

The Museum Counter

An artefact hunt based on the 123
Early Learning Resources (ELR) booklet



Hello parents and educators,

In this hunt, explore the museum with your children to find 5 artefacts that are featured in the 123 Early Learning Resources (ELR) booklet.

Use the clues to look for the artefacts and spend some time talking and learning more about them as you go along. Have fun!

This activity is estimated to take up to 1 hour with discussion questions included.



Tips to maximise the hunt activity experience

- Print out this booklet and bring it along with you to the galleries or download it to your mobile device for easy reference during the hunt.
- Read out the story and questions on the following pages to engage children in conversations.
- Encourage children to take charge of searching for the answers in the ELR booklet using the clues provided in the hunt.
- If feasible, bring cameras for children to take photos of the artefacts (without flash), so that they can be used for reflection time at home or a show-and-tell activity in school after the hunt.
- Encourage children to reflect on their experience with some question prompts below:
 - a. When did you go to the museum?
 - b. What was your favourite artefact at the museum?
 - c. Why do you like this artefact?
 - d. What did you learn about this artefact?
 - e. Who would you like to visit the museum with?
- Encourage children to look for objects at home or in school that are similar or related to the artefacts and to share their similarities and differences.

Artefact Hunt: The Museum Counter

It is a sunny Saturday afternoon and Dennis is super excited! Today is the day where Mama Binturong takes him to the National Museum of Singapore to follow Papa Sunbear as he leads a tour there.

Papa Sunbear often volunteers at the museum and today's special tour is based on the theme of numbers.

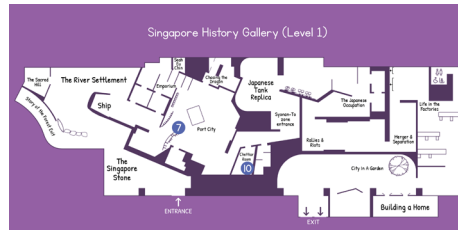
"The first artefact that we are looking for is a painting which shows the view of the Singapore waterfront over 170 years ago, in the 1850s," says Papa Sunbear.

Can you guess what it is?

Hint

Flip through the 123 booklet to find the artefact that fits the description.

Once you have the answer, let us look for the artefact in the Singapore History Gallery on level 1!



The gallery is quite big as it covers 700 years of Singapore history. Flip to the map of the Singapore History Gallery (in purple) in the 123 booklet for the location of the artefact!



Let's discuss! 

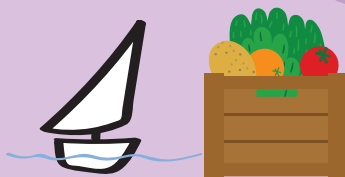
Take a close look at this artefact in front of you.

- What do you see in this painting?
- How many of the 7 ships are small, medium or large in size?
- Why do you think there are many ships here?

"Ships were an important transport vehicle which carried goods to other countries for trade.

Ships from Europe and China often stopped by Singapore's port to trade and exchange goods which included food, medicine, pottery, tiles and silk," shares Papa Sunbear.

"A port is a place where ships can stop to load and unload their goods."



Here's a clue for our second artefact!

Hint

What is 5 plus 5? Shall we count together? Let us put our 5 fingers up! And then we add another 5 fingers, what do we get? We are going to look for -----!

Once you have the answer, let us continue our journey in the Singapore History Gallery to look for the artefact!

Let's discuss! 



Take a close look at this artefact in front of you.

- What do you think it is used for?



* Gift of N. Subbiah

"Chettians came to Singapore from southern India. Many worked as moneylenders, earning a living from the extra money they get from the interest.

They donated money to temples and recorded their business activities and temple donations on palm leaves," shares Papa Sunbear.

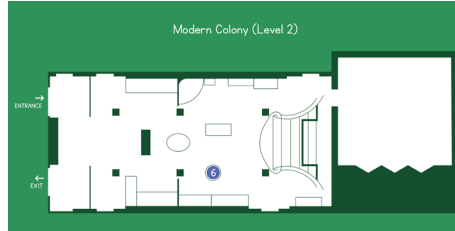
"Wow, I did not know that people used to write on palm leaves! I want to try writing on a leaf when I get home!" Dennis exclaims.

Here's a clue for our third artefact!

Hint

What is 2 plus 4? Shall we count together? Let us put our 2 fingers up! And then we add another 4 fingers, what do we get? We are going to look for ----!

Once you have the answer, let us go to the Modern Colony gallery on level 2 to look for the artefact!



Flip to the map of the Modern Colony gallery (in green) in the 123 booklet for the location of the artefact!



Let's discuss!

Take a close look at this artefact in front of you.

- How many shoes are there in total for 6 pairs of shoes?
- Which pair(s) of shoes look(s) different from the rest? Why do you say so?



"Papa, this tiny pair of silk shoes in the centre is smaller than the size of my feet! Are they worn by babies?" asks Dennis curiously.

"Over 100 years ago, women in rich Chinese families used to bind their feet in tight bandages to keep them small, as small feet represented beauty and status," shares Papa Sunbear.

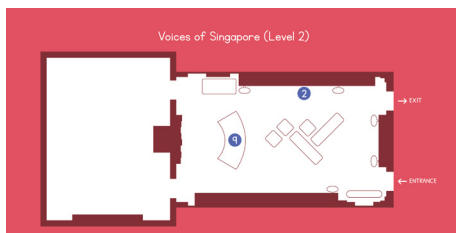
"Imagine how painful and difficult it must be to walk with bound feet! I am so glad that this does not happen anymore!" Mama Binturong says with relief.

Here's a clue for our fourth artefact!

Hint

We talked about pairs just now. How many objects form a pair? Next, we are going to look for a pair of -----.

Once you have the answer, let us look for the artefact in the Voices of Singapore gallery on level 2!



Flip to the map of the Voices of Singapore gallery (in red) in the 123 booklet for the location of the artefact!

Let's discuss!



Take a close look at this artefact in front of you.

- What do you see on this poster?
- What do you think this poster is used for?
- Have you been to a theatre before?
- Which show did you watch in the theatre?

"Ah, this poster brings back fond memories, as it was the first theatre show that I watched with Mama Binturong. We were supporting the production of a local theatre company, TheatreWorks," Papa Sunbear says with a smile.

Here's a clue for our fifth artefact!

Hint

What number do you get by taking 1 away from 10? Can you show me your 10 fingers? Now, let us take away 1 finger. How many fingers do we have left? We are going to look for

-----.

Once you have the answer, let us continue look around this gallery to spot the artefact!

Let's discuss!



Take a close look at this artefact in front of you.

- This is one of the rare artefacts that you can touch and even sit on!
- Can you guess where these seats were from?
- Are the seats hard or soft? What material are they made of?



"These seats were from the grandstand of the old National Stadium at Kallang, which was torn down in 2007.

As a venue for many festivals, national day parades and football matches, the stadium played an important role in shaping Singapore's national pride and identity," shares Papa Sunbear.

The tour has come to an end and the family makes their way back to the museum counter. Dennis keeps seeing numbers all around him now!

"I am so glad I got to visit 3 galleries and learn more about 5 artefacts today! Oh, and look... there are 2 staff at the counter... 5 different kinds of museum brochures... 7 visitors in the queue..." says Dennis excitedly.

Papa Sunbear chuckles. "It seems like you have become a Museum Counter now!" he says with a wink. "There is so much more to see and learn at the National Museum. I will bring you on a tour again another day!"

-The End-

Bye!



This artefact hunt is developed with support from My First Skool.

Unless otherwise indicated, all artefact images are from the Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board.

The featured animals are inspired by the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings, Gift of G. K. Goh.

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