

Questions for Pupils

This PDF includes a selection of open-ended questions for pupils (hints and answers are provided in brackets where appropriate), ideas for planning your lessons with possible timings, suggested learning objectives for KS1 and KS2, and a note of how each unit relates to the National Curriculum and QCA Schemes of Work. Suggested activities and ideas for resources are highlighted throughout the notes with this symbol:



For information on each image go to the resources - portraits section of this website. <http://www.npg.org.uk/icansite>

QCA Schemes of Work and National Curriculum Links

Related QCA Units:

- History QCA unit 8 (difference between lives of rich and poor in Tudor times)
- Unit 19 Tudor Exploration

National Curriculum Links

Learning objectives for KS1

- To describe the portrait, focusing on details of colour, shape and content
- To remember and recall specific vocabulary and concepts
- To identify the portrait as being painted a long time ago
- To describe shapes seen in the portrait
- To recognise symmetry in the portrait
- To find out about the materials and processes used

Learning objectives for KS2

- To describe the portrait, using appropriate vocabulary
- To ask questions to clarify and extend understanding
- Recognise reflective symmetry, 2D and 3D shapes and patterns
- To recognise that the portrait represents royal life in Tudor times and give examples and explanations
- To identify in the portrait the colour, patterns, lines and forms and how they were used for effect

Questions for Pupils

Queen Elizabeth I The 'Coronation' Portrait

Look at the person

- Who is she?
- What is her job?
- How old is she?
- How is she feeling?

Think about events and timeline

- Why was this picture painted?
- When was this picture painted?

Look at her face

- Is she looking at us?
- Is she wearing make up?
- What is the colour of her face?

Look at her clothes and body

- What colour is the dress?
- Can you see any shapes or patterns?
- What is the dress made of?
- Would she wear this dress every day?
- How did she get dressed?
- How would she keep her clothes clean?
- How are her clothes different from yours?
- How might it feel to wear this dress?
- Is the painting symmetrical?

Look at her hands

- What is she holding on the left side of the portrait?
- What is she holding on the right side of the portrait?
- How many rings is she wearing?

Look at the materials

- What would you need to paint this portrait?
- What is it painted on?
- What colours can you see in the painting?
- How do you think the artist made the colours in the painting?



Questions for Pupils

Queen Elizabeth I The 'Ditchley portrait'

Look at the person

- Who is she?
- What is her job?

Look at her face

- How old is she?
- How is she feeling?
- What colour is her hair?
- What is in her hair?
- Why isn't she smiling?

Look at her body and clothes

- What colour is her dress?
- How might it feel to wear this dress?
- What is on her dress?
- How much did it cost? (equivalent to approximately £500,000 today)
- What jewellery is she wearing?
- Can you find her ruff?
- Can you spot a pink rose?

Look at her hands

- What is she holding?
- How many rings is she wearing?

Look at the background

- What is the weather like?
- Can you describe the weather?
- What is she carrying to represent sunny weather?
- What is she carrying to represent stormy/bad weather?
- Where is she looking?

Look at the materials

- What would you need to paint this portrait?
- What is it painted on?
- What colours can you see in the painting?
- How do you think the artist made the colours in the painting?



Questions for Pupils



Think about the materials

Teachers may wish to elaborate on the types of materials that the artists would have used to make these portraits and have examples of pigments to show the class. You could discuss the materials that would have been used by Elizabeth and other Tudors to make their faces appear white and how this made Elizabeth look so young in her portraits.

Materials used in the paintings

The Coronation portrait was painted onto a wooden panel. The Ditchley portrait was painted on canvas. To illustrate this, you use a small piece of wood and compare this to an artist's canvas as well as providing a range of painting brushes. Colours were made by mixing natural pigments such as coloured stones, plants and earth. They were ground down with oil into a paint consistency.

Suggested resources

- pigments used to make colour in a small container e.g. red ochre, yellow ochre, soot (black)
- glass muller (a large blob of glass which was ground to a flat circle underneath) mixing was done on a muller on a sheet of ground glass
- paper
- wood
- canvas
- oil paint (for smell)
- brushes

Think about events/timeline

- When was this portrait painted? (Now or a long time ago?)

Opinion:

What do think of this portrait?

Do you like this portrait? Why?

For further information on these portraits, why not order a copy of the Portraits of Queen Elizabeth Resource Pack

<http://www.npg.org.uk/live/pubeliz1resource.asp> or Tudor Portraits Resource Pack. <http://www.npg.org.uk/live/edtutor.asp>

Questions for Pupils

Possible Key Stage 1 & 2 Supplementary Questions

These are additional questions which you may wish to use, depending on the ability of your pupils

Focus on the background

Extension for Key Stage 1 & 2

- What is under her feet?
- Where is she in the picture?
- Does she look happy or sad?

Extension for Key Stage 2

- Why is she standing on a globe?
- Can you see the sea around England?

You may wish to discuss the Spanish Armada in 1588 when England, under the rule of Elizabeth I, defeated the Spanish fleet. You can zoom in on the ships in this portrait around the English coast and or link to the The 'Armada' Portrait of Elizabeth I, attributed to George Gower, c. 1588 (link to webpage for the Armada Portrait NPG 541). The Queen Elizabeth Portraits Educational resource, offers more information about the 'Armada' portrait and suggested questions and activities. <http://www.npg.org.uk/live/pubeliz1resource.asp>

Possible Key Stage 2 Supplementary Questions

These are additional questions which you may wish to use, depending on the ability of your pupils.

Focus on her hands

Use pictures of different weather to explain why she would carry a fan or gloves.

Focus on her hands

The artist has used oil paint on canvas to make this portrait. You may wish to have examples of the pigments used to make oil paint, canvas and brushes to help illustrate the use of materials in this portrait.