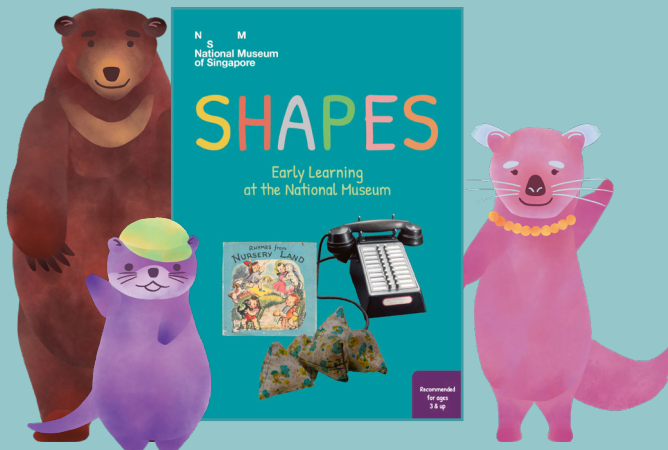


# Learning about Atuk (Grandpa)

An artefact hunt based on the Shapes  
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 Shapes 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: Learning about Atuk (Grandpa)

Dennis wakes up one morning and finds Papa Sunbear flipping through an old photo album. One of the photos shows someone who looks very much like Papa Sunbear, holding something **circular**, black and green!

"Who is this in this picture and what is he holding?" Dennis asks.

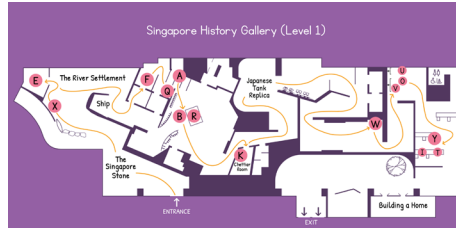
Papa Sunbear replies, "This is your Atuk (Grandpa)! Atuk was a policeman, and he was holding a..."

What do you think Atuk was holding?

**Hint**

**Look at the word in bold! Which artefact in the Shapes ELR booklet 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 Shapes booklet for the location of the artefact!

Let's discuss! 

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

- What material is it made of?
- How strong do you think this material is, compared to plastic or metal?



\* Gift of Police Headquarters

Papa Sunbear turns the page, and the next photo is of Atuk and his friend. "This is Uncle Ong who lived in a house that was once a coolie house," Papa Sunbear says. Dennis scratches his head and asks, "What is a coolie house?"

Papa Sun Bear explains: "Back then, many men who came to Singapore from China would work as coolies, or labourers. They would stay at coolie houses.

Can you spot an **octagonal** object that tells you more about the coolie house?"

### Hint

Look at the word in bold! Which artefact in the Shapes ELR booklet fits the description?

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

Did you know?



"Coolies had to do a lot of physical manual work, such as construction, and often carried heavy items as part of their job."

Let's discuss!

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

- Can you spot any numbers on it?
- What do you think life was like as a coolie, and living in a coolie house?



\* Gift of Lim Min Sing and Chan Kim

The next photo shows Atuk standing in front of a shophouse. Papa Sunbear explains that this is a Chettiar's *kittangi*, or "warehouse" in Tamil.

The Chettians are a group of people who came from South India, and they primarily worked as moneylenders in Singapore.

Atuk's father needed to borrow money from the Chettiar when Atuk was born, as there was one more mouth in the family to feed.

There is an interesting shape in this photo. It is a four-sided shape with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides. What is this **trapezium**-shaped object in the Chettiar's house?

Hint

**Look at the word in bold! Which artefact in the Shapes ELR booklet fits the description?**

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.

- Where can you find the trapezium shape?
- What other shapes can you find on this table?



By the 1980s, Atuk had saved enough to buy a brand new HDB flat! The next photo shows him sitting in the kitchen contentedly having his breakfast.

"Did you know that Atuk's favourite drink was Horlicks?" Papa Sunbear smiles fondly. "He would drink from his favourite **square** brown..."

### Hint

Look at the word in bold! Which artefact in the Shapes ELR booklet fits the description?

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.

- Does it look like your cup at home?
- What is your favourite drink?
- What is the favourite drink of your family members?



As they flip to the next page of the photo album, they see more familiar faces! Atuk is sitting in the living room surrounded by Papa Sunbear, Mama Binturong, and – yes, that is baby Dennis in Mama’s arms!

They look like they are listening very intently to a **rectangular** object on the table.

Can you guess what it is?

## Hint

**Look at the word in bold! Which artefact in the Shapes ELR booklet fits the description?**

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.

- How do you think this object works?
- Other than a rectangle, what other shapes can you spot?



"You were probably too young to remember this, but we used to listen to music and the news on this radio cassette recorder every evening.

We could record our favourite segments on tape too, like that time Mama was interviewed by the radio station! That was Atuk's favourite time of day, when he got to spend time with the whole family," Papa says.

"Wow! Atuk has seen so many things that I have never seen before. This has been so interesting. Can I see more photos?"

"Of course!" Papa Sunbear reaches into the cabinet for another photo album, and Dennis snuggles comfortably beside him, his eyes wide with excitement.

-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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