

# Kampong Life

Did you know that there was a time in Singapore's past where it was common to see families living in Malay kampongs (villages)?

Let's take a closer look at how artist Liu Kang depicted daily life in the 1970s. The painting below shows people going about their everyday activities in a kampong, like near present-day Pasir Panjang.

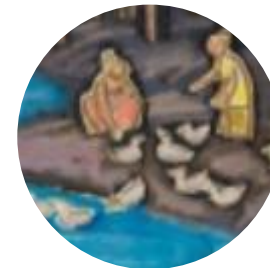


Liu Kang. *Life by the River*. 1975. Oil on canvas, 126 x 203 cm. Gift of the artist. Collection of National Gallery Singapore.

- In the background, you will see kampong houses on stilts amidst lush greenery and blue skies.
- In the middle ground, there are some people feeding animals. Can you guess what animals they are?
- In the foreground, some children are playing, while others are looking on.
- What else can you observe in this painting?



**Background**



**Middle ground**



**Foreground**



Liu Kang. *Life by the River* (sketch). 1956. Drawing, 28.5 x 38 cm. Gift of the artist's family. Collection of National Gallery Singapore.

Liu Kang observed and sketched everyday scenes as part of his artistic process.

The sketches on the left show how Liu practiced and thought through different methods of composition before creating the work that you see today – *Life by the River*. How similar or different were they from his final painting?



Do you know that Liu Kang based *Life by the River* on an older work *Life on Water*, which was painted in 1956?

Do a quick sketch of how your neighbourhood looks like today! Try to include these elements: foreground, middle ground and background.

