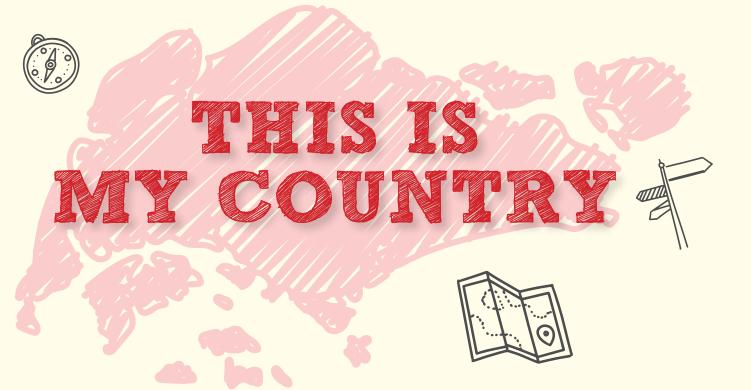
N M S National Museum of Singapore



LEARNING JOURNEY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE



Singapore History Gallery



Growing Up
Gallery



Voices of Singapore Gallery

Name:	
Class:	

INTRODUCTION

Dear parents/educators,

This booklet supports self-guided visits to 3 galleries in the National Museum:

Singapore History Gallery (Level 1)

• Page 6 – 26

Growing Up (Level 2)

• Page 27 – 33

Voices of Singapore (Level 2)

• Page 34 – 38

Feel free to only visit selected stations or take breaks in between stations!

Estimated duration for exploration: 2 hours



PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Singapore's history and journey to nationhood
- The Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Care and Harmony

SECONDARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Occupations
- Past vs. present
- Literacy
- Numeracy



HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

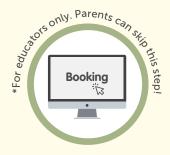
Before your visit



1. Pick your stations

Go through the booklet and pick the stations that would be suitable for your students/children.

You don't have to cover all the stations!



2. Book your visit

If you are visiting on a Quiet Morning (9am – 12pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month), write to nhb_nm_programmes@nhb.gov.sg

If you are visiting on any other day, book your visit at BookMuseums@SG (https://bookmuseums.nhb.gov.sg)



3. Prepare this booklet for your students/children

You may print or prepare electronic copies for your students/children.

If you are using printed copies, please note that only pencils can be used in the galleries.

During your visit



1. Obtain your admission stickers

Head to the Visitor Services Counter on Level 1 for your admission stickers.

You may also borrow clipboards and touch-and-feel packs from the counter (optional and subject to availability).

The icon indicates the stations where the touchand-feel packs can come in handy.



2. Look for the stations

Refer to the gallery maps on pages 4 – 5 for the locations of the stations.

At each station, explore the display and go through the questions with your students/children.

Some of the questions provide opportunities for you to discuss CCE values together.



3. Return the borrowed items

At the end of your visit, return the borrowed items to the Visitor Services Counter.

The booklet also contains suggested hands-on activities that you can do with your students/ children back at school/home.



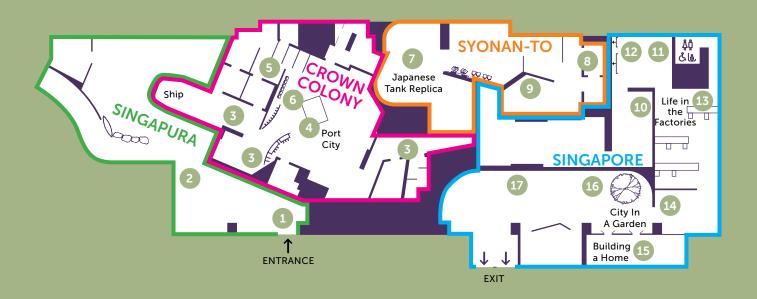
4. Share your feedback

Let us know what you think about this booklet here:



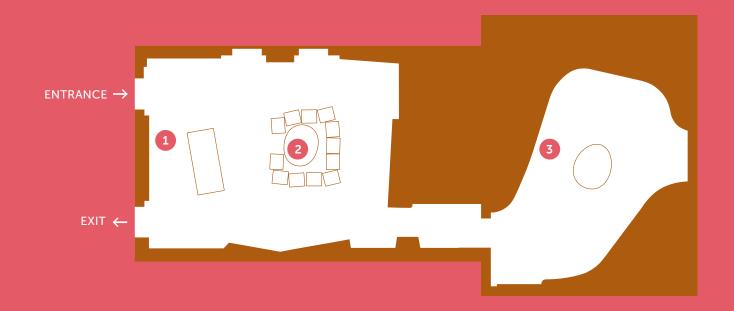
GALLERY MAPS

Singapore History Gallery (Level 1): 17 stations
Turn to page 6 to start exploring this gallery!



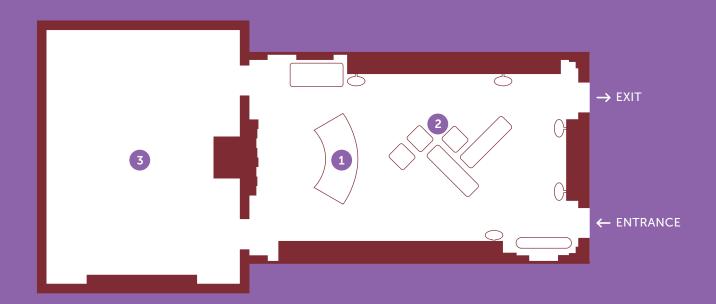
GALLERY MAPS

Growing Up Gallery (Level 2): 3 stations Turn to page 27 to start exploring this gallery!



GALLERY MAPS

Voices of Singapore Gallery (Level 2): 3 stations Turn to page 34 to start exploring this gallery!



TIPS FOR AN ENJOYABLE MUSEUM VISIT

I will remember to...



keep the museum sticker on my shirt



inform my parent/ teacher if I need a break (the museum also has a Quiet Room on Level 2 if I need it)



walk and not run or play in the museum



inform my parent/ teacher when I need to use the toilet

Specifically in the galleries...



protect the artefacts on display by not touching them



no food and drinks, but I can eat or drink outside the galleries

OVERVIEW OF THE SINGAPORE HISTORY GALLERY (LEVEL 1)

This is the biggest gallery in the National Museum of Singapore. It tells the story of what life in Singapore was like from the year 1299 to today! This gallery has 4 sections and here are some examples of what you will see in each section:

SINGAPURA (1299 - 1818)



- The Singapore Stone
- A video of life in Singapura in the mid-14th century
- Jewellery, porcelain and ceramic sherds that were found from that period

SYONAN-TO (1942 – 1945)



- A large army tank (replica)
- Uniforms, weapons and war medals from World War Two
- Changi Prison door, and items that belonged to the prisoners of war



CROWN COLONY (1819 - 1941)



- What life in Singapore was like as it developed under British rule.
- Learn about key figures in society such as Syed Omar Aljunied, William Pickering, Tan Kah Kee and Eunos Abdullah

SINGAPORE (1945 - PRESENT)



- A video announcing Singapore's separation from Malaysia on 9 August 1965
- National symbols of Singapore, such as the passport, currency and objects relating to National Service
- Products that were made in Singapore's factories
- A HDB "home" and kitchen appliances
- A large "tree" with screens showing Singapore's rich natural heritage



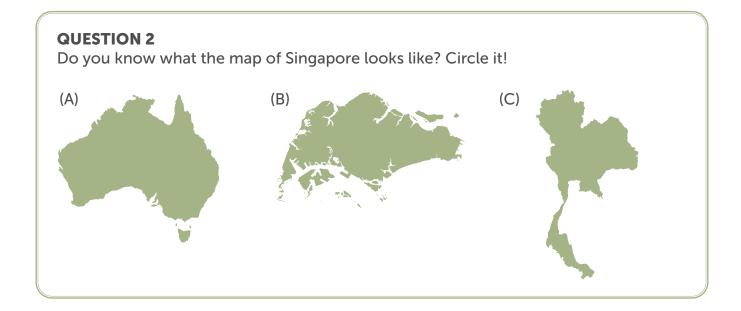


Walk through the entrance of the Singapore History Gallery. You will see this map of Southeast Asia.



QUESTION 1

Can you find Singapore on the map? Point it out (but do not touch the map)! Hint: It is a little red dot labelled "Cincapura".





STATION 2 THE EARLY SETTLEMENT







Look out for the Singapore Stone! This is a fragment of a large sandstone boulder that was found at the mouth of the Singapore River. It dates back to the 14th century (1301 – 1400 AD), which means it is about 700 years old! There are some words on it, but they have never been fully deciphered.

A little further on, you will see a big ship. This symbolises how Singapura was a thriving port. Singapura's location at the tip of the Malay peninsula meant that many travellers would have sailed here by ship.



Watch this video of life in Singapura in the mid-14th century, based on the accounts of a Chinese trader named Wang Dayuan. From historical records, we know that Singapura was a place where the Orang Laut ("river people" in Malay) lived, and where Chinese porcelain wares and stoneware were traded.

QUESTION 3

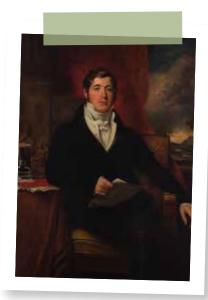
Look at the people in the video. How are their clothes similar to or different from yours? What activities did they do and how are these similar to or different from what you do today?



STATION 3 PIONEERS OF SINGAPORE



Pioneers are the first people to explore or settle in a country. There were many pioneers in Singapore who contributed to improve the country.



Sir Stamford Raffles founded Singapore as a free port in 1819. He also introduced a town plan, established modern laws and founded the Singapore Institution (today Raffles Institution).



Tan Tock Seng was a merchant who made generous contributions to charity. He donated \$5,000 towards the building of the Chinese Pauper Hospital (later renamed Tan Tock Seng Hospital) in 1844 at Pearl's Hill.



Mohammad Eunos
Abdullah was a journalist
and influential leader of
the Malay community,
who argued for improved
education for Malay boys.

QUESTION 4

Circle Sir Stamford Raffles in the above picture.

QUESTION 5

What was Tan Tock Seng's occupation?

What was Mohammad Eunos Abdullah's occupation?

Singapore's pioneers felt a sense of responsibility to help other people in their communities. What would you like to work as in future, and how would you contribute to Singapore?

CCE Value: RESPONSIBILITY









From 1880 to about the 1930s, rickshaws like the one on display were a popular mode of public transport. For thousands of Chinese migrants in Singapore, one job that many able-bodied young men could take up was pulling a rickshaw.

Rickshaw fares were quite low – about 6 cents for approximately 1.6 kilometres. Rickshaw pullers led a hard life, working at least 10 to 12 hours a day for about 30 to 40 cents.



Using the Good Morning towel from your touch-and-feel pack, pose as a rickshaw puller and take a group photo here!

QUESTION 6

What is your favourite food to buy in the school canteen?

If you earned only 30 cents a day, how many days' earnings would you have to save up to buy your favourite food?

QUESTION 7

Imagine you are a rickshaw puller and your passenger has left his wallet in your rickshaw. What is the right thing to do?



STATION 5 DHOBIS AND CARRIAGE DRIVERS







Meanwhile, Indian migrant workers were often employed as *dhobis* (laundry men) or carriage drivers.

Can you spot these two images in the gallery? The image on the left shows *dhobis* washing clothes in a canal, while the image on the right shows a stable attendant and the driver of a horse-drawn carriage.



Using the Good Morning towel from your touch-and-feel pack, show how you would wash clothes in a river! Until the early 1900s, *dhobis* collected laundry from different households and often washed them along the Sungei Bras Basah riverbank, which later became Stamford Canal. The *dhobis* would leave laundered clothes to dry out in the open on the steps along the river. The *ghats*, or steps leading down to the stream, were later demolished so you can no longer find them today.

Did you know? The Dhoby Ghaut MRT station that is near the National Museum of Singapore was built in 1987. Its name is a reminder of this part of Singapore's heritage!

QUESTION 8

Do you think the work that these people do is important? How can you show respect to essential workers like them?

Circle the options you like below, or fill in your own ideas!



- Greet them with a smile
- Say thank you
- Compliment them for the work they have done

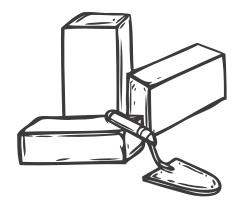




Making your way back to the rickshaw, you will see a row of bricks that were used in buildings long ago. These bricks were found at the site next to the National Museum of Singapore, where the Singapore Management University (SMU) building stands today.



QUESTION 9 Look at the bricks carefully. Can you describe how they feel?
Rough and hard
Smooth and soft



STATION 7 THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION AND SYONAN-TO



World War Two was a war between many different countries that happened between 1939 and 1945. On 8 December 1941, Singapore – which was under British rule at the time – was swept into this war when Japan bombed and invaded Singapore.

From February 1942 to September 1945, the Japanese occupied Singapore and renamed it "Syonan-To", which means "Light of the South". During this period, which is known as the Japanese Occupation, people in Singapore experienced food shortage and much hardship.

QUESTION 10

The Japanese named Singapore the "Light of the South". What was this name in the Japanese language?



TYPE 95 HA GO JAPANESE TANK (REPLICA)

This was the most common Japanese tank used during World War Two. Introduced in 1935, this tank was equipped with a Mitsubishi diesel engine and armed with a 37mm gun and two 7.7mm machine guns. It is a very heavy vehicle weighing 3,500 kg.

QUESTION 11

What is the weight of this tank?



When standing in front of the tank, what sounds can you hear around you?

Circle them!



Soldiers marching



Air raid siren



Tank moving along the streets



Gunshots

QUESTION 13

What other artefacts do you see around you? Write or draw them below.





As you continue walking, you will see a blue door. This was the door for a cell in Changi Prison, where a few thousand prisoners of war (POWs) were imprisoned during the Japanese Occupation.

Behind the door, you will see some of the POWs' pictures and belongings. The POWs were put into over-crowded cells at Changi Prison and had very little food to eat. They lived in terrible conditions, with lack of clean water, and suffered from many diseases. They also had to work as labourers.



Australian prisoners of war in the Changi Gaol. Collection of the Australian War Memorial

QUESTION 14 How do you think the priso	ners felt?	
Happy and satisfied	Sad and worried	

Even though life was very difficult, the POWs tried to make the best of their situation and organised lessons and music and drama performances among themselves.

There was another group of people, known as the Nanyang volunteers, who also tried to fight against the Japanese. The Nanyang volunteers helped the Chinese government transport war supplies to southern China.

They faced harsh cold and dangerous driving conditions along the 1,146 km-long Yunnan-Burma Road, and the danger of being bombed by Japanese planes. Yet from 1939 to 1942, they managed to transport over 200 million kg of war supplies.

QUESTION 15

What value did the POWs and Nanyang volunteers demonstrate? Circle it and read what this value means.

RESILIENCE: Showing bravery, persevering in the face of challenges, and finding solutions to the problems

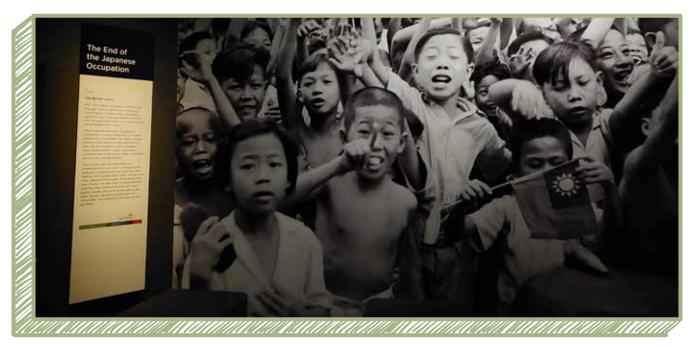
HARMONY:

Appreciating that there are many different racial and cultural groups in our society, but working together as one Singapore

RESPECT: Believing in the intrinsic worth of all people







On 15 August 1945, Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allies. The British returned to Singapore on 5 September 1945.

Later in 1963, Singapore merged with the Federation of Malaya to form Malaysia.

ESTION 16 en did the war end?	
15 August 1954	
15 August 1945	1





On 9 August 1965, Singapore left Malaysia and became an independent country. The separation happened because there were deep political and economic differences between the ruling parties of Singapore and Malaysia. There were also communal tensions that led to racial riots in Singapore, in July and September 1964.



QUESTION 17

Watch this video announcement of Singapore's separation from Malaysia on 9 August 1965. Who is the person talking in the video? Tick the correct answer.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore

Encik Yusof Ishak, the Head of State of Singapore

QUESTION 18

Circle a race that is **different** from your own: Chinese / Malay / Indian / Eurasian / Others (please state):

What festivals do people of this community celebrate?

CCE Value: HARMONY



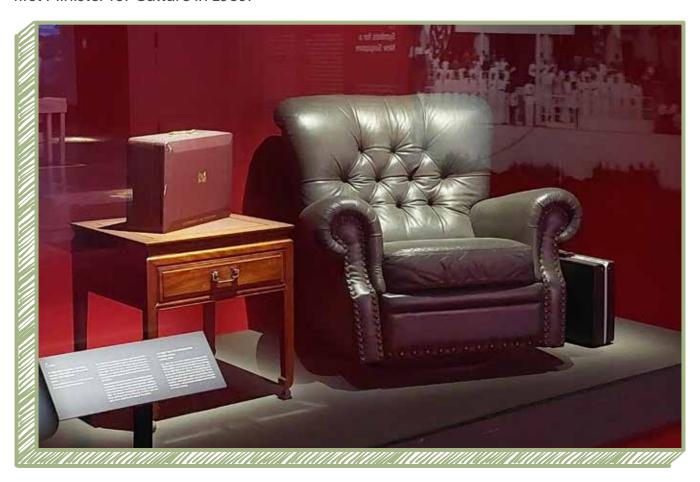
How can you try to learn more about the customs of this community?







In this showcase, you can see a leather armchair, wooden side table and black Samsonite Classic 100 briefcase. These items belonged to Mr S. Rajaratnam, who became Singapore's first Minister for Culture in 1959.



QUESTION 19

Mr Rajaratnam wrote Singapore's National Pledge in 1966.

Can you fill in the blanks in the pledge below?

We, the _____ of Singapore,
pledge ourselves as one _____ people,
regardless of race, language or religion,
to build a democratic society
based on justice and _____
so as to achieve happiness, prosperity
and _____ for our nation.







What symbols remind you of Singapore? They might include the Singapore flag, state crest, and national anthem. These were introduced in 1959 after Singapore gained full internal self-government status.

After Singapore became an independent country on 9 August 1965, more symbols of national identity were created. Can you spot the Singapore identity card, passport, and currency notes in this gallery?

a	UE	STI	0	N	2	n
-			•			•

In the display, you can see the "Orchid" series of Singapore currency notes for \$1, \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and \$10,000. How are these currency notes similar to or different from the currency notes you use today?



Do you know about flag etiquette? For example, the flag should never touch the floor or ground, and it should always be displayed aloft and free, not lying flat or horizontally. This is how we show respect to the flag as a national symbol.



Reach into your touch-and-feel pack and find a set of 6 wooden jigsaw pieces. Use them to form the shape of a merlion, one of Singapore's national icons!







In 1959, Singaporeans faced unemployment and the population was increasing. The government began to industrialise the economy. Many factories were set up and by 1972, there was full employment for Singaporeans.

When people worked, they earned money and could buy electrical appliances, such as a television, for their home.

There were also many schools that taught skills that were needed at the time.

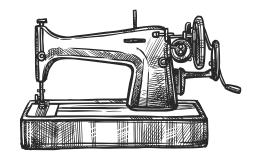




Workers in Bata shoe factory at Telok Blangah. Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

QUESTION 21

Name one skill that people learnt when the economy was improving in the 1970s.







In the 1960s and 1970s, Singapore developed rapidly and its physical landscape changed as more factories, HDB flats, hawker centres and leisure facilities were built. Watch this video which shows a scene from the 1960s on the left wall, and a similar scene from the 1970s on the right wall.



QUESTION 22 Compare and contrast the 1960s and the 1970s.	
In the 1960s there was	
but in the 1970s there was	
What stayed the same?	







Up until the 1960s, many people were living in *kampongs* or villages, where their houses had wooden walls, roofs made of zinc sheets or thatched palm leaves, and rattan furniture. Sometimes when it rained, the roof would leak. The toilet was in a separate shed outside the house. There were also people who lived in overcrowded shophouses, where 11 or more households could be squeezed into one shophouse!

After the Housing and Development Board (HDB) was formed in 1960, clean and sturdy HDB flats with modern flush toilets were built. By the 1980s, 67% of Singaporeans had moved into their first HDB flat. The HDB estates also had amenities such as shops, schools, hawker centres and light industries within the neighbourhood.





Reach into your touch-and-feel pack and find a texture board with 6 different materials used to build houses in the past and today. Can you name all 6 materials? What do they feel like?

Then: Rattan, stone, zinc sheet Now: Cement, plaster, tiles

QUESTION 23

Name these 2 types of housing.







QUESTION 24

Think about the place where you live. What makes it a home to you? These can be physical or non-physical things.









"In the gallery, you can experience how smelly the Singapore River used to be, and also sniff the scent of fragrant tembusu flowers!"

Did you know that the Singapore River used to be very smelly and dirty? Back in the 1970s, there were boats, street hawkers and even farms along the Singapore River, and they would dump their waste into the river!

Singapore became a clean and green city with the "Keep Singapore Clean" campaign. Even the Singapore River was cleaned. Singapore is now recognised as a clean, green and peaceful city. The first official Tree Planting Day in Singapore was held on Sunday, 7 November 1971. Dr Goh Keng Swee, who was Acting Prime Minister at the time, planted a rain tree at the summit of Mount Faber.



QUESTION 25

When was Singapore's first tree planting day?

QUESTION 26

What would you like to do to make Singapore a better place to live in? Circle the options you like below, or fill in your own ideas for making Singapore a better place!

CCE Value:

Plant a tree

Volunteer for a coastal clean-up

Share food with my neighbours

Sweep my classroom





Despite being a small country, Singapore is now recognised and respected as a prominent air, sea and financial hub. Look at the wall with information on how much goes on at our airport and ports every day!

We have also created connections with other countries as an increasing number of Singaporeans are living, working or studying overseas.

QUESTION 27 The Changi Airport serves	passengers daily.
QUESTION 28 Are you proud of Singapore? Yes / No	
Why?	



OVERVIEW OF THE GROWING UP GALLERY (LEVEL 2)

The Growing Up gallery shows us what it was like growing up in Singapore from 1955 to 1965. Many of your grandparents grew up in *kampongs* (Malay for "villages") at the time.

The spirit of *gotong royong* ("community") was strong among those who lived in *kampongs*, who would help and look out for each other. Strong friendships were formed among neighbours of different races, and many people spoke multiple languages or dialects.

Here are examples of what you will see:



In the main section of the gallery:

- A showcase of many different toys
- Items from school, including report cards, medals and stationery



In the backroom:

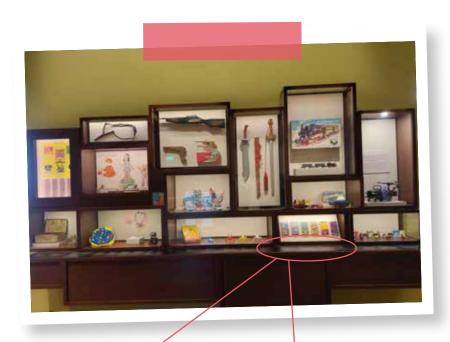
- Traditional games like catapult, marbles, sepak takraw and fivestones, which were popular pastimes for children growing up back then
- A zoetrope, which is an early animation device.
 You can press the green button and watch it move!

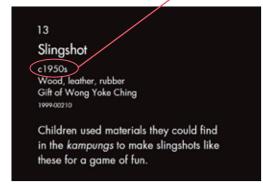
(Note: May not be suitable for visitors with epilepsy)

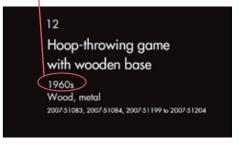




As you enter the gallery, you will see a showcase with toys that were popular during the 1950s to 1970s.







The captions panel shows the time period the toys belong to.

QUESTION 1

Name one toy that was played in the 1970s?

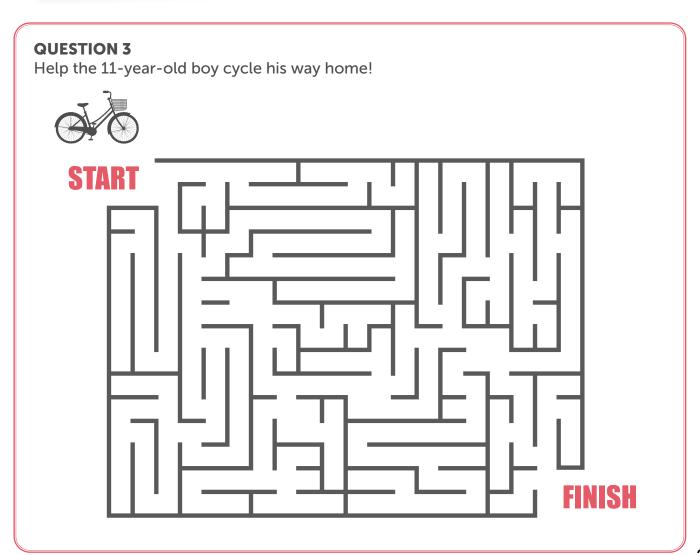


You will also see a bicycle that belonged to Mr Lee Hsien Loong, the current Prime Minister of Singapore. His paternal grandmother gave this bicycle to him for his 11th birthday.



QUESTION 2

If Mr Lee Hsien Loong is 70 years old in 2022, and he received his bicycle when he was 11 years old, how many years ago was that?







A little further ahead, you will see a sleeveless dark blue cheongsam (Chinese female traditional costume) that was commonly worn by teachers in the past. Also on display is a school bag that some students used in the 1940s to 1970s.



QUESTION 4

Let's examine how school life in the 1950s was similar to or different from your school life today! Draw your school bag below:

How is it similar to or different from the school bag in the gallery? (Hint: Materials, shape, colour)





Move on to the room at the end of the gallery. You will see a showcase of games played in the 1960s and 1970s. Nowadays, some schools may still play these games on Racial Harmony Day or on National Day.

QUESTION 5 Label each of the games in the images below. С Α В D Ε F G

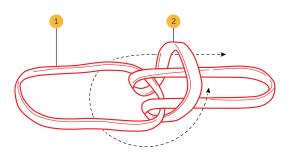
Children used materials that they could find in the *kampongs* to make their toys and games. If you have these materials, you can try making your own games too! Here are 3 games you can try making after your visit to the National Museum.

At-Home Activity 1: Make a skipping rope

Materials needed: Many rubber bands

Instructions: Connect two rubber bands like this, and keep going until you have a long

skipping rope about 10 hand spans long!



At-Home Activity 2: Make a modified "spinning top"

Materials needed: 1 bottle cork, 1 toothpick

Instructions: Poke the toothpick into the bottle cork.

Be careful as the toothpick can be sharp!

Challenge: Use a timer or mobile phone to time:

Whose spinner can spin for the longest amount of time?



At-Home Activity 3: Make a paper aeroplane

Materials needed: 1 – 2 sheets of A4 paper

Challenge: Invite a friend or family member to fly your paper aeroplanes together in an open space. Whose aeroplane can fly the furthest?

Instructions for assembling a paper plane Step 1 Step 2 Step 3 Step 5 Step 4 Step 6 Step 7 Step 8 Step 9

Overview of the Voices of Singapore Gallery (Level 2)

At the Voices of Singapore gallery, learn about the cultural spaces in Singapore and how we expressed ourselves through different art forms from 1975 to 1985, when we were still a very young independent country.

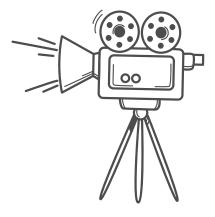
Here are examples of what you will see:



 Many posters on display, categorised into Festivals, Cultural Spaces, Theatre, and Television



 In the back room, there is a replica set-up of a drivein cinema!







The old National Stadium (opened in 1973) hosted many sporting events such as the Southeast Asian Games and football matches, with much fanfare and excitement. It was also the venue for 18 National Day Parades from 1976 to 2006.

These red plastic seats are from the grandstand at the old National Stadium. Sit on the seats and watch the video montage on the big screen in front of you. It shows the various leisure activities and local attractions in Singapore in the 1970s and 1980s.



QUESTION 1 What local places of attraction can you recognise?	
	_
	_
Where do you like to go in Singapore? Why do you like this place?	

STATION 2 MUSIC, THEATRE AND TELEVISION





Xinyao is short for xinjiapo geyao (新加坡歌谣 or "Singapore songs" in Mandarin). In the late 1970s, many youth in Singapore began writing songs in Mandarin to express their thoughts and feelings.

These songs contained simple lyrics about their life in Singapore and were usually accompanied by a guitar. Such home-grown Singaporean music was especially popular in the 1980s.

Pick up a receiver and select a xinyao song, theatre or television clip to watch or listen to.



QUESTION 3

Choose one of the posters on display, and fill in the following information about it:

Title of the performance:

When (date) did the performance take place?

What time did the performance take place?

Where did the performance take place?

How much were the tickets? (There can be more than one price)

What kind of performance was it? (circle) Music / Dance / Theatre









Head to the Drive-in Cinema in the back room to find out more about leisure and entertainment in Singapore in the 1970s and 1980s.

Pick a vehicle, sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

CCE Value: RESPONSIBILITY

QUESTION 4

Circle the irresponsible behaviours at the cinema in the image below.



demonstrate?		·

When you visit the cinema, what are some responsible behaviours that you

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to 3 of the galleries at the National Museum: the Singapore History Gallery, Growing Up and Voices of Singapore. See you again soon!

Produced by

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