

Name:

Class:

Date:

## Alike Yet Unique

*An activity of "Our Singapore: Sutra Chanting"*

### INTRODUCTION

Each *Our Singapore* scene focuses on one place and describes some features of that place. Whether it's a shop, a special ceremony or a place where people worship, you'll find that many of the features can be found in other similar settings. Yet, each setting is unique in the way everything comes together.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. READ the first two columns below. Then, refer to the *Sutra Chanting* picture as well.
2. FIND a very similar feature in any other religion for every one of the seven features below (see No. 3 as an example). Work in pairs. You may ask those who know or surf the internet for the information you need.

|    | <b>General description</b>                                      | <b>In Buddhist temple</b>   | <b>In another place of worship</b>  |
|----|---|---|---|
| a. | Important religious figure's statue is in the place of worship. | Large statue of Buddha, founder of Buddhism.                              | <i>Religion:</i> _____ <i>Place of worship:</i> _____<br><i>Similar feature:</i> _____  |
| b. | Chanting/singing and prayers take place.                        | Chanting of sutras led by a monk.   | <i>Religion:</i> _____ <i>Place of worship:</i> _____<br><i>Similar feature:</i> _____  |
| c. | Musical instruments are played.                                 | Da Qing (chime) used during sutra chanting.                               | <i>Religion:</i> <i>Sikhism</i> <i>Place of worship:</i> <i>Gurdwara</i><br><i>Similar feature:</i> <i>A tabla and stringed musical instruments are used.</i> |
| d. | Fire/water are used as symbols.                                 | Lighted candles used as light symbolises wisdom.                          | <i>Religion:</i> _____ <i>Place of worship:</i> _____<br><i>Similar feature:</i> _____  |
| e. | There is a special space for donated items.                     | Niches in the wall for donated Buddha statues.                            | <i>Religion:</i> _____ <i>Place of worship:</i> _____<br><i>Similar feature:</i> _____  |
| f. | There are reserved seats.                                       | Front rows reserved for resident monks.                                   | <i>Religion:</i> _____ <i>Place of worship:</i> _____<br><i>Similar feature:</i> _____  |
| g. | Followers advance to a higher level based on some criteria.     | After taking the Three Refuges, followers wear the hi qing (black shawl). | <i>Religion:</i> _____ <i>Place of worship:</i> _____<br><i>Similar feature:</i> _____  |

3. TO THINK ABOUT: There is much in common across religious places of worship and yet each one is unique and special in its own way.