



History of Rangoli

Rangoli at Diwali

Rangoli, which means rows of colours, is drawn on the entrance and filled with colours during Diwali.

Rangoli designs are created using the thumb and forefinger.

It is drawn to welcome guests and different Gods and Goddesses and to bring joy into homes.

Origin of Rangoli

Lopamudra was the wife of a sage called, Augustya Rishi. She also wrote 2 portions of the Rigveda (famous holy books). She and her husband lived in a remote place, away from others. People would describe them as hermits.

Lopamudra wanted help her husband in worshiping the gods, so she started to make rangoli, a decoration for the Yagyakunda.

Yagyakunda is what we call a place of worship.

Lopamudra asked the Panchatatva (the five elements - sky, wind, water, earth, fire) to give her colours to please her husband. She was able to collect blue from sky, green from water, black from soil, red from fire and white from wind. She then added these colours to the rangoli (made from ground rice, lentils, flowers and spices) which is why they look so beautiful today.

Rangoli Colours

Blue represents the sky and green represents the sea. Both colours bring calm and helps with using our imagination. These are good colours for story-telling.

Black brings strength and stability.

Red, the colour of fire or danger, represents the code of conduct the artist must follow.

White represents peace and positivity and embodies all colours.

All of these colours in Rangoli bring in elements that we wish for in the new year, when celebrating Diwali.

Types of Rangoli

There are two types of Rangoli: dry Rangoli introduced by Lopamudra and wet Rangoli introduced from Sita (from The Story of Rama and Sita).

When Sita fell in love with Ram, she ground some rice and prepared rangoli and prayed to the Goddess Gauri (wife of Shiva) to grant Ram as her husband.

The Rangoli prepared for Diwali is the dry Rangoli created by Lopamudra.

Rangoli in different states of India

In different parts of India, there are different stories surrounding the origin and use of Rangoli.

In Gujrat, when Lord Krishna (a supreme god, widely worshipped in India) settled down in Dhwatika, his wife ,Rukmani, started the rangoli pattern. In Gujarat Rangoli is called Satiya because Krishna is the Satiya (partner) of Rukmani.

Below are some other names for Rangoli in different parts of India:

- West Bengal - Alpana.
- Orissa - It is called Joti which is put in front of Lord Jaganath.
- Chattisgarh - Chouk Purna.
- Karnataka - Rangoli.
- Maharashtra - Sanskara Bharati.
- Tamil Nadu - Kolam.

In India despite the different cultures and customs and different names, Rangoli is common and it brings joy and prosperity.

Research

Rangoli has different origins and names in different parts of India.

Can you find information on these different types of Rangoli listed below?

1. Alpana
2. Joti
3. Chouk Purna
4. Sanskara Bharati
5. Kolam

Links to Rangoli types

Alpana

- <http://www.dsource.in/resource/rangoli/types-rangolis/alpana>
- <https://www.culturalindia.net/indian-art/rangoli/alpana.html>

Joti:

- <https://www.google.com/search?sxsr=ALeKk01Ta7MzywjNhlzwJCuTOjkM3ven7A:1598954415002&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=rangoli+lord+jagannath+story&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj9auv2cfrAhWQa8AKHUGPBvYQsAR6BAGFEAE&biw=1231&bih=636>

Chouk Purna:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chowk_poorana
- <https://www.deccanherald.com/content/362722/drawing-designs-walls.html>

Sanskara Bharati:

- <https://www.google.com/search?sxsr=ALeKk00repHcnjYiyh1wxlYgv3b4QAlgQ:1598954979540&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=Sanskar+Bharti+Rangoli&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj6zcS828frAhUJCsaKHRD8D-kQsAR6BAGJEAE&biw=1231&bih=636>

Kolam:

- <https://www.thebetterindia.com/112348/design-south-india-women-cultures/>

Rangoli Videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7YW3WpFjJw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdIUgCo67eo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31pK0m0-l0k>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qhyVxHH-6g
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kx__ddllmpM
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjJnVb2E2vw>