



WE: DEFINING STORIES

Stories grow in our minds; we embellish, imagine, connect the dots, and try to make meaning. Everyone has different versions of a remembered past. Each of us experiences and remembers different Singapore. Yet key historical reference points circulate, endure and blend into a shared consciousness, defining stories that in some ways make us who we are: We, who are of Singapore. Featuring photographs from the archives of The Straits Times and the National Museum of Singapore Collection, this visual exhibition of headline photographs takes you through significant moments of our people's history, frozen in time.

< for Secondary School Students >

Educators' Guide



**National
Heritage
Board**

Education and
Community Outreach Division

About the Exhibition

This exhibition is a tribute to the many Singaporeans in the pioneer generation who have been through the tough early days of our founding fathers and laid down the foundation for the nation's prosperity today.

As we celebrate 50 years of the nation's independence, let's recall the defining moments that brought us to where we are today. Before we reach the time where most Singaporeans are living a stable livelihood and live in relative peace, many of the older Singaporeans experienced difficult times. These memories and present day idiosyncrasies transcend many Singaporeans, regardless of race and religion.

The 4 themes of Merdeka, Home, Heroes and Icons, and The Singaporean Factor were specially chosen to be showcased.

In conceptualising the original exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore in 2014, NHB had looked into the many "defining moments" of Singapore's history to draw out the memories that Singaporeans past and present would remember. This travelling exhibition was derived from the highlights of the original exhibition.

Through the *We: Defining Stories* travelling exhibition, we hope to will bring back fond memories for those who remember these incidents vividly.

Some examples of stories as highlighted in the exhibition:

Singapore's separation from Malaysia

The merger with Malaysia was short-lived; Singapore and the Federal Government of Malaysia had fundamental ideological differences and opposing approaches to governance. Singapore eventually separated from Malaysia on 9 August 1965. This day marked the birth of an independent Singapore.

Sporting Victories

Singapore rejoiced when its women's table tennis team clinched the silver medal at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, 48 years after weightlifter Tan Howe Liang won Singapore's first ever Olympic medal in 1960. Beyond headline-grabbing achievements, the sports fans themselves have their own stories of support, encouragement and celebration.

National Day Parade

Tickets for the event are usually in high demand and get snapped up way in advance. Past National Day Parades have been held at the Padang and the former National Stadium, with the most recently built venue for the event being the Marina Bay Floating Platform. A typical parade features military marches, fighter jet fly-bys, as well as spectacular fireworks.

Key Concepts

You can connect *WE: Defining Stories* to your curriculum using these key concepts. They convey the main educational themes of the exhibition.

The exhibition provides a platform for students to appreciate past events.

The topics featured in this exhibition are relatable to the people who lived through the past and present. These memories are important for the nation's history and identity. Students will get an opportunity to appreciate Singapore's early way of life, and a glimpse of the tenacity that was valued that made us all Singaporeans today.



Understanding our history would allow us to fully appreciate and treasure the success enjoyed in the present.

By understanding the past events through *WE: Defining Stories*, students will be able to infer and realise that the people who lived through the past had different life experiences. They have struggled and overcome challenges to build a modern city that we are proud to call home today.

These stories challenge students to talk to the older generation about the past.

These stories on past professions can also trigger conversation topics between the old and the young. This will provide teachers with the opportunity to integrate knowledge sharing into the lesson to educate students on the importance of conversations with those who have lived through times different from us, to understand that they have a story to tell too! How about linking it with the events from recent history too? Every generation will create its own memories! Talk about them!

Pre-Exhibition Activities

Come Prepared

Review this guide prior to your visit to the exhibition. You may research for more information about Singapore's past events and stories to share with your students.

Class Discussion

Before you visit the exhibition, let your students know that they will be able to learn about significant historical events, Singapore's Heroes and Icons, and Singapore's development. Read aloud the write-up that can be found in the "About the Exhibition" page to your students and discuss the Key Concepts with them.

Ask them to write down their thoughts in the Pre-Exhibition Questions space!

If you wish to discuss more, consider using these questions!

What are some values from the older generation that your parents have taught you through their own experiences?

Do you know of other past Singapore stories and defining moments that you can share with the class?

Have you heard of any other stories of life in the past from your parents? Do they have any unique experiences? If yes, do share with the class!

PRE - VISIT

Before going for the exhibition, write down your thoughts here!

What do you think this exhibition is about?

I think this exhibition is about

What do you hope to learn from the exhibition?

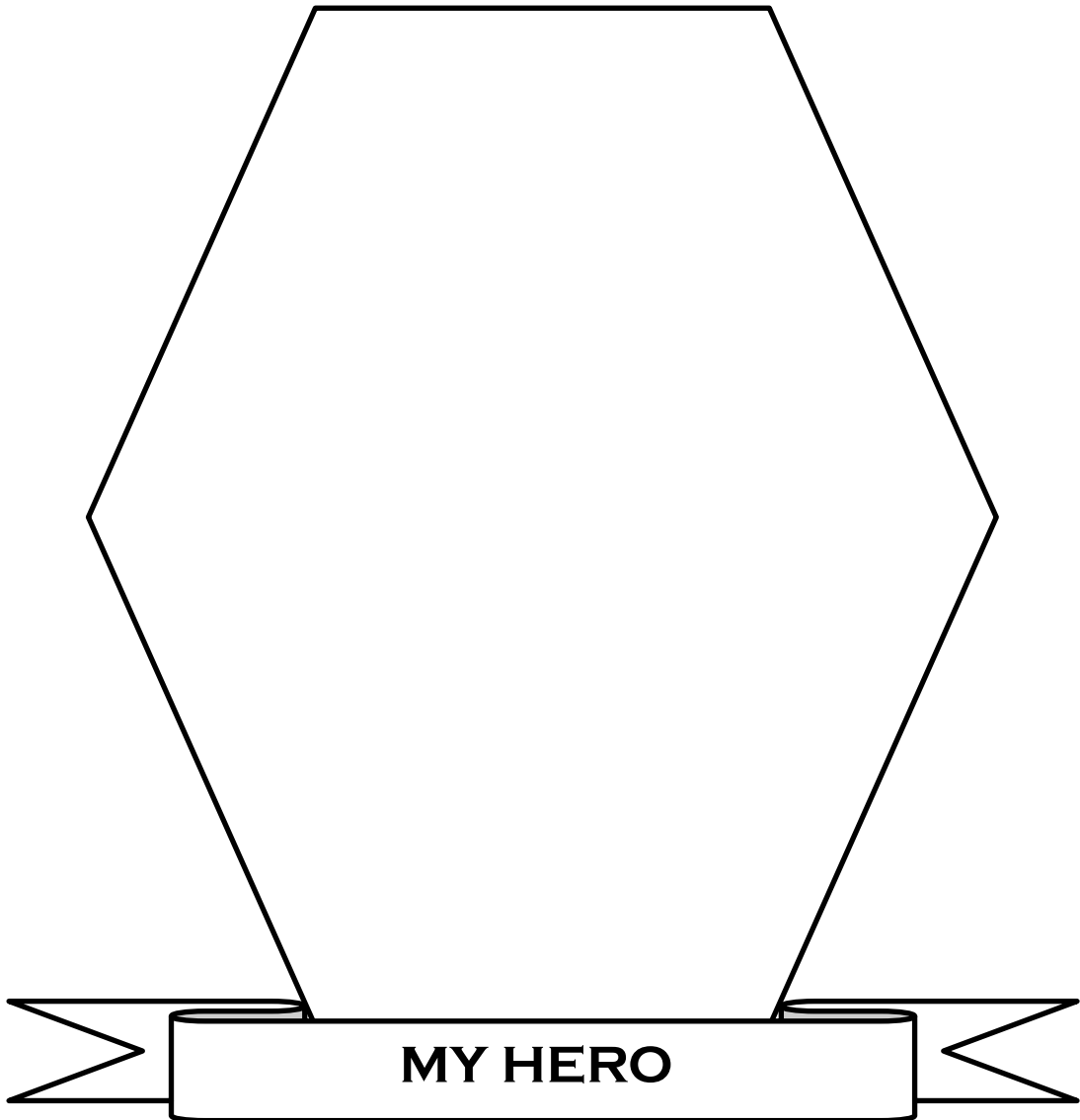
I hope to learn about

How do you feel about visiting this exhibition? Why?



MY HERO

You have seen the different heroes and icons from this exhibition. Is there someone in your life you consider your hero? Draw your hero in the space below and explain why he/she deserves the title.



_____ is my hero because

B MY PERSONAL FAVOURITE

In this exhibition, you have seen many stories illustrating Singapore's history. Which is your defining story and why do you think this story is meaningful? Nominate your favourite story and tell your friends about it!

Share with Us Your Defining Story!

I, _____ nominate _____ to be
My Defining Story.

This story deserves a nomination because:

My Declaration:

We should remember this story...

The story is important to Singapore's history because...

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Use technology!

Tell your friends about the choice you made!

Tips - Upload a photograph on Instagram or Facebook, encourage your friends to "like" your choice! Hashtag #wedefiningstories



© STRETCH YOUR IMAGINATION

Many Singaporeans hold different memories of Singapore's history. Do you have one defining story of Singapore to share? Contribute one memory you have about Singapore and its significance and write them in the space provided below.

MY DEFINING STORY

WHY IS MY STORY SIGNIFANT?

D MY PERSONAL REFLECTION

Good values can be gained through life's experiences. *WE: Defining Stories* highlights many examples in Singapore's history where Singapore's older generation gained values through these historical experiences. These experiences bounded people together as one nation, Singapore.

List down any four values that you have learnt in the exhibition.

How can you demonstrate these values in your everyday life?

List two things you have learnt from the exhibition!

What would you remember most from *WE: Defining Stories* exhibition? Why?

*** Congratulations on reaching the end of this activity sheet.
You are so marvellous!

Post-Exhibition Activities

Discuss These Questions with the Students!

Take some time in class to do either group discussions or as a mass class discussion to sum up the thinking concepts!

1. How similar or different is life today from the past?
2. What lessons can we learn from the past?
3. Do you think the memories of these stories remain important in the lives of many Singaporeans?

Further Reading

In addition, you may wish to consider asking students to explore these websites to find out more about Singapore's history!

Do give students encouragement after they have completed the worksheet!

To read up about memories from other Singaporeans about life in the past:

<http://www.singaporememory.sg/>

To read up about other Singapore's events that Singaporeans will remember:

<http://www.iremember.sg/>

