

ACM

MEET ME AT ACM

Suitable for ages 5 to 8



MEET THE DANCER

The women shown on this cloth are performing a fun and energetic spring festival dance called the *dandia*. The *dandia* is a popular traditional dance that originated in Gujarat, India. While dancing, the performers hold wooden sticks in both hands and strike them together to match the beat of musical instruments, such as drums.

ARTY FACTS

CEREMONIAL CLOTH: DANCING WOMEN (DANDIA)

Made in India, Gujarat, around the 16th century
Cotton (drawn and painted, mordant and resist dyed)

This cloth shows a row of female dancers performing the *dandia*, a traditional spring festival dance from Gujarat.

Cloths like this were popular in eastern Indonesia, where they were used as ceremonial hangings or kept as heirlooms. The example here is hand painted. Look carefully at the clothes worn by the dancing women. Notice that the artist has painted each piece of clothing with different patterns and details. The women are painted in the Gujarati style – in three-quarter profile with a protruding eye. Can you spot the various animals painted on the cloth?

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SPY WITH YOUR LITTLE EYE

The female dancers shown on this ceremonial cloth in the Fashion and Textiles Gallery.



Through these activities, your child/student will learn to:

- Generate and express ideas through language and art
- Use body movements to express their ideas and feelings

LOOK closely at the painted figures and designs on the cloth. What are some words you might use to describe the dancers shown here? Besides the dancers, what other patterns and symbols can you see?

IMAGINE you have a front-row seat to watch these dancers in action. **DEMONSTRATE** some moves you think the dancers might perform with their sticks. Then, try finding some videos online to see how the *dandia* is actually performed!

OBSERVE the painted patterns on the dancers' clothing. No two pieces of clothing are alike! If you were the artist, what are some other shapes, lines, and patterns you might use to design the dancers' clothes? Draw them here.



Let us know what you think about our Meet Me at ACM activity cards through a survey here.