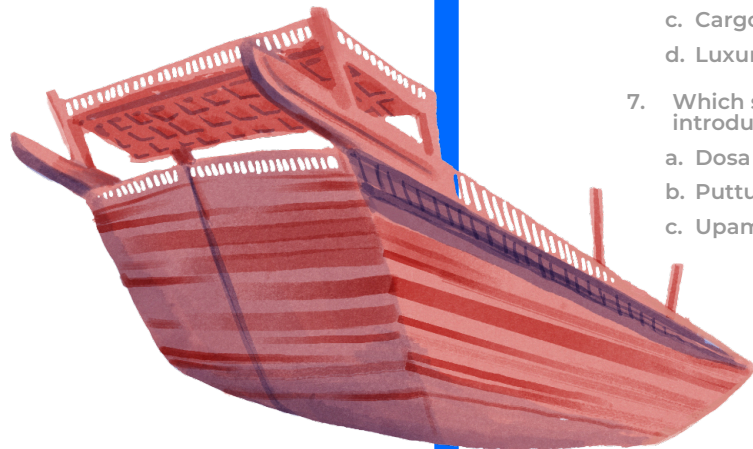


# Kozhikode Trivia

Kozhikode, with its eventful past, has an equally vibrant, living present. Dance and musical genres, culinary practices, sporting events, and heritage sites that bring together folk traditions and modern influences populate the entire city. Here's a quiz that gives you a glimpse of all that Kozhikode has to offer.

The questions range from easy to somewhat tricky. But don't sweat it! There's no real benchmark for doing well and any score is a good score, as long as you're learning.

# Heritage Quiz



## Easy

1. Another name for Kozhikode?
  - a. Kode
  - b. Calicut
  - c. Kolikode
  - d. Koyyil
2. Which musical genre, popular in Kozhikode's music clubs, is a traditional Muslim folk song style?
  - a. Ayyapan Pattu
  - b. Mappilapattu
  - c. Thumri
  - d. Dhrupad
3. Which legendary Kozhikode restaurant ranked fifth in the 2023 Taste Atlas list of the world's greatest restaurants?
  - a. Paragon
  - b. Hotel Rahmath
  - c. Sankaran Bakery
  - d. Top Form
4. Which popular drink, introduced by Arab traders, became an integral part of Kozhikode's coffee culture?
  - a. Kattan kaapi
  - b. Masala chai
  - c. Badam milk
  - d. Lassi
5. Where is Beypore located?
  - a. Near the Adyar River
  - b. Near the Chaliyar River
  - c. Near the Bharathapuzha River
  - d. Near the Krishna River
6. What is the current main use of *urus* or traditional wooden boats in the modern world?
  - a. Display in heritage museums
  - b. Warships
  - c. Cargo transport
  - d. Luxury leisure boats
7. Which staple Malayali breakfast dish was introduced to Kerala by the Portuguese?
  - a. Dosa
  - b. Puttu
  - c. Upama

d. Idli

8. Which colonial-era structure in Calicut was built in 1891 to commemorate Queen Victoria's reign?
  - a. Pazhassiraja Archaeological Museum
  - b. The Town Hall
  - c. Freedom Square
  - d. The old Railway Station

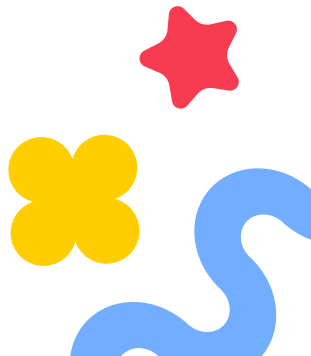
## Intermediate

9. Which annual scholarly event was initiated by the Zamorin to atone for the deaths of Brahmins during his takeover of the Tali Siva Temple?
  - a. Revathi Pattathanam
  - b. Thulam Sabha
  - c. Karkidakam Sangham
  - d. Kozhikode Mahasabha
10. Which newspaper, founded in 1884, was the first to be published in Calicut?
  - a. *Mathrubhumi*
  - b. *Kerala Patrika*
  - c. *Al-Ameen*
  - d. *Deshabhimani*
11. Who was the **Jnanpith** award-winning author whose works *Oru Desathinte Katha* and *Oru Theruvinte Katha* immortalized Calicut?
  - a. Vaikom Muhammad Basheer
  - b. Thikkodiyar
  - c. S.K. Pottekkatt
  - d. U.A. Khader
12. Which theatre in Calicut was named in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's **coronation**?
  - a. Radha Theatre
  - b. Crown Theatre
  - c. Coronation Theatre
  - d. Apsara Theatre

✱ **coronation** |  
**kaw·ruh·nay·shn**  
A ceremony for  
crowning a monarch  
(king or queen)

✱ **Jnanpith** |  
**gyaan·peeth**  
A prestigious award  
for works by Indian  
authors in 22 scheduled  
languages and  
English. A Sanskrit  
compound which  
means "seat of  
knowledge."

13. Which was the first theatre in Calicut to introduce a 70-mm screen and Dolby sound system?
  - a. Davison Theatre
  - b. Sangam Theatre
  - c. Apsara Theatre
  - d. Crown Theatre
14. Which dish, commonly associated with weddings and special occasions, features layered pancakes stuffed with meat or sweet fillings?
  - a. *Irachi pathiri*
  - b. *Chatti pathiri*
  - c. *Kozhi ada*
  - d. *Malabar parotta*
15. What is the name of the popular Kozhikode dessert made with banana and coconut?
  - a. *Payasam*
  - b. *Unnakkaya*
  - c. Halwa
  - d. Elaneer pudding
16. Which European colonial power introduced baking to Kozhikode, influencing its bakery culture?
  - a. Portuguese
  - b. Dutch
  - c. French
  - d. British



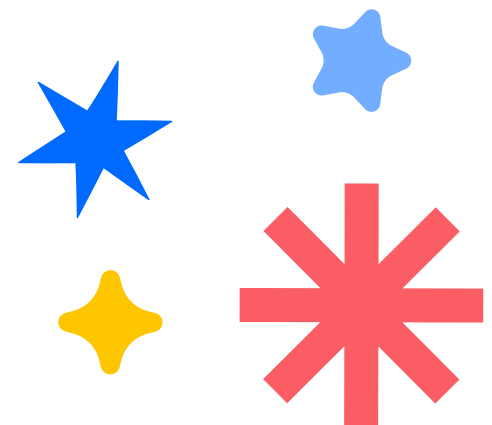




# Heritage Quiz

## Difficult

17. Which two notable authors co-wrote *Arabipponnu*, India's first co-authored novel on gold smuggling?
  - a. M.T. Vasudevan Nair & N.P. Muhammad
  - b. S.K. Pottekkatt & Thikkodiyan
  - c. P. Valsala & B.M. Suhara
  - d. Uroob & Akkitham
18. Which two music clubs engaged in friendly competitions at the YMCA during the mid-20th century?
  - a. Ghazal Dhara and Hindustan Club
  - b. Brothers Music Club and Hutton's Orchestra
  - c. Usman Memorial Art Center and Everest Music Club
  - d. The Evening Club and Salt Muhammed Koya's Club
19. When did Calicut experience its first cinematic event?
  - a. 1896
  - b. 1906
  - c. 1920
  - d. 1938
20. Which institution was established in the 1990s to revive interest in percussion traditions?
  - a. Ghazal Dhara
  - b. Kozhikode Abdul Kadar Foundation
  - c. Usman Memorial Art Center
  - d. Hindustan Club
21. Sevens Football, a regional variation of football in North Kerala, is said to have evolved from which traditional game?
  - a. Kalaripayattu
  - b. Thalapandu
  - c. Chathirangam
  - d. Erokkali
22. What was the name of the dominant football club in Kozhikode during the early 20th century?
  - a. Kerala Football Club
  - b. Gokulam Kerala FC
  - c. Challengers Club
  - d. Universal Soccer Club
23. Which landmark location in Kozhikode hosted early football tournaments such as the Rao Sahab Vaidyanath Iyer Cup?
  - a. Mananchira Maidan
  - b. Kozhikode Beach
  - c. EMS Corporation Stadium
  - d. West Hill Ground
24. Which Kozhikode-based football club became the first team from Kerala to win the I-League title?
  - a. Calicut FC
  - b. Gokulam Kerala FC
  - c. Kerala Blasters FC
  - d. Malabar United
25. What is the name of the short-grained rice variety used in Kozhikode biriyani?
  - a. Basmati
  - b. Sona Masuri
  - c. Kaima
  - d. Jasmine



# Kozhikode's Natural Canvas

## Create Your Own Nature Postcard!

Kozhikode is a city where the natural world weaves seamlessly into its history and culture. Imagine you are on a journey through its breathtaking landscapes. You have discovered a place so beautiful that you want to share it with a friend, family member or a relative! Choose a place that speaks to you—the serene expanse of a beach, the tranquil flow of a river, or the lush embrace of a **verdant** area.

### Your Task:

1. **Draw Your Scene:** On the blank side of the postcard, create a vivid illustration of your chosen natural location in Kozhikode. Pay attention to details: the colors, the textures, the atmosphere.
2. **Describe Your Experience:** On the lined side of the postcard, write a short message sharing your experience and why this place resonates with you.

\* Verdant |  
vuh•dunt  
Describes a lush and  
green landscape





## Hints for Your Postcards

### Beaches:

- Look for the Casuarina trees that line the shores, their needle-like leaves whispering in the sea breeze. These trees are commonly found along the coast, particularly in areas like Kappad, and are known for their salt tolerance.
- Visualise the graceful flight of Terns and Egrets, and other birds that thrive in the coastal environment.
- Imagine the rhythmic crashing of the Arabian Sea waves against the sands.
- Think about the local climate and how it affects the plants and animals you see.

### Rivers (e.g., Chaliyar, Iravanjipuzha):

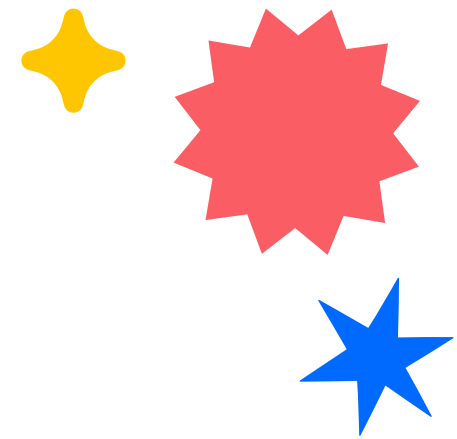
- Draw the lush green banks, where Mangroves provide a vital habitat.
- Listen for the calls of White-Throated Kingfisher as they dart across the water's surface.
- Consider the presence of various aquatic species that are part of the river ecosystem.

### Trees:

- Depict jackfruit, palm, Indian rosewood, and other staple tree species of the region.
- Capture the vibrant colors of Malabar Parakeets or the elusive Malabar Grey Hornbill.
- Showcase the diverse flora, including various ferns and flowering plants, that create a rich biodiversity.
- Imagine the sounds of forested areas, including the sounds of various butterfly species, insects and mammals.

**Draw in the inner box and cut along the dotted line.**

Two large empty rectangular boxes for drawing postcards. Each box has a solid inner border and a dotted outer border, indicating where to draw and where to cut. The boxes are positioned one above the other on the right side of the page.



### Don't forget to include...

- Location: Where is it? (Be specific! Example: Beypore Beach, Kappad River Estuary, Thusharagiri Forests)
- Subject of your illustration! What do you see? Describe what you see, hear and feel.
- Message (Why do you love this place? What makes it special and why would you like to share it with someone else?)

**Cut along the dotted lines and carefully paste the backs of the two sides together to create the final postcard.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Kozhikode Mapped

Kozhikode (formerly Calicut) has been a gateway to trade, culture, and history for centuries. From the arrival of Arab and Chinese merchants to Vasco da Gama's first steps on Indian soil, the city has been shaped by the people who passed through its shores. Its streets, markets, and monuments hold stories of the past, waiting to be explored.

In this activity, we will use a map to trace Kozhikode's historic sites. From the warehouses of Valiyangadi to the scenic Mananchira Square, from the shipbuilding hub of Beypore to the age-old mosques and temples, let's uncover the places that made Kozhikode a legendary port city.

## Instructions

- Look at the list of historic locations provided.
- Match each location with its correct spot on the map.
- Draw a small icon or sketch to represent the landmark (e.g., a ship for Beypore, a mosque for Mishkal Mosque).

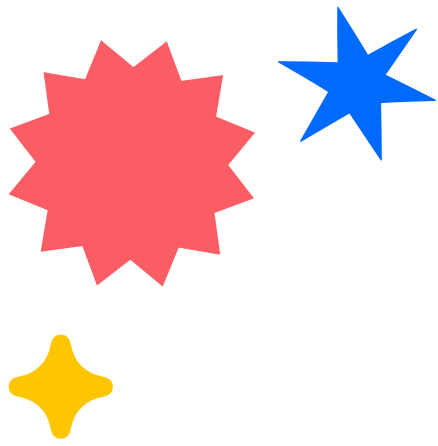


## Locations to be Marked

1. **Mananchira Square** – The historic tank or pond once used by the Zamorin rulers, now a cultural hub with gardens and iconic buildings surrounding it.
2. **Mishkal Mosque** – An over 600-year-old wooden mosque built by an Arab merchant, showcasing Indo-Islamic architecture.
3. **Beypore** – Famous for making *Uru*, traditional wooden ships that were once used for the Indian Ocean trade
4. **Mittai Theruvu (Sweet Street)** – A busy market street known for its famous Kozhikode Halwa and snacks.
5. **Kozhikode Beach** – A historic trade port, now a popular place for sunsets, street food, and literature festivals.
6. **Tali Temple** – A 14th-century Hindu temple, known for its traditional Kerala temple architecture.
7. **Kuttichira** – A historic area with old mosques like Mishkal and Muchundi, reflecting Kozhikode's Islamic heritage.
8. **Comtrust Weaving Factory** – A British-era textile factory, founded by the Basel Mission, known for its high-quality handwoven fabrics.
9. **Freedom Square** – A cultural space near Mananchira that hosts events and celebrates Kerala's history.
10. **Valiyangadi** – An old market and trading center that is a key part of Kozhikode's commerce.







**Choose one landmark that you find the most impressive and write more about its historical and cultural significance.**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Create a scrapbook style image of your favourite monument here:**

# Time Travel To Kozhikode

Imagine you have a magical time machine and you traveled back to Kozhikode in the late 1400s! What amazing things would you see? Who would you meet? Draw your adventure in the comic strip below and fill in the speech bubbles with what your characters are saying!

Example Story Idea:

Panel 1: You step out of your time machine and see the grand market.

Panel 2: You meet a spice trader who introduces you to black pepper, calling it "Black Gold."

Panel 3: A sailor from Arabia tells you about his long sea voyage.

Panel 4: A storm is approaching, and the ships need to be secured!

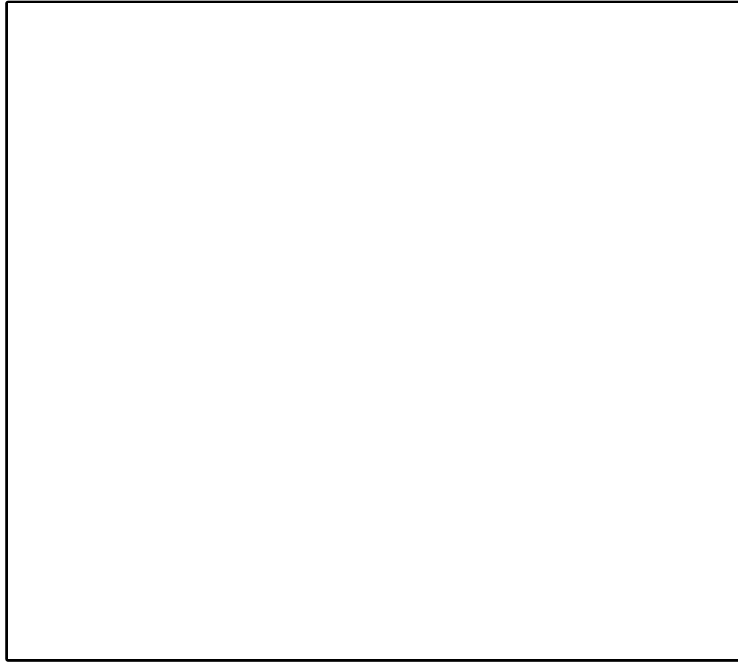
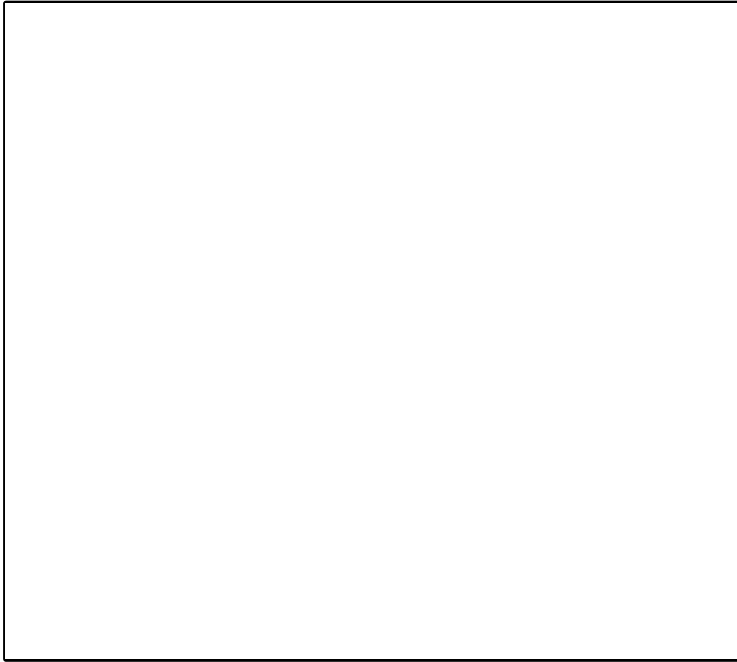
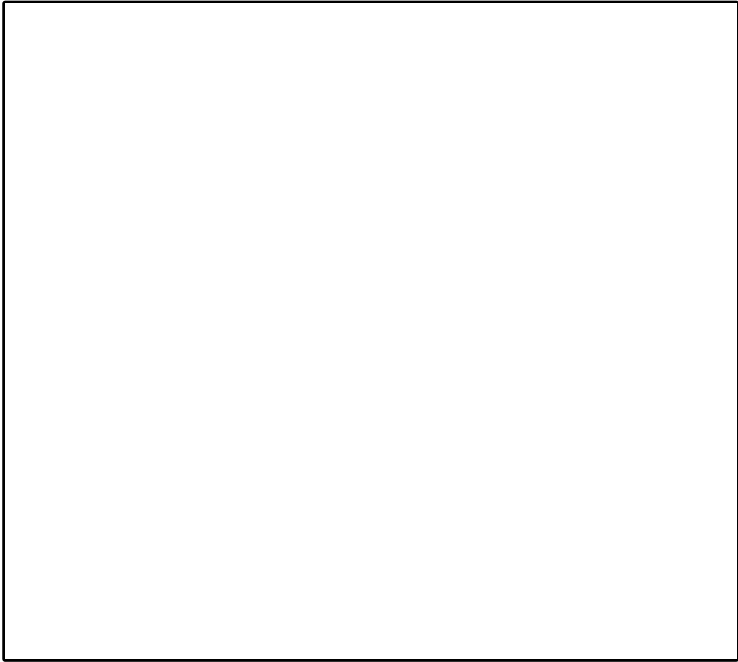
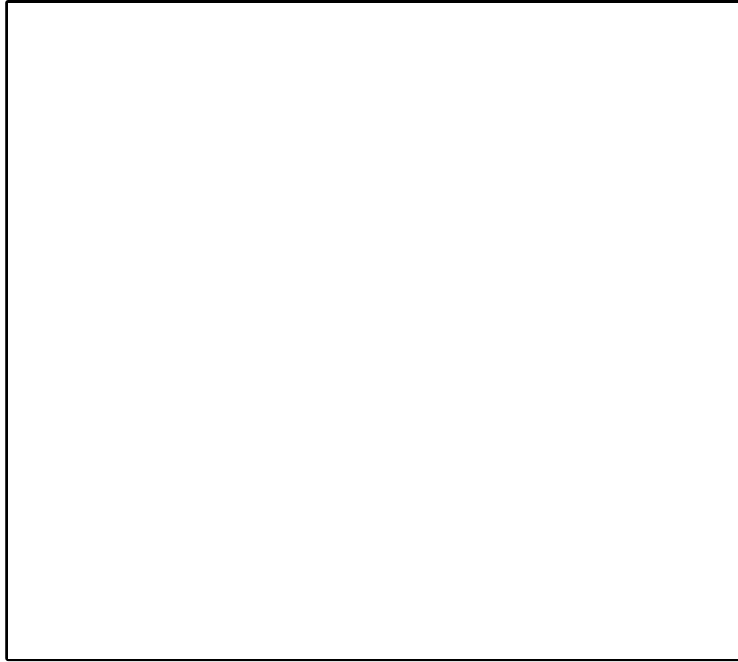
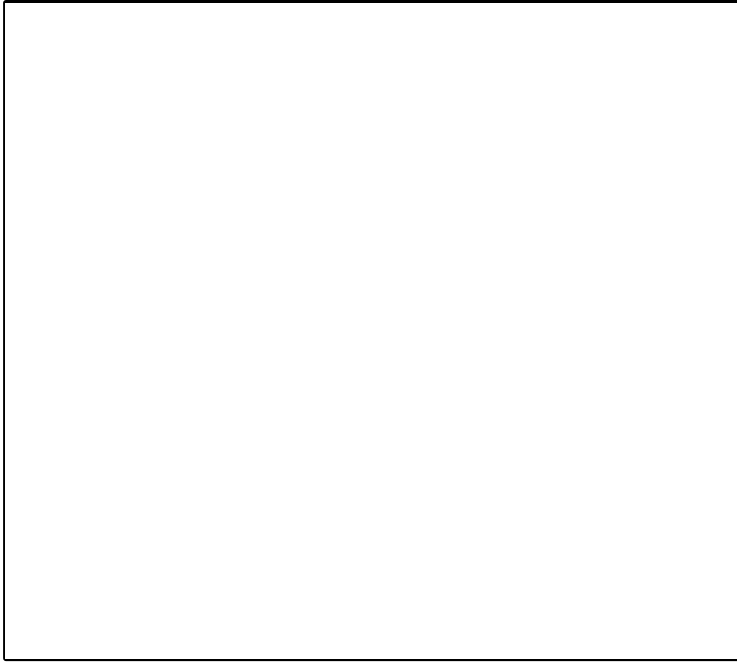
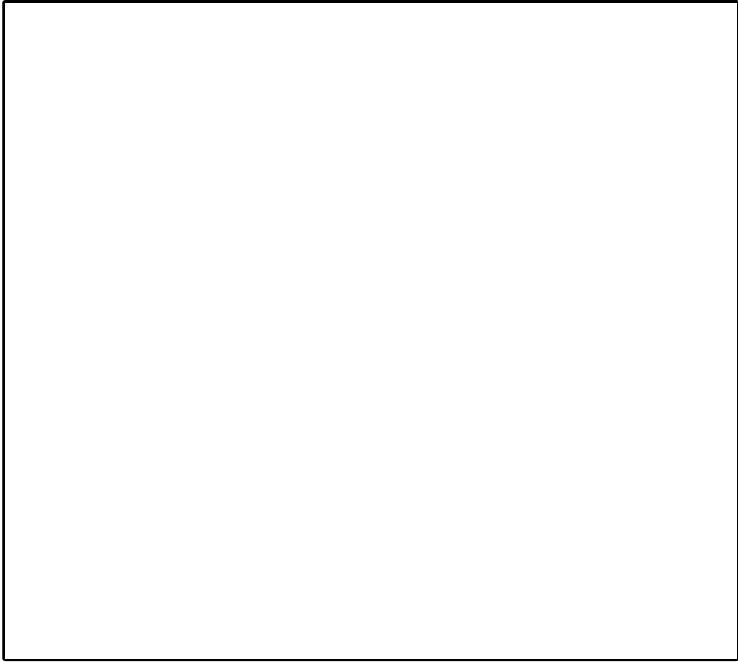
Panel 5: You help the craftsman strengthen the ship with ropes and wood.

Panel 6: The craftsman thanks you for your help, and you step back into the time machine.

\* Zamorin |  
zaa•mo•reen  
Derived from the Malayalam  
"Samoothiri," a combination of  
the Sanskrit words "swami"  
and "shri"

<p>Panel 1:</p> <p>You have traveled back to late 15th-century Kozhikode using a time machine. The moment you step into the city, you are surrounded by a diverse range of people, from traders and sailors to craftsmen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Speech Bubble): (What do you say when you arrive in Kozhikode in the late 1400s?)</li> </ul> <p>Write dialogues based on how these characters might have spoken.</p>	<p>Panel 2:</p> <p>Who Will You Meet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A spice trader offering goods.</li> <li>• A Zamorin king discussing foreign trade.</li> <li>• A sailor from Arabia who has just arrived with treasures.</li> <li>• A local craftsman skilled in making wooden ships.</li> </ul>	<p>Panel 3:</p> <p>A surprising discovery – What happens next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Prompt): You meet a spice trader! Draw him and what he's selling.</li> <li>• (Speech Bubble): (What does the spice trader say to you? What do you ask him?)</li> </ul>
<p>Panel 4:</p> <p>A conflict or challenge – Do you help someone and how do you settle this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Prompt): You meet a Zamorin King! Draw him and his royal court.</li> <li>• (Speech Bubble): (What does the King say? What do you say to him?)</li> </ul>	<p>Panel 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Prompt): You meet a sailor from Arabia! Draw his ship and what he's carrying.</li> <li>• (Speech Bubble): (What does the sailor tell you about his journey?)</li> </ul>	<p>Panel 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Prompt): You meet a local craftsman! Draw what he's making.</li> <li>• (Speech Bubble): (What does the craftsman tell you about his work? What do you say before you go back to your time?)</li> </ul>





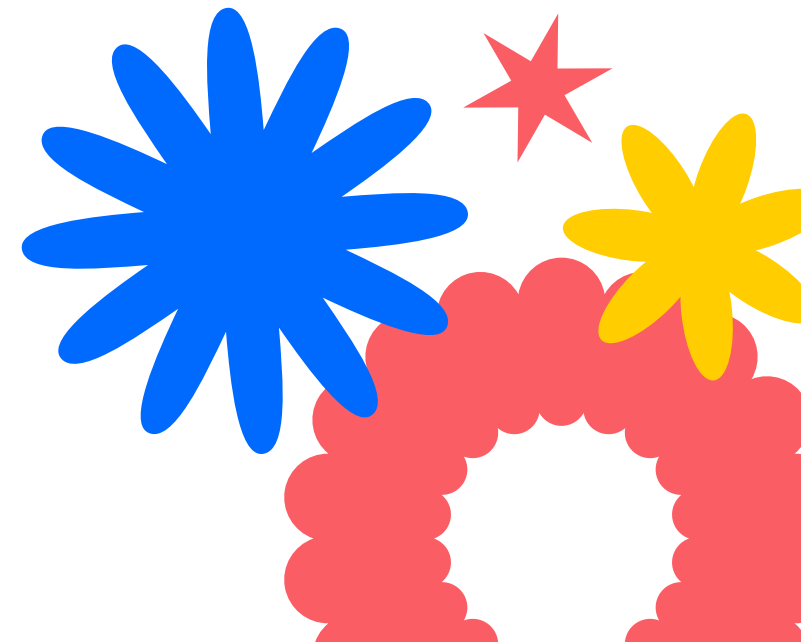
# Answers

## A. KOZHIKODE THROUGH TIME

1. 1498 – Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landed at Kappad, opening the sea route to India for European traders.
2. 1766 - Hyder Ali of Mysore captures Calicut.
3. 1848 – BEM Higher Secondary School was founded by the Basel Evangelical Mission.
4. 1891 – The Town Hall near Mananchira was built to commemorate the anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign.
5. 1923 – The influential newspaper Mathrubhumi was established.
6. 1938 – Radha Theatre, one of the earliest single-screen cinemas in Kozhikode, is established on SM Street.
7. 1980 – SK Pottekkatt wins the Jnanpith Award for literature, the first from Kerala to receive the honour.
8. 1994 – Kozhikode hosts the first International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), commemorating 100 years of cinema.
9. 2023 – Kozhikode is officially designated as a UNESCO City of Literature, recognizing its literary contributions.
10. 2024 – Calicut FC wins the first-ever Super League Kerala championship at EMS Corporation Stadium.

## B. HERITAGE QUIZ

1. b) Calicut
2. b) Mappilapattu
3. a) Paragon
4. a) Kattan kaapi
5. b) Near the Chaliyar River
6. d) Luxury leisure boats,
7. b) Puttu
8. b) The Town Hall
9. a) Revathi Pattathanam
10. b) Kerala Patrika
11. c) S.K. Pottekkatt
12. c) Coronation Theatre
13. d) Crown Theatre
14. b) Chatti pathiri
15. b) Unnakkaya
16. d) British
17. a) M.T. Vasudevan Nair & N.P. Muhammad
18. b) Brothers Music Club and Hutton's Orchestra
19. b) 1906
20. c) Usman Memorial Art Center
21. b) Thalapandu
22. c) Challengers Club
23. a) Mananchira Maidan
24. b) Gokulam Kerala FC
25. c) Kaima



# stickers

