

# SINGAPORE PORTRAITS

*Let The Photos Tell The Story*

*Singapore Portraits* is a tribute to some of Singapore's most creative personalities. It features the works of and interviews with local artists which together tell the story of Singapore through their words and images. Besides the paintings and photographs, write-ups detailing the background of the artwork, social and historical contexts and artist biographies are also included.

< for Secondary School Students >

**This Activity Sheet Belongs to**

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**Of Class**

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Education and  
Community Outreach Division

# A pre-visit

Before visiting the exhibition, write down your thoughts here!

What do you think Singapore Portraits Exhibition is about?

I think it is about

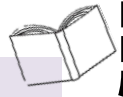
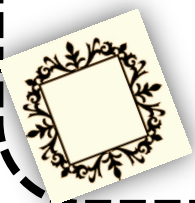


What do you hope to learn from the exhibition?

I hope to learn about



How do you feel about visiting this exhibition? Why?



Let your thoughts tell a story

# B MY SINGAPORE...

From the artwork below, identify **ONE** structure/building/place that makes you very proud of Singapore.  
Briefly describe how this structure/building/place is significant to Singapore.



**Example:**

*The Singapore River- A busy waterway in the past. The river reflects the flourishing trading activities in Singapore.*

*Metropolis Singapore by Wong Keen*

Name of Structure/Building/Place.	This structure/building/place is significant to Singapore because...
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After going through the **Pulse Section** of the exhibition, pen down your thoughts in the space provided.

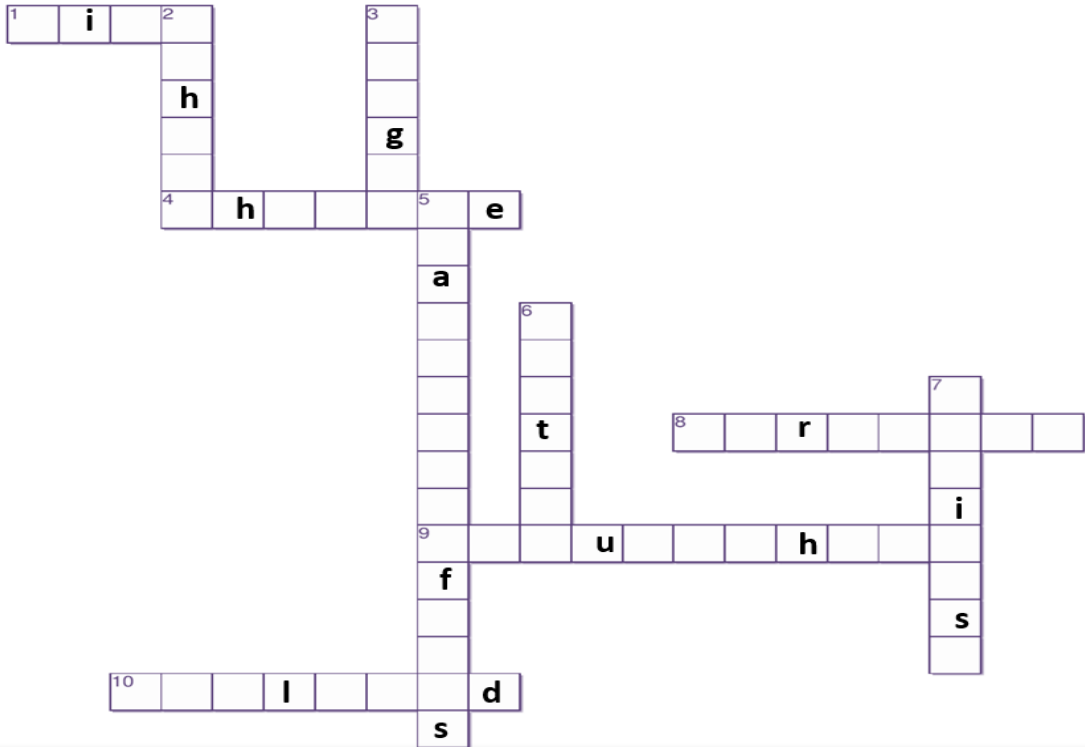
**My favourite artwork is...**

**I like this artwork because...**

# STORY OF PLACES

## Story of Places in Singapore

Places in Singapore tell stories about our nation, its history, people and ways of life. Complete the crossword below to find out more!



### Down

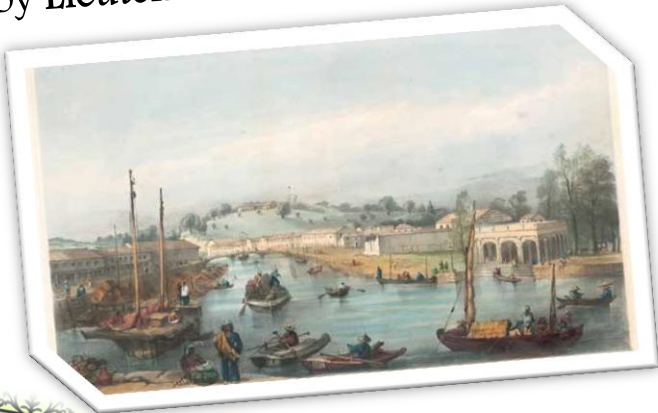
2. Under the Town Plan, specific areas around the Singapore River were designated for \_\_\_\_\_ enclaves and for commercial and governmental activities.
3. Large areas of virgin \_\_\_\_\_ covered much of Singapore when Sir Stamford Raffles first arrived on the island in 1819.
5. The river was where Sir \_\_\_\_\_ established the harbour that was the main port of call for merchant vessels.
6. Kampong life is seen as one \_\_\_\_\_ in community interaction and sharing. Women do their chores together, neighbours stop to chat and play by the river under the watchful eyes of older siblings.
7. Around its banks, the Central \_\_\_\_\_ District and the Civic District converge to bring significance to the historic river.

# SG Portraits

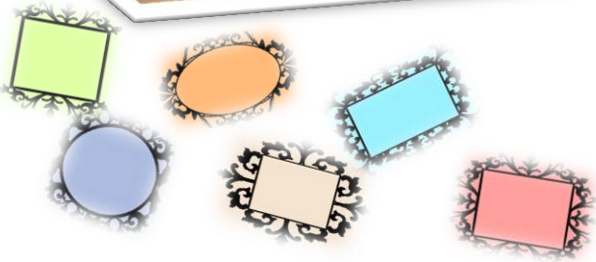
## Across

1. \_\_\_\_\_ hazards and poor sanitation were some of the major concerns of kampong dwellings.
4. In the Singapore River painting by Cheong Soo Pieng, you can spot the building with the distinctive Chinese-styled arched roof which is the former Overseas \_\_\_\_\_ Banking Corporation building on Chulia Street.
8. The Thomson's Bridge was built in 1843 and named after John \_\_\_\_\_ Thomson, a British civil engineer who built the bridge and played an important role in infrastructural developments of early Singapore.
9. In the past, the Malay ruler of Singapore, Temenggong \_\_\_\_\_, lived at the mouth of the Singapore River with his followers in kampong Temenggong.
10. The Singapore River was not always the clean and scenic waterway. Until the late 1980s, the busy waterway was smelly and \_\_\_\_\_ due to heavy river traffic and years of accumulated wastes dumped.

Lithographic Print: *View of Singapore River with Thomson's Bridge*  
by Lieutenant Edwin Augustus Porcher



Painting: *Singapore River*  
by Cheong Soo Pieng





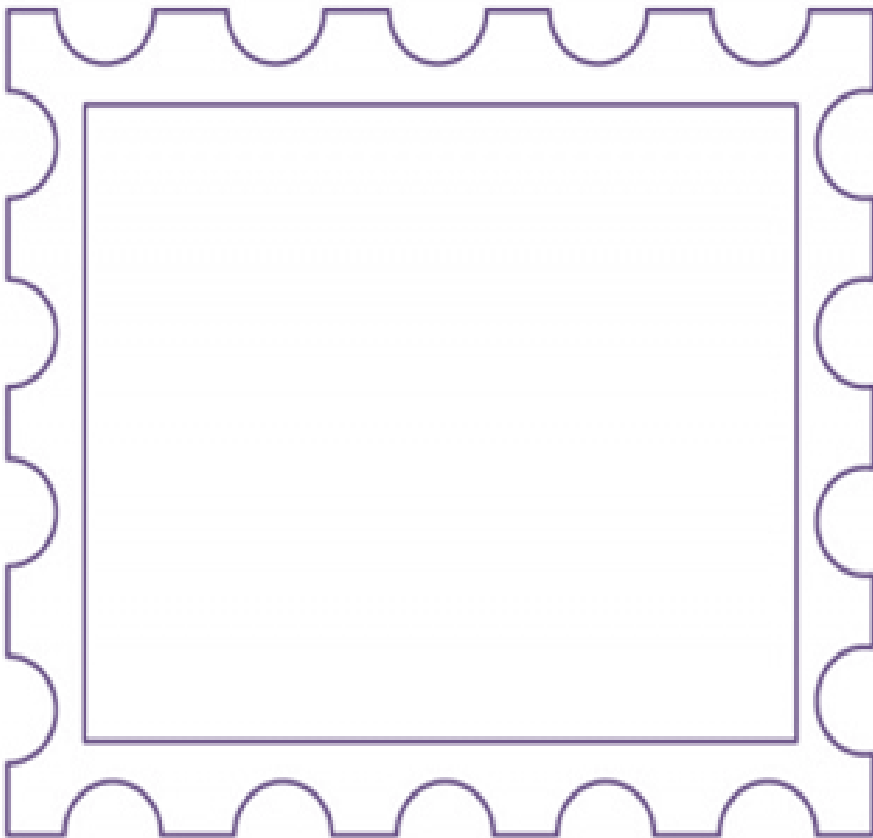
# D MY HERITAGE STAMP

- Design your own stamp and feature a place in Singapore that you would want to commemorate.
- Explain why you choose to commemorate this place in the space provided.



These are stamps from a set of five titled 'National Day- Tourist landmarks' issued on 9 August 2007 to commemorate Singapore's National Day.

A Sketch of My Stamp Design



Why I choose this place?





# TACKLING THE ISSUE...

In the **People Section** of the exhibition, woodcut prints by Choo Keng Kwang and Koeh Sia Yong were featured. The prints cast light on the hardship the poor endured. The artists make use of social realism to draw attention to unsatisfactory conditions under the British rule.

**Example:**

**Hardship**

In the past, poor families could not afford an education. They often worked hard to supplement the family income.



**Solution:**

Education system was nationalised and primary level schooling was made free to all.

- What is **one issue** that youth in Singapore are commonly facing today?
- Sketch out how you would present this issue.
- What can be done to help resolve this issue?

**Issue:**

**Sketch:**

**Possible solution (s) to resolve issue:**

# IF POST-EXHIBITION REFLECTIONS

One important value we can take away from this exhibition is **living in harmony**. Racial integration has shown us that friends, co-workers and fellow enthusiasts can share common values and interests to create meaningful histories.

**Give 2 examples of things you should not take for granted. Explain why.**

I should not take for granted

I should not take for granted

1

because....

2

because....

**What was most memorable for you in this exhibition?  
Draw and write in the space below!**

Congratulations for completing this Activity Sheet.

You are so marvellous!