

An illustration of two children standing on the deck of a ship. The child on the left is a boy with a shaved head and a long braid, wearing a blue traditional Chinese jacket. The child on the right is a girl wearing a brown headscarf, a yellow shirt, and a pink skirt. They are both smiling. The ship's mast and rigging are visible in the background. The ship's hull is made of brown planks, and there is a yellow railing. A large wooden crate is on the left. The background is a light blue sky with a faint world map.

N S  
National Museum  
of Singapore

Booklet design: Joanne Lio

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# An Old New World Explorer's Guide

Recommended for children aged 7–12

Basement Exhibition Gallery  
21 Sept 2019 – 29 Mar 2020

Name:

# An Old New World EXHIBITION MAP

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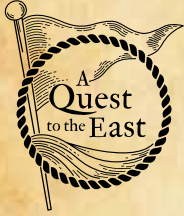
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# MUSEUM ETIQUETTE & INTRODUCTION

Before you enter, please remember:



Look out for these icons for some special information just for you! See how many you can find in the exhibition!



Pay attention to what you see, smell and hear around you!



Turn off the flash on your camera or phone when taking photographs.



Speak softly, and do not run. This helps everyone have a good time!

3



Welcome, Explorer!

Let us embark on a journey through time as we explore and learn about the “East Indies” – present-day South and Southeast Asia.

For centuries, this region was home to products that others valued and desired.

Here, we will learn about how trade was conducted, and how explorers lived at sea.

Keep an open, curious mind as we sail through the galleries!

4

# WELCOME TO THE EMPORIUM ROTUNDA (LEVEL 1)

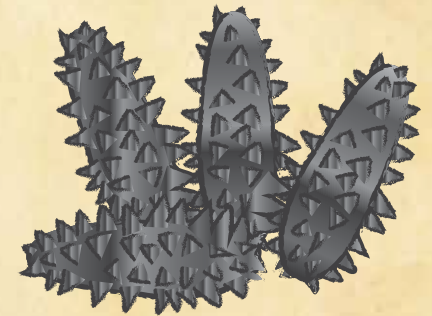
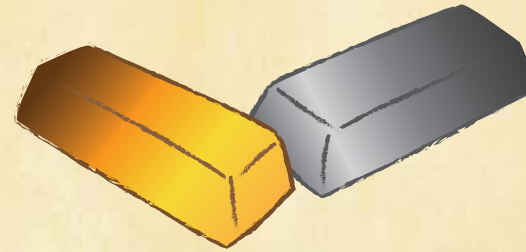
Hundreds of years ago, merchants from far away journeyed eastward in search of valuable goods and new lands.

The precious items they gained – tea from China, vibrant textiles from India, useful spices from present-day Indonesia, and more – were worth a lot of money when sold back in their home countries.

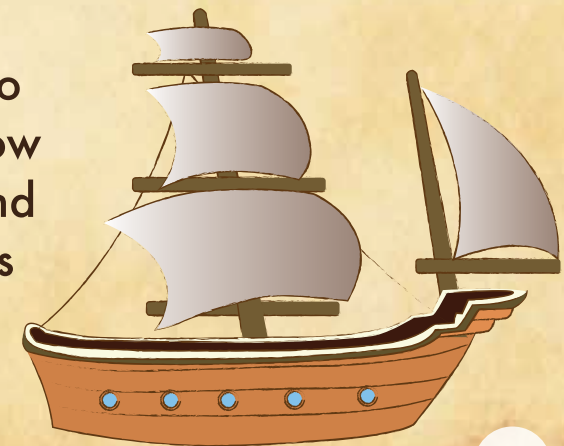
The journey was full of risks and uncertainties, but the hopes of expanding their trading power and becoming wealthy kept the ambitious sailors and merchants going.



See these items around you? They are some examples of valuable items that were traded. Touch and smell them if you can! How were they used?



Head down to the basement galleries to learn more about how the Dutch, British, and other trading powers sailed to the “East” for business!





## INTRODUCTION (BASEMENT GALLERY 1)

In 1602, the British arrived on the shores of Aceh in Indonesia. To the Englishmen, Aceh seemed like a whole new world!

However, Aceh – like the rest of the East Indies – was already bustling with activity. People from other lands were already trading here. It was not new at all!

Watch the video at the start of the exhibition!

The British traders presented Aceh's Sultan with silver, other precious gifts, and a letter from Queen Elizabeth I. In exchange, the Sultan allowed the Englishmen to conduct business in Aceh.

Why were traders so interested in the East Indies? Let's find out!





# 1. MAPPING OUR WORLD

The East Indies included Southeast Asia, India, and the islands that form Indonesia today. Traders sailed here from far away in search of many beautiful, precious, and useful items in Asia that they wanted.

The sailors needed maps to find their way! Look at the maps on the walls. Can you find Singapore on them?

This region was called the “East Indies”!



## HELPING WORDS

INDONESIA  
SRI LANKA

THE PHILIPPINES  
VIETNAM

INDIA  
MALAYSIA



- 1. India
- 2. Sri Lanka
- 3. Malaysia
- 4. Indonesia
- 5. Vietnam
- 6. The Philippines

Herman Moll's map of the East Indies, early 18th century  
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore



# 1. MAPPING OUR WORLD

When the sailors reached their destination and arrived at the shore, what might they have seen?

They might have encountered some **Orang Laut**!

The Orang Laut ("sea people") lived around Singapore, Malaysia, and the nearby Riau islands. As masters of the sea, they used objects like these in their daily lives. Look for these objects in the exhibition!

How do you think they were used? Draw it in the space below!

**How was I used?**

**What did I hold?**

**How was I used to catch fish?**



Spear, Collected from the Orang Suku Laut of Riau and Batam in 1992  
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore



Woven basket and lid, Collected from the Orang Suku Laut of Riau and Batam in 1992  
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore



Fish trap, early to mid-20th century  
On loan from the Asian Civilisations Museum



# 1. MAPPING OUR WORLD, 2. SETTING SAIL

Boats were a big part of the lives of the Orang Laut and the traders who sailed to the East Indies. Check out the many different types of boats back then!

Look closely at the paintings of boats around you.  
How are their sails special?

Sails are designed to propel boats by capturing the wind. If you were to design a boat, what would it look like? Draw it below!





## 2. SETTING SAIL

If you were at sea, how would you know if the boats near you were friendly or not?

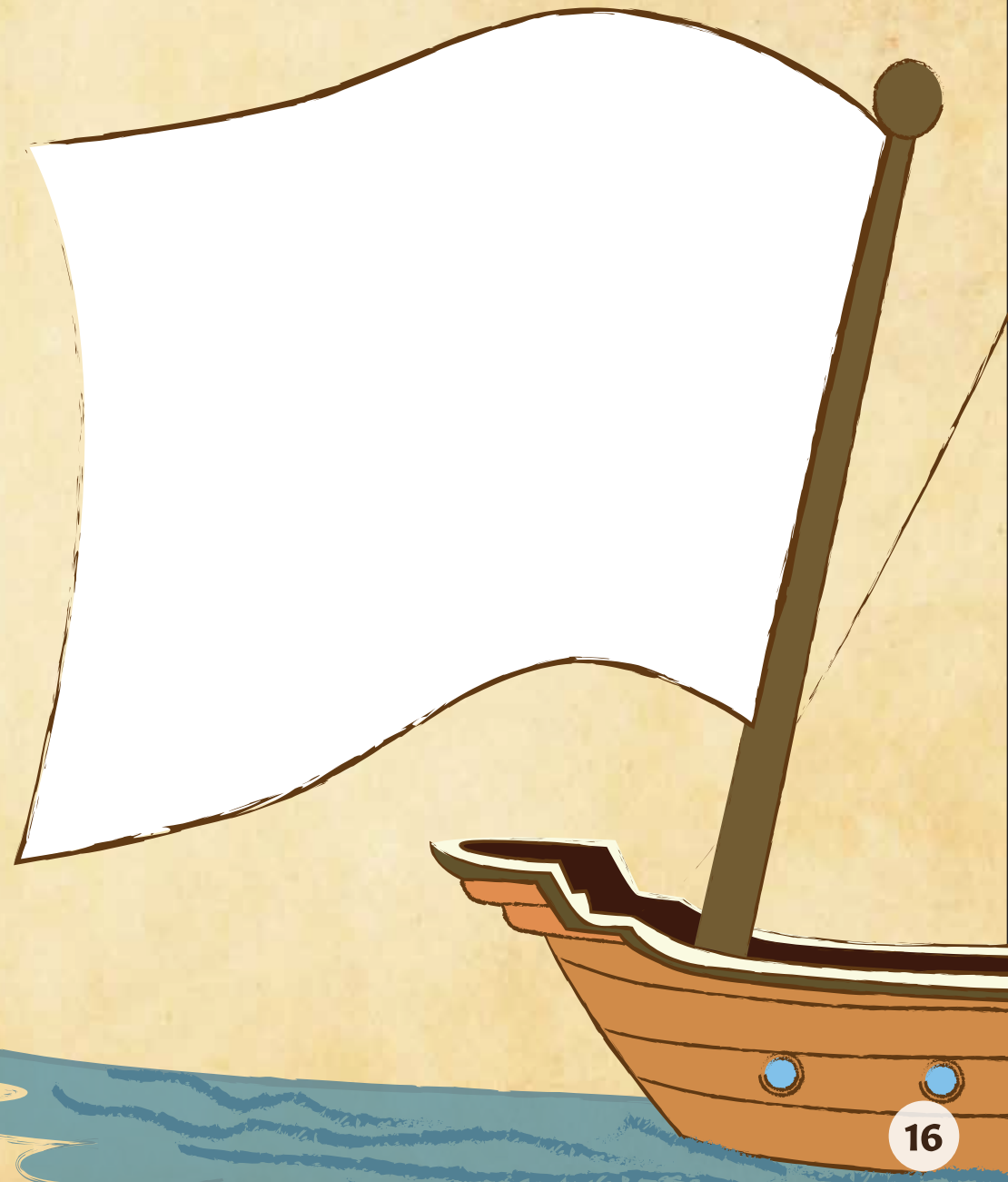
Look for the flag chart on display. It depicts 139 flags that would have been seen at sea. Do you recognise any of the names and flags?

**Look out for the flags!**



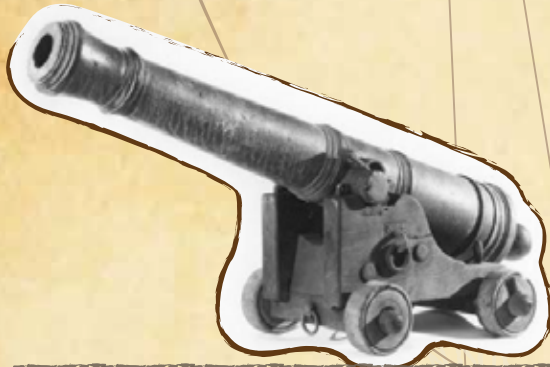
Matthaus Seutter's Flag Chart of the Seafaring Nations printed by Tobias Lotter, c1760  
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore

Design a flag for your boat! Draw it here!



## 2. SETTING SAIL

What would you bring along on a voyage?  
Here are some things the Dutch had on their  
ships when they sailed to the East Indies.  
Look for them in the exhibition!



C	A		N		
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**BURGOMASTER**

C					R
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**"FIVE-FOOT"**

C			S	
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Dutch East India Company cannon on roller horse, 1764, On loan from the Amsterdam Museum; Dutch colonial burgomaster chair, 1770; and Dutch colonial "five-foot" chest, 18th century; Collection of the National Museum of Singapore

See that gigantic ship nearby? That is the  
**Interactive Learning Space!**

Head there to discover the challenges of living  
on a ship, and some important skills sailors  
had to learn!

**All aboard!**





## 2. SETTING SAIL (INTERACTIVE LEARNING SPACE)



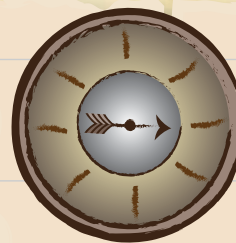
If you were a sailor, what do you think your biggest challenge would be?

What would you bring with you on a long sea voyage?

### How did sailors find their way at sea?



They had many different tools to help them. Here are a few of them!



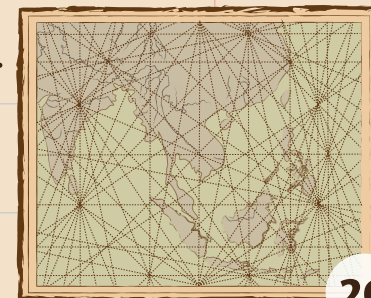
**Compasses** can tell you which direction you are facing. The Chinese were the first to use them!

**Sandglasses** helped sailors tell the time. They contained sand, powdered eggshell, or other suitable materials!



**Quadrants** show you how far you are from the Equator, with the help of the pinhole and plumb bob (a weight attached to a string).

**Sea charts** were maps for the sea. They would show a compass for directions, how deep the water was, and what hazards to avoid.





### 3. SPICES AND TEA FOR THE MARKET



**You can't get them!  
The spices are guarded  
by strange beasts...**

Spices were very useful,  
and were in high demand.  
However, the Arab and  
Middle Eastern traders would  
not tell others where the  
spices were from.

As such, the  
Europeans bought  
them at very high prices!  
Eventually, the Europeans  
found spices in the East Indies,  
and started sailing over in  
search of them.

Why were these spices so  
valuable? Let's find out.

Look for the spices and smell them! Name them  
by filling in the blanks below.



N					G
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This is an ingredient in laksa! It was  
also used in perfumes and as medicine.

P					R
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A popular seasoning in food, this  
spice was even used to pay  
dowries, rent, and taxes.



C							N
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

Egyptians used this to embalm mummies,  
Europeans used it to preserve meat, and  
we sometimes add it to our hot chocolate.

G					R
---	--	--	--	--	---

This spice is used in many  
Asian dishes!





### 3. SPICES AND TEA FOR THE MARKET

Besides spices, what other precious items were traded?

Look for these items in the exhibition.  
Match the objects to where they are from!



• INDIA      • JAVA      • CHINA      • JAPAN

Tea bowl, 18th century; Coffee pot, late 17th century to early 18th century; and Child's *baju panjang*, second half of 18th century; On loan from the Asian Civilisations Museum; Javanese *botekan* with five drawers, early 20th century, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore

In addition to spices, money was also used to purchase items. Here are some coins that were used. Note the years printed on them!



Mexican eight-reales coin, 1734; Netherlands East Indies one rupee, 1801; and Netherlands copper doit, 1742; Collection of the National Museum of Singapore

Do you have any Singaporean coins with you right now?  
When were they made?





## 4. LOCAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

When the Europeans came to the East Indies, they were fascinated by the plants and animals that they saw. They relied on the locals to educate them about their surroundings.

Wow, Ali! What are you holding?

Let me tell you all about it!

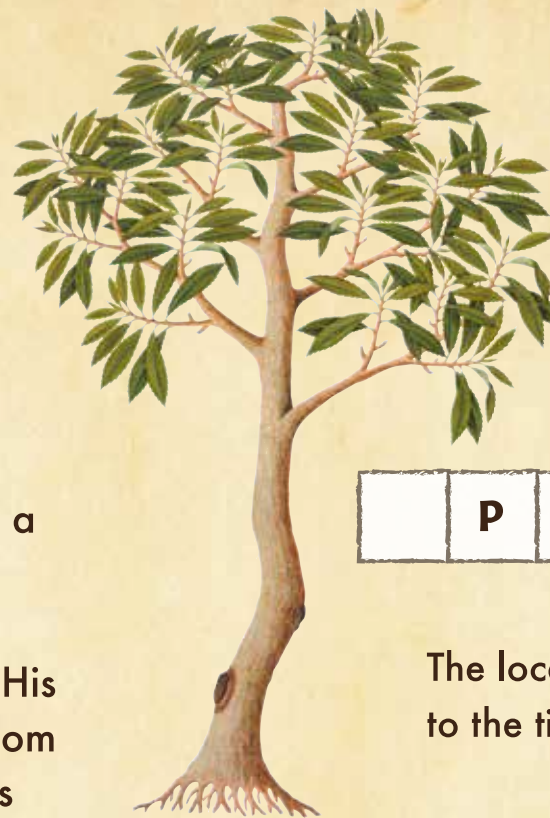


Claës Fredrik Hornstedt examining natural history specimens, attended by his slave Ali, in Java, 1788  
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore

This painting shows a Swedish naturalist, Hornstedt, studying specimens in Java. His Javanese slave, whom he called "Ali", was assisting him.

"Ali" was not his real name, though. Hornstedt named him that as he could not pronounce Ali's real name!

Look closely at this painting on the wall.  
What instruments, plants and animals can you spot?



Watch out!  
I am poisonous!

What tree is this?

P

T  E

The locals added the sap of this tree to the tips of their weapons!

BLOWPIPE

How do you think these were used?

QUIVER WITH ARROWS



Ipoh Tree from the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings, early 19th century, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore; Blowpipe, mid-20th century; and Bamboo Quiver with Arrows, 20th century; On loan from the Asian Civilisations Museum

## 4. LOCAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Here are some other plants and animals that were found in Southeast Asia. Look for them in the exhibition and write down their names!



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		L				N
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		P		R
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	P			
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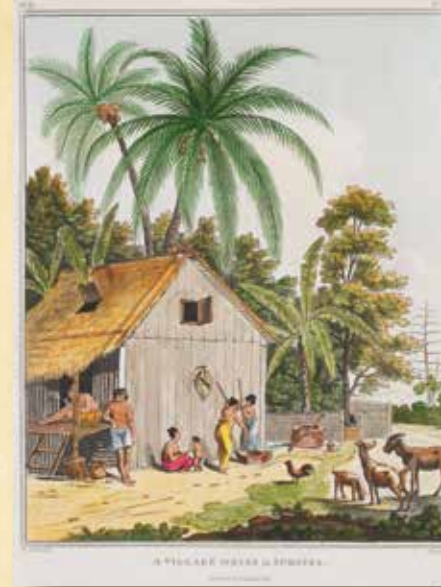
## 5. NEW LANDSCAPES AND PORTRAITS

Many Europeans drew or painted the things that they saw in the East Indies, as the people here dressed and lived differently from them. Remember, there were no cameras then!



*Pedro Branco,*  
*Straits of Malacca, 1810*  
Thomas and William Daniell  
Collection of the National  
Museum of Singapore

This is a depiction of Pedra Branca (named Pedro Branco in the painting above), an island near mainland Singapore. The name means “white rock” in Portuguese, and refers to the bird droppings on the island! Spot the Malay *perahu* (boat) in the foreground and European ship in the background!



This is a depiction of a village house in Sumatra. The explorers often wanted to record how the locals led their lives.

*A Village House in Sumatra, 1810*  
Joseph C. Stadler,  
after William Bell  
Collection of the National  
Museum of Singapore

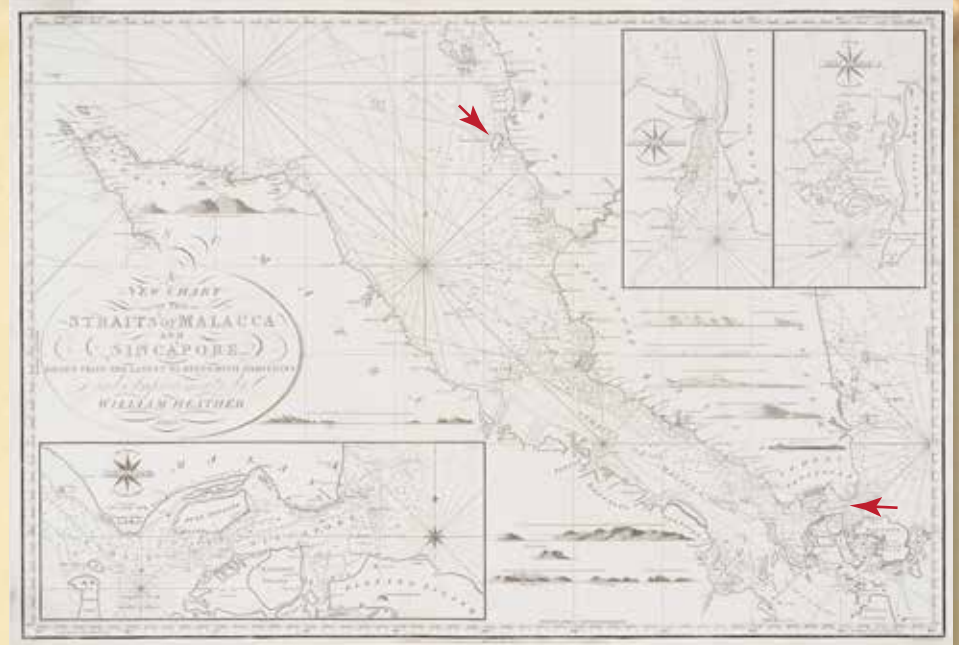
Have you ever been to a new place?  
What do you remember most about it?  
How do you record what you see and experience?



## 6. PRELUDE TO THE FOUNDING

For centuries, the Europeans traded with Asia, and set up trading ports in the East Indies.

By 1819, the British were looking for a new place to set up a port. William Farquhar, Stamford Raffles and their crew eventually arrived at the island of Singapore.



William Heather's Chart of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, 1803  
Engraved by J. Stephenson  
On loan from Julian Suresh Candiah

Look for this map in the exhibition!  
Can you find our little island on it?

Find "Prince of Wales's I." ("I" stands for "Island".) This refers to Penang today. If you were sailing from Penang to Singapore, what route would you take? Trace it on the map!



## 6. PRELUDE TO THE FOUNDING

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Now that you have journeyed through the *An Old New World* exhibition, I am sure you have learnt a lot about what it takes to be an explorer!

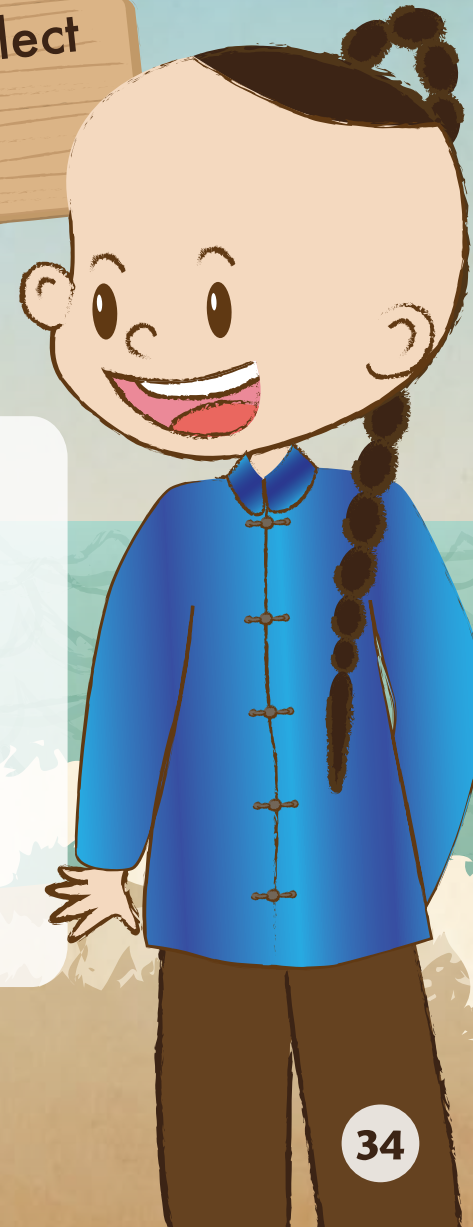
What kind of qualities must an explorer have?

An explorer must be...

Write down one thing that you learnt about Singapore and the region today.

We hope you enjoyed your visit! Head to the feedback area to reflect on your journey.

- Did you discover something new at *An Old New World*?
- What was your favourite part of the exhibition?
- Do you have a note to share with the curators or the museum?



# MAKE YOUR OWN GLOBE!

1. Cut along the outer black lines.
2. Fold inwards along the dotted lines.

3. Fold the white flaps inwards. Using double-sided tape, stick the flaps to their adjacent edges as you bring the sides together.

