

N S M
National Museum
of Singapore



Home, Truly

Growing Up with Singapore,
1950s to the Present



Investigator's Journal

(Recommended for ages 13 and above)

Dear Investigator,

You have been selected as part of a special taskforce to uncover the historical figures and moments that have shaped Singapore over the years. Your journey will take you through the special exhibition, **Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present** in the basement, and the **Singapore History Gallery** on level 1.

Home, Truly explores moments and experiences in our history that express our identity as Singaporeans. These include crises and challenges that have occasionally struck Singapore over the years. In response, Singaporeans have displayed resilience, grit and innovation to adapt and carry on with life.

You can pick a route to explore this exhibition and sections of the Singapore History Gallery:



Route 1

Singapore's Road to Independence

What were the local and global forces that influenced Singapore's road to independence?

Route 2

Citizenship and a Sense of Belonging

How did people in Singapore form connections with each other and with Singapore in the post-independence years?

Here are a few tips to take note of as you explore the galleries:



Examine the objects in the museum carefully

- Touch the objects only if the signs indicate that it is permissible to do so.



Limit food and beverages to outside the galleries

- It is important to keep the galleries free of food and moisture, as food could attract insects that can cause irreparable harm to artefacts, and moisture could cause certain materials to deteriorate.



Take photographs without flash

- Flash from cameras damages sensitive materials like paper and textiles. It also greatly shortens their lifespan.



Find out more about the artefacts

- Scan the QR codes in this booklet to discover more information about each artefact through short videos.

Most importantly, start your journey with a curious mind!

All the best!

Warm regards,
Lead Investigator



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short introduction video!

<https://go.gov.sg/htj-intro>

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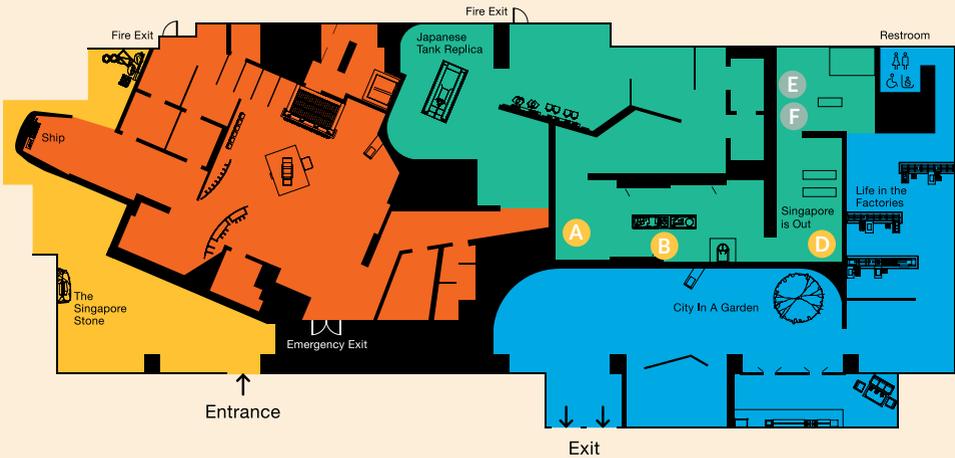
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Finding your way around

Use the navigational maps to help you locate the artefacts in the different zones. There are many artefacts to explore, and stories to discover and listen to in each location.

Level 1: Singapore History Gallery



Legend:

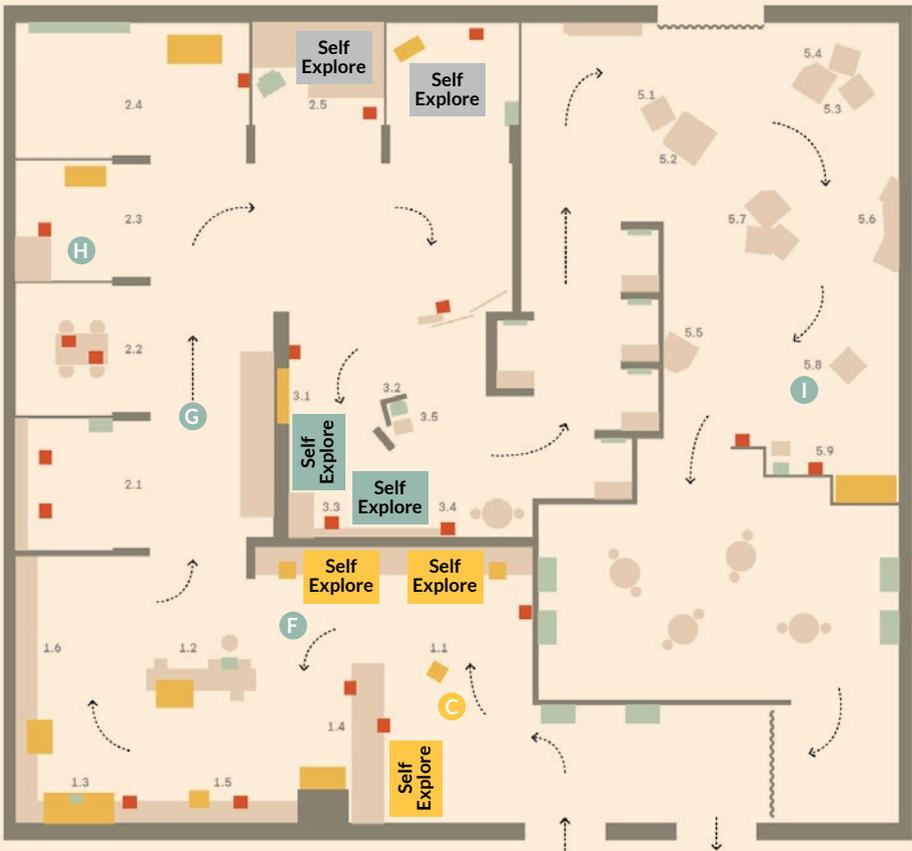
**Route 1:
Singapore's Road to Independence**

- A** The Turbulent 1950s and 1960s
- B** Red Alert
- C** 1959 General Election
- D** Singapore is Out

**Route 2:
Citizenship and a Sense of Belonging**

- E** "Majulah Singapura"
- F** Markers of Identity
- G** Festivals and Food
- H** Growing Up
- I** Overcoming Crises

Basement: Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present





Route 1: Singapore's Road to Independence

What were the local and global forces that influenced Singapore's road to independence?



YOUR VOTE IS SECRET
你的投票是秘密的
اوندين كامو ايت ر هسيا
2ங்கள் வாக்கு இரகசியமானது



A The Turbulent 1950s and 1960s

During World War Two, Singapore fell to the invading Japanese forces after the swift defeat of the British. The image of Western superiority and invincibility was shattered.

After the war, the British government returned and struggled to provide jobs and basic amenities for the people of Singapore.

Locate these woodblock prints in the gallery and take a closer look at them.



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htj-r1-a>



"5-1-3", 1954, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2000-03787)



"Extortion", 1957, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (1999-02609)



"Drainage Works at Potong Pasir", c1957, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (1999-02614)

1 How would you describe the facial expressions of the different people depicted in these prints?

Surprised / Worried / Happy / Sad / Concerned

Other emotions that you note:

3 Why do you think the people in the prints are showing these emotions?

2 What do you think is happening in the three prints above?

5-1-3:

Extortion:

Drainage Works at Potong Pasir:



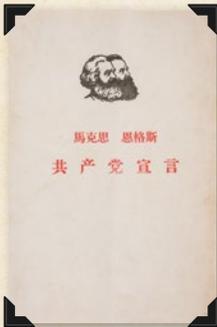
B Red Alert

Shortly after World War Two, communism, a political ideology which began in the Soviet Union, was gaining ground around the world. The Malayan Communist Party, also known as MCP, was allowed to operate after World War Two because it had been Britain's ally against the Japanese during the war. However, when the MCP attempted to infiltrate trade unions and make use of the people's unhappiness to gain supporters, the British clamped down on its activities. The Malayan Emergency was declared in 1948 after an outbreak of violence in Malaya that was initiated by the MCP.



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htj-r1-b>



"The Communist Manifesto" booklet in Chinese, 1955, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2006-01634). Gift of Annie Tan Guek Neo

- 1 Take a look at the artefacts in this zone. In your opinion, what were the external factors which encouraged the youths' sympathy towards the communists?



Communist notice in Jawi Malay, 1950, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (1996-00401). Gift of Lim Choo Ming

- 2 Are you surprised by the communist notice in Jawi Malay on the left? What do you think was its purpose?



C 1959 General Election

The 1950s and 1960s also saw the emergence of local leaders who captured the imagination of the people in Singapore with their anti-colonial speeches and passion for Singapore.

David Marshall was elected Singapore's first chief minister in 1955. He tried to negotiate for full internal self-government for Singapore but failed and resigned in 1956. He was replaced by Lim Yew Hock, who succeeded in negotiating full internal self-government (with the exception of internal security, defence and foreign affairs) for Singapore. This paved the way for the 1959 General Election to be held, which was fiercely contested between the People's Action Party (PAP) and the Singapore People's Alliance (SPA).



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htj-r1-c>



Election flyer for Singapore People's Alliance (SPA) candidate Lim Yew Hock (front and back), 1959–1963, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2007-52939-004)

1 Examine this election flyer. Can you identify the languages printed on it?

a.

c.

b.

d.

2 Why do you think the election flyer features so many different languages?

3 Do you agree with the portrayal of the two political parties? Why do you say so?



SELF-EXPLORATION

Find out more about how people in Singapore felt about the 1959 election and merging with Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak to form Malaysia in 1963.

National Day Parades

Take a look at this first day cover for Singapore's National Day. Did you know that from 1960 to 1963, before Singapore merged with Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak to form Malaysia, Singapore celebrated its National Day on 3 June, the day when it attained full internal self-government in 1959?



First day cover for Singapore's National Day, 3 June 1961, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (1995-04455)

Observe the beautiful photographs of National Day Parades from the 1960s to the present. Can you recall the last time you watched the National Day Parade in person? How did you feel sitting in the crowd with fellow Singaporeans, watching the performances and singing the songs?



New Symbols, New Identity

In the years between Singapore's full internal self-government status (1959) and merger with Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak (1963), new symbols and markers of identity were introduced to represent the new identity of Singapore and Singaporeans.

In this section of the exhibition, you can explore artefacts and read oral history quotes that highlight these political changes from the 1950s to the 1960s.



State of Singapore National Loyalty Week Card, 1959, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2000-01194, 2000-01195). Gift of Ms Quek Yuen Yuan, Ana

Did you know that when Malaysia was formed in 1963, there were 14 member states, including Singapore? Can you spot the Singapore flag in the display? Do you recognise the flags of the other member states of Malaysia?



Paper flags of the states of Malaysia, 1963, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2007-52586)



D Singapore is Out

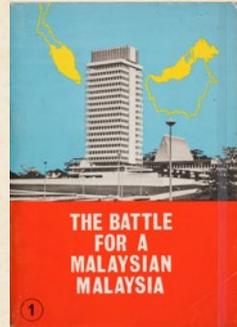
In 1959, Britain granted Singapore full internal self-government. The People's Action Party (PAP) led by Lee Kuan Yew had won the general election.

To fulfil PAP's election promise of ending colonialism and achieving independence, Mr Lee believed merger with Malaya was the only option for Singapore's survival. He faced resistance from the pro-communist faction in the PAP, which broke away in 1961 to form the Barisan Sosialis, an opposition party. On 16 September 1963, Singapore became part of Malaysia. The merger only lasted for two years, however, and in 1965, Singapore separated from Malaysia to become an independent state.

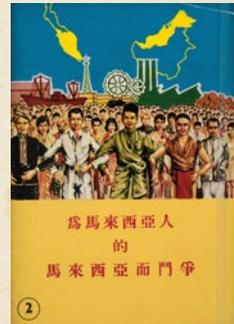
1 A reason behind Singapore's separation from Malaysia was a difference in the vision for Malaysia. Based on the two artefacts on the right, booklets published by the Singapore government, what do you think is the central idea of Singapore's vision for a Malaysian Malaysia? Please circle the correct answer below.

- a Preferential treatment for one race
- b All races would be treated equally

2 Why do you think this vision was important?



"The Battle for a Malaysian Malaysia", a booklet published by the Ministry of Culture, c. 1965, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2010-02163)



"Wei Malaixiyaren De Malaixiya Er Douzheng (Struggle for a Malaysian Malaysia)", a Chinese booklet published by the Ministry of Culture, 1965, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2000-07933)



In this section of the gallery, you will see a video clip of Singapore's first Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, announcing Singapore's separation from Malaysia in a televised press conference.

Watch the segment titled "Note to Singaporeans" from the 05:15 mark and fill in the missing words.



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htj-r1-d>

"I would like finally, if I may, just to speak not to you but really to the people of Singapore. I have been so busy in the last few days, I haven't had the time to compose my thoughts in writing to tell you what it is all about and why what has happened has happened.

There is nothing to be worried about it. Many things will go on as usual. But be firm, be calm. We are going to have a [] - [] nation in Singapore. We will set the example. This is not a Malay nation; this is not a Chinese nation; this is not an Indian nation. Everybody will have his place: [] ; [] , [] .

And finally, let us really [] - I cannot call myself a Malaysian now - we [] , regardless of [] , language, religion, culture."

3 Which of the values mentioned above are still relevant today? Why?



Route 2: Citizenship and a Sense of Belonging

How did people in Singapore form connections with each other and with Singapore in the post-independence years?



E “Majulah Singapura”

“Majulah Singapura”, which means “Onward Singapore”, was originally written in 1958 by Zubir Said for the Singapore City Council. When Singapore gained full internal self-government status in 1959, this song was chosen as Singapore’s state anthem, with some modifications to the tempo, tune and lyrics. On 3 December 1959 during National Loyalty Week, the anthem was unveiled together with the national flag and crest.



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htj-r2-e>



“Majulah Singapura” flexi disc, 1959, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2014-00970-001, 2014-00970-002). Gift of Low Kam Hoong

1 Re-arrange the lyrics of “Majulah Singapura” in the correct order, by numbering them from 1 to 9, with number 1 being the first line of the anthem.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Dengan semangat yang baru | <input type="radio"/> Semua kita berseru |
| <input type="radio"/> Majulah Singapura | <input type="radio"/> Cita-cita kita yang mulia |
| <input type="radio"/> Marilah kita bersatu | <input type="radio"/> Berjaya Singapura |
| <input type="radio"/> Sama-sama menuju bahagia | <input type="radio"/> Mari kita rakyat Singapura |
| <input type="radio"/> Majulah Singapura | |

2 Why do you think it was important for Singapore to have a national anthem, flag and crest?



LOCATION:
Singapore, Singapore History Gallery, Level 1

F Markers of Identity



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htij-r2-f>

With Singapore's independence, its people were recognised as citizens of Singapore. Legal documents that reflected the Singapore citizen's identity were issued, such as the identity card and passport. In May 1966, a national registration exercise was held in conjunction with the introduction of a new identity card.



Singapore passport, 1960s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2011-00730). Gift of Mei-Mei Moore

- 1 In recent years, the Singapore passport has been ranked one of the most "powerful" passports in the world. In your opinion, what contributed to our national passport being so highly regarded globally today?



LOCATION:
Laying the Foundations, *Home, Truly* Exhibition, Basement



Republic of Singapore identity card belonging to Ho Tuck Yew, 1966, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2020-00057). Gift of Michael Ho Peng Choy and family

- 2 Find and read the caption of the artefact on the left and circle either True or False for each statement.

- a. Under the National Registration Act of 1965, all Singaporeans above 12 years of age had to register for an identity card.

True / False

- b. 1.5 million identity cards were issued to citizens of Singapore in 1966.

True / False



G Festivals and Food



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htij-r2-g>



Postcard of children playing with lanterns during the Mid-autumn Festival, c. 1980s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2008-05401)

1 Which is your favourite ethnic festival to celebrate in Singapore? Why do you enjoy celebrating this festival every year?

2 What memories do you have that are associated with this festival?

3 Have you celebrated a festival or eaten food from another culture? What was the experience like?



LOCATION:
Moving In, Home, Truly Exhibition, Basement

H Growing Up

Schools have always provided a platform, both within and outside the classroom, for students of various backgrounds and races to meet, learn together, and for some, create special memories that last a lifetime.



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htij-r2-h>



Maha Bodhi Primary School classroom writing desk, 1960s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2012-00490)



Singapore Schools' Sports Council Medal, 1984, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (1995-11472)

- 1 Take a look at the artefacts and photos in this section. Do you notice any similarities and differences between the school-going experience of the past and your current school-going experience?

Similarities	Differences

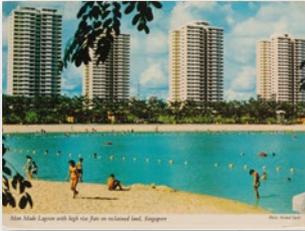
- 2 How does going to school in Singapore help to bring children together?



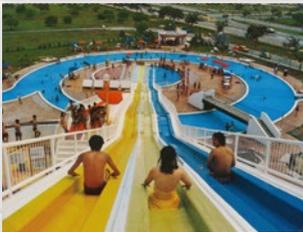
SELF-EXPLORATION

Recreation

Examine the photographs and oral history quotes on display to find out more about the types of recreational activities that Singaporeans used to enjoy with their family and friends!



Postcard of the East Coast Park swimming lagoon and the Marine Parade public housing estate, late 1970s-1980s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2008-04929)



Postcard of the Big Splash aquatic centre, 1980s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2008-04600)

Where do you go for leisure with your family and friends? What memories do you have of visiting these places?

Popular Culture

The arrival of television in Singapore in the 1960s was a new technology that captivated many Singaporeans. In the 1960s and 1970s, it was common for neighbours to visit each other's home to watch television shows as not all families could afford a television.



"Talentine" award and vinyl record with cover, 1968, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2016-00187)



Philips discovery helmet television, 1970s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2006-00507)

How does watching television shows bring people together? What shows do you watch now that bring you closer to your family and friends?

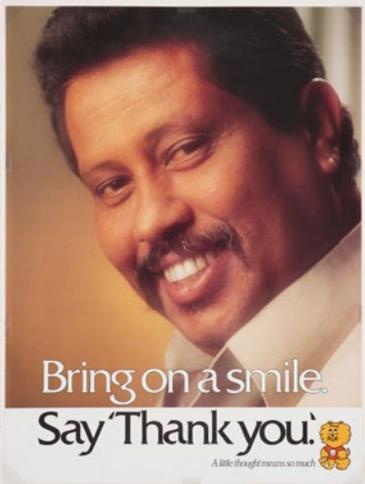


SELF-EXPLORATION

Discover how Singaporeans of diverse backgrounds have strived to live together harmoniously, build connections with each other, and grow in strength as a nation.

Campaigns

Take a closer look at the photographs and artefacts related to campaigns that were introduced in Singapore over the years!



Courtesy campaign poster, 1980s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2005-00426). Gift of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts



POSBank Smiley Squirrel door-knob hanger, 1980s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2001-01059). Gift of POSB Centre (POSBank)

Why do you think these campaigns were introduced?



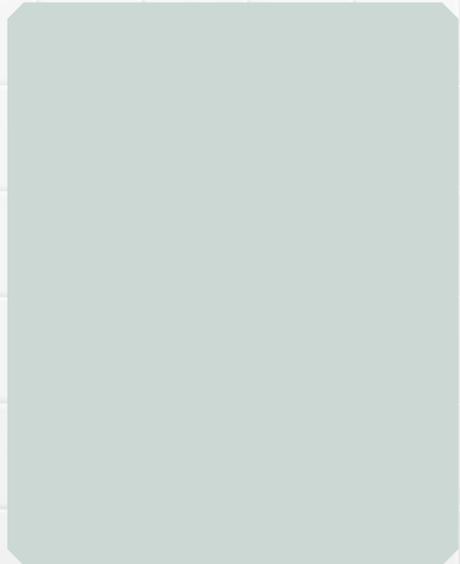
Cleaning and Greening Singapore

Since the 1960s, Singapore has introduced various national initiatives such as the “Keep Singapore Clean” campaign. These initiatives were meant to encourage Singaporeans to care for common spaces such as hawker centres, schools and beaches. Today, a clean and green environment is an intrinsic part of the Singaporean identity.



“Hawkers and The Health Law” booklet, 1980s, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2014-00621)

Think back to the last time you helped your family or friends clean your home or classroom. How did you feel working together with your family and friends to keep the space clean?





I Overcoming Crises

From the pre-independence years to the present, crises and challenges have occasionally struck our small nation. In the face of each adversity, Singaporeans have come together to overcome these crises and emerge stronger to face the future together.



Scan QR code or click on the link to watch a short video for more information!

<https://go.gov.sg/htj-r2-i>



SARS thermometer set, 2003, Collection of the National Museum of Singapore (2008-06989). Gift of Teh Eng Eng



N95 respirator, 2020.

- 1 The two artefacts above represent the SARS epidemic and haze respectively, both of which affected many Singaporeans and had a devastating impact on Singapore's economy.

Take a look at the photographs and oral history quotes on display. Name two other crises that affected Singapore.

a.

b.

- 2 How do such crises bring people together?

- 3 Name one way that you can contribute to fight against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to keep our fellow Singaporeans safe.

REFLECTIONS

Now that you have completed your investigation of the historical moments that have shaped Singapore over the years, what are some of the lessons you will take away from your museum experience?

A What are **three** new things that you have learnt about Singapore's history?

1.

2.

3.

B What are **two** questions that you have about Singapore's history after today's experience?

1.

2.

C Name or draw **one** way you show your connection to your family, school or Singapore in your daily life.



<https://go.gov.sg/at-home-truly>

Your **Home, Truly** journey does not need to end here!
Scan the QR code or click on the link to access the digital companion to the exhibition where you can uncover more stories and artefacts.

Presented by

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