

The King & I Activities

Thai Customs Thailand has a unique culture and etiquette. Learn and discuss ways that Thai culture is the same or different from what you are familiar with: [Culture and Customs](#). Thai people have a unique and traditional way of greeting and showing respect called the Wai. Practice with residents how and when to [Wai](#).



Thai Food Thai food is delicious and unique. The dishes are made from interesting and traditional ingredients. Give your residents a chance to sample some popular Thai dishes. Look for a local Thai restaurant to deliver food or cook some of these recipes with residents.



[Pad Thai](#) [Miang Kam](#)

Buddhism The main religion in Thailand is Buddhism, but Hinduism is also widely practiced. Learn more about the beliefs and practices of these two religions by inviting guest speakers to share their religion with residents. Or learn more from online sites: [Buddhism](#) and [Hinduism](#).



Banned The musical/movie was actually banned in Thailand for a certain time. Hold an intellectual discussion group with residents of the history of the country and their view of the musical. [King & I banned in Thailand](#).



King & I Script Encourage residents, staff, and even guests to rehearse and perform short scenes from the [script of The King & I](#).

Thai Games Thai children enjoy a variety of creative and imaginative games.



Discuss with residents the rules for some of these games and the differences and similarities to some of the games they may have played as children. As an intergenerational activity, invite young children to your community for a day of fun and games. The residents can be the teachers of the games. [Pok Deng](#), [Mon Sonpa](#),

Thai Dancers A traditional Thai dance performance, along with the beautiful costumes and music, is a truly magical experience. Invite a local dance group to perform at your community or share this online video clip. [Thai dance performance](#)



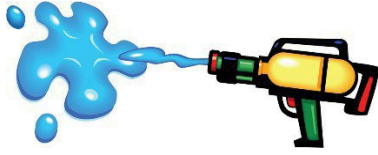
Polka In one of the most popular scenes from *The King & I*, Anna and the King dance the polka to “Shall we Dance.” Some residents might already be Polka experts, but for those who want to get some exercise and learn a new dance this video is helpful. [Learn the Polka](#)



Royal Ploughing Royal Ploughing is a religious and civil ceremony marking the beginning of the rice-planting season. Learn more about [Royal Ploughing](#). Celebrate this Thai food staple by planting and maintaining a small rice paddy in your outdoor space. Enjoy cooking and eating a [Thai rice dish](#) with your residents.



Songkran Celebrate the Thai New Year, [Songkran](#), the Thai way with some fun water play using water bottles or small squirt guns. The water play symbolizes cleansing and rejuvenation. This would also be a fun intergenerational activity.

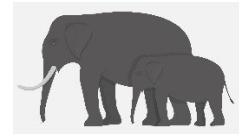


Uncle Tom's Cabin Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, [Uncle Tom's Cabin](#), featured in *The King & I* is an anti-slavery American novel. Create a book club to read and discuss the book and its significance within The King & I story.



Grand Palace The King of Siam and his family lived in the Grand Palace. Take a [virtual tour](#) of this magnificent structure.

Elephants Elephants have played an important part in the history of Thailand and in the culture today. Learn more about how the Thai people embrace the elephant in their daily life. Also learn the origination of the "white elephant gift." [Elephants in Thailand](#)



Crafts Decorate your community with some of these beautiful crafts made by your residents or with the help of young guests.

[Floating lotus leaves](#)

[Elephant crafts](#)

[Cupcake paper lotus flowers](#)

