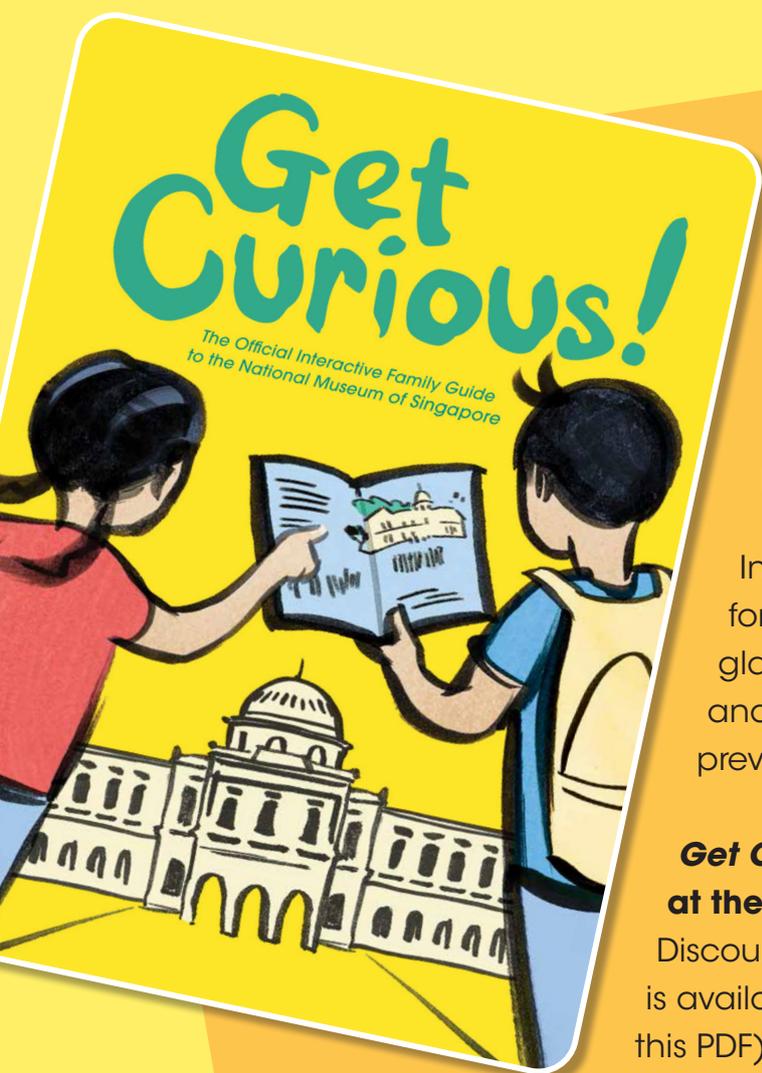


# Get Curious!

*The Official Interactive Family Guide  
to the National Museum of Singapore*



***Get Curious! — The Official Interactive Family Guide to the National Museum of Singapore*** invites young learners and families to explore the interesting stories behind the artefacts on display in our permanent galleries.

Included in this 116-page guide are maps for navigational purposes, special decoder glasses and content that engages the senses and young learners on values. Here is a sneak preview of some pages!

***Get Curious!* is available for sale at \$24.90 at the Museum Label shop in NMS (level 1).**

Discounted price for bulk purchases (min. 6 copies) is available (refer to order form at the end of this PDF). Email [NHB\\_NM\\_Schools@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_NM_Schools@nhb.gov.sg) for enquiries today!

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What is in this book?

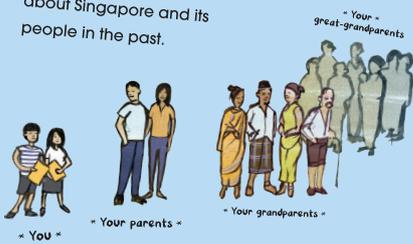
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PS Grown-ups, there's a map of the back!

Overview

**This is the oldest museum in Singapore. It was built more than 130 years ago!**

Your great-great grandparents might have been children then! The museum is home to many interesting objects, known as artefacts. They tell us stories about Singapore and its people in the past.

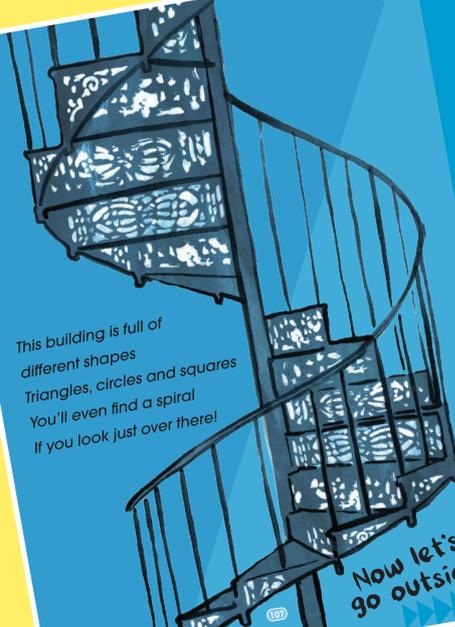


Let's go back in time and find out more about these stories of Singapore!



Sample page featuring Interactive Flaps

This building is full of different shapes  
Triangles, circles and squares  
You'll even find a spiral  
If you look just over there!



Now let's go outside

127

Open here

What animal am I?



128

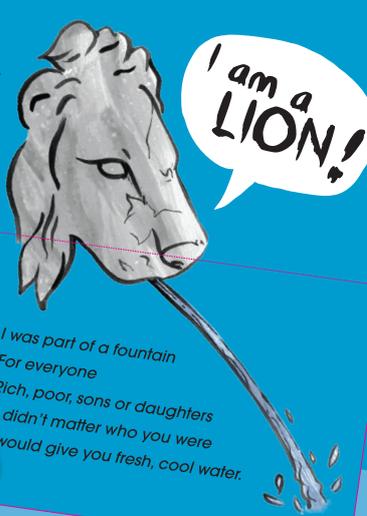
What was I used for?

Section finished? You get a star

Reveals what's beneath the flap

Open here

I am a LION!



I was part of a fountain  
For everyone  
Rich, poor, sons or daughters  
It didn't matter who you were  
would give you fresh, cool water.

Section finished? You get a star

Reveals what happens when viewed with red decoder glasses

Sample page featuring Decoder Glasses

What would you sell if you had a shop?

In Singapore in the olden days  
There were pavements called "five-foot ways"  
And although five feet isn't very wide  
Hawkers set up tiny shops outside!

How wide is your room?

Do you know how long one "foot" is?  
It's this long

Measure it when you get home and write your answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

1 foot

Look through your red glasses

What do you see?

Welcome to my little shop



129

Look through your red glasses

What do you see?

Welcome to my little shop




Let's find the scent stations...



**Fact** The Singapore River was heavily polluted and smelt terrible over 30 years ago. It took 10 years to clean up the river!

What makes some things smell good?



Smells can tell stories about Singapore  
But be careful, we really differ

"I smell nice, like a Tembusu tree"

"But I smell like a stinky old river!"



Resourcefulness



We were made by kids just like you!

We are homemade games and toys  
Made by resourceful girls and boys  
With imagination, twigs and rubber bands  
They made skipping ropes, slingshots and games with cans!



Did your parents or grandparents make toys like us? Ask them!



**Challenge:**  
When you get home, see what you can find to make your own homemade toy!

Now, look around. Can you find an Olympic medal in this gallery?



Sample page of a Sticker Activity about Values

In the museum there are many stories about people who did good things.

Sharing  
Courage  
Loyalty  
Self-motivation  
Hardworking  
Encouraging  
Generosity  
Resourcefulness  
Thriftiness  
Appreciation

Can you match these objects with the good ways in which people have acted?

Do you try to do good things too?

Certificate page upon completion of *Get Curious!*

CONGRATULATIONS!

You are now an Expert Story Collector!

N S M  
National Museum of Singapore

- The Building
- Singapore - History Gallery
- Modern - Colony Gallery
- Growing Up - Gallery
- Goh Seng - Choo Gallery



## About Get Curious!

*Get Curious!* invites children to find out the stories behind the artefacts in the museum and discover our country's history. On reaching the end of the book, they will graduate as an **Expert Story Collector!** We hope you will encourage them to share what they've learnt with other members of your family.



Courage

### Values

An artefact can tell us not just about the facts of history, but also about the **values** of the person who owned it. Through the guide, you will find artefacts that represent specific values. Talk to your child about these values and why they are important.

The blouse that belonged to Elizabeth Choy is linked to the value of **Courage**.

### Themes

The Guide features themes of colour, shapes, animals and transport. Encourage your child to notice these as they explore the museum.



### What's inside...

- An introduction to the beautiful museum building
- Artefacts that you can find in the Singapore History Gallery, Goh Seng Choo Gallery, and Modern Colony and Growing Up galleries
- Fun activities for the kids to try at home
- Extra information about the artefacts for grown-ups, so you can support your children if they have any tricky questions! (These little numbers on the children's pages refer to the pages where there's more information for you)

105

### How to use this guide

First, hand the book over to the kids. They can take the lead and begin anywhere they choose. There's no right or wrong starting point!

Depending on your child's reading level, you may need to read the text aloud to them.

And then you're off on a great adventure... find the artefacts, talk to each other about what you see, and encourage your child to discuss the questions they find on each page, as well as to notice colours, shapes and textures. Together, you and your child can discover the fascinating stories behind these artefacts!



### Gold stars

When you finish each section, put a gold star on your child's certificate (page 101). When the certificate is full, you may want to tear it out and put it on your child's wall!



## Sample page featuring artefact information for grown-ups' reference

**Grown-ups, on the next pages you'll find some interesting information about the artefacts featured in this guide.**

There are also questions about the artefacts that you might like to ask your child. Get ready for some interesting conversations!

**Take note!** The numbers beside each artefact on the children's pages refer to the relevant page in this section, to help you find the information quickly when you need it.

### Dome

Page 8-9



This dome covers a circular space at the entrance of the museum called the rotunda. Commissioned in the 1850s, it was a very difficult structure to build. When it was finished, the 27.4-metre-tall dome made the museum the highest building in the Bras Basah area.

**Question for children:** What colours can you see on the glass windows of the dome?

### History of the National Museum of Singapore (mural)

Page 10-11



This mural by Singaporean artist Yip Yew Chong was painted over four days. It was inspired by the 19th-century landscape paintings held by the National Museum and presents the museum's rich history and collection. At the bottom are the gold coins that were the first objects in the collection. The building you are standing in now was constructed in the 1890s to house the museum.

**Questions for children:** What are museums for? If you had your own museum, what would you put in it?

### Spiral Staircase

Page 12



This 33-step spiral staircase is made of wrought iron, but it is coated with a clear, protective material. If left unprotected, the metal would rust in just a matter of hours in our humid, tropical climate. Cola was used to clean the staircase as it contains phosphoric acid, which makes rust easier to remove. The third floor of the museum (above the spiral staircase) was once used as a storage space.

**Question for children:** Would you like a staircase like this in your house?

### Gemmill Fountain

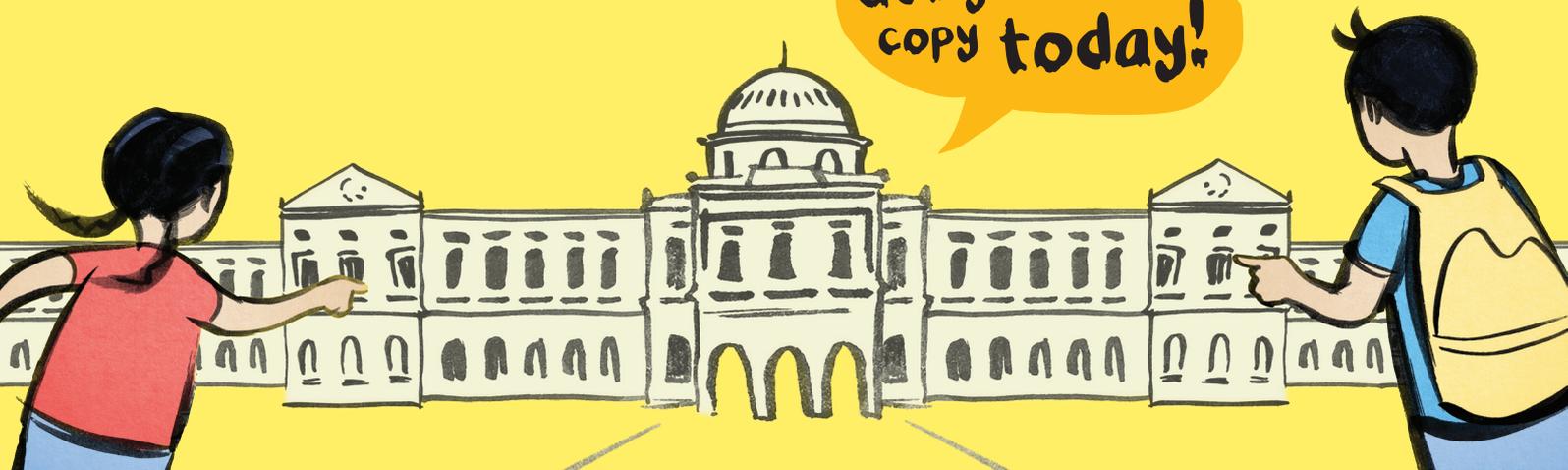
Page 13



Donated to Singapore in 1864 as a parting gift by John Gemmill, this is our country's oldest public drinking fountain. Gemmill was an English auctioneer and banker who lived in Singapore between the 1820s and 1860s. The fountain used to stand at Commercial Square (now known as Raffles Place), before being moved to Empress Place and then eventually to the National Museum in 1967 after it was damaged during World War Two (but later restored).

**Question for children:** Why do you think there is a lion on this fountain?

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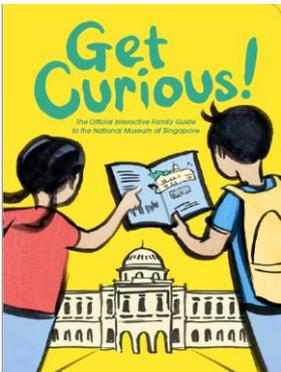
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3. The *Get Curious!* book has been designed for use at the National Museum of Singapore, an institution of the National Heritage Board (“NHB”), by young learners and their families. Please note that NHB does not provide any facilitators at the National Museum of Singapore.
4. The individual shall be fully responsible for any injury, loss or damage due to carelessness or other actions on the part of the children/students under their charge in relation to their visit to the National Museum of Singapore or use of the *Get Curious!* book, and NHB does not accept any liability in this regard.
5. Admission to the National Museum of Singapore’s permanent galleries is free for all children aged 6 and under, as well as Singaporeans/PRs who are 6 years old and above, in addition to accompanying non-local teachers from MOE Kindergartens, Pre-School Anchor Operators and schools under NHB International Membership Scheme.
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