

Suggested School Activities: Bengali/Sylheti October

Nursery & Early Years (EYFS)

- **The Mango Rhyme:** Teach children the famous Bengali traditional nursery rhyme *Am Pata Jora Jora* (Mango Leaves in Pairs).
[▶ Mango Leaves in Pairs \(Aam Pata Jora Jora\) | Famous Bengali Nursery Rhyme ,, #AamP...](#)
[▶ 👉 আম পাতা জোড়া জোড়া | Aam Pata Jora Jora | শিশুদের ছড়াগান | Bangla Nursery Rhym...](#)
- **Alpona Floor Patterns:** *Alpona* is a traditional folk art where folk patterns and flower motifs are painted on floors for celebrations. Set up roll-out paper on the floor and let children paint white floral and geometric swirls using sponges or paintbrushes.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hruP42wNaAI>
- **Tiger Craft (Sundarbans):** The Sundarbans in Bangladesh and West Bengal is the world's largest mangrove forest and home to the Royal Bengal Tiger. Make simple paper-plate tiger masks.
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- Primary School (KS1 & KS2)

The "Clothesline" Script Challenge: Introduce children to the concept of the *Matra* (top line in Bengali script). Have them draw a straight horizontal line across their paper first, then practice drawing simple Bengali numerals (১, ২, ৩, ৪, ৫) hanging underneath it!

[▶ ১ থেকে ১০ লেখার সহজ কৌশল | How to Write Bengali Numbers 1-10](#) You can auto translate this to english so they hear bengali.

Register Challenge: Throughout October, students can answer morning registration with "Opōsthit" (Present) or "Shagotom" (Welcome).

Counting with Sweets (Mishti): Bengal is world-famous for its milk sweets like *Rasgulla*. Use pretend sweet models or counters to teach counting to ten in Bengali:

Ek (1), *Dui* (2), *Tin* (3), *Char* (4), *Pach* (5), *Chhoy* (6), *Shat* (7), *Aht* (8), *Noy* (9), *Dosh* (10).

[▶ Learn to count in Bengali 1-10 | Fun learning for kids](#)

Secondary School (KS3 & KS4)

- **Local History & Heritage (Brick Lane & Hackney):** Explore how the British Bangladeshi community shaped East London's social history, local business, and cultural landscape over the past century. [Bangla Stories](#)
<https://beyondbanglatown.org.uk/https://beyondbanglatown.org.uk/ For Schools and Teachers> <https://www.makinghistories.org.uk/about-the-project.html>
<https://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history/collections-and-digital-resources/user-guides/bengali-collections-guide> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zjdt382>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zntbd6f>
- **Translation & Code-Switching (Bengali vs. Sylheti):** Discuss the relationship between standard Bengali and Sylheti. Have students explore how dialects evolve, how spoken heritage forms differ from written standard forms, and why protecting regional languages matters.

- **Poetry & Identity:** Read translated stanzas of Tagore's poetry or modern British-Bengali poetry. Have students write short poems about what "home" or "language" means to them, displaying them alongside the Bengali script versions.
<https://poetryarchive.org/poet/rabindranath-tagore/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a50oPpPYPDc>
<https://poetryarchive.org/explore/?key=bengali>