

It is important to prepare your students for their visit to the Gallery. This will enhance the students' enjoyment of it and ensure that the visit is a meaningful learning experience that will support their language skills.

Below are some suggested activities for discussion and some practical activities for the students to complete in class before your visit.

### **Discussion-based activities**

Discuss with the students the following questions.

#### **Aims and objectives of the visit**

- What is a gallery and what is in it?
- Why do we collect objects and pictures?
- What is the difference between a gallery and a museum?
- What will we do on our visit?

#### **Discussion of previous experience of galleries**

- Have you visited a museum or gallery before? Where?
- What did you enjoy about the visit?
- Why are museums and galleries important?
- What do museums and galleries do?

#### **What will the visit to the National Portrait Gallery be like?**

- How are people expected to behave in a museum or gallery and why?
- People are not allowed to touch exhibits unless invited; sometimes security checks will be in place; people will not be allowed to carry large bags or to take photos in the gallery

## What is a portrait?

- Is a portrait meant to be a true likeness of the person?
- What types of portraits are there? Think of different examples such as paintings, photographs and miniatures
- Why do we make portraits of people?
- What is special about portraits of kings and queens?
- What kind of events do portraits of kings and queens celebrate?

## Kings and queens of England

- Who is the current Queen of Great Britain (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)?
- How long has she been queen?
- What happened at Queen Elizabeth II's coronation?
- Who were the Tudors? Who were the Tudor kings and queens?
- Look at a family tree from the Internet
- Who was Queen Victoria? When did she live?
- What was happening in your country at that time?
- Find out which symbols represent England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- What symbols represent your country?

## Working with a partner – 'What do you think a Gallery is for?'

- Look at the words below and discuss
- Use your dictionary to check any words you are unsure of
- What does each of these words mean?
- Use each word to make a sentence to describe what a museum or gallery does. For example: A museum collects objects.

Collect	Conserve
Educate	Exhibit

## Planning the journey and getting information about the National Portrait Gallery

This is an activity based on group work. The activity will require your students to divide into two groups, choose one of the two tasks in the box below and report back their findings.

### Each group will:

- Collect information
- Report back to the class
- Be ready to answer any questions from the other group
- Prepare questions to ask the other group about their topic

### Group 1. Planning the journey

Answer the questions:

- Where is the National Portrait Gallery?
- What buses can you take to get to the National Portrait Gallery?
- Where are the nearest tube stations?
- How much does the journey cost from the college?
- How long does the journey take?

### Group 2. Getting information about the National Portrait Gallery

Answer the questions:

- How much does it cost to visit the National Portrait Gallery?
- What time does the National Portrait Gallery open?
- Is there a café at the National Portrait Gallery?
- Is photography allowed in the National Portrait Gallery?

### Useful websites:

National Portrait Gallery: [www.npg.org.uk/live/visitor.asp](http://www.npg.org.uk/live/visitor.asp)

Transport for London: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

# ESOL PROGRAMME: PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

## Comprehension activity

Information about the National Portrait Gallery and its history  
(Entry 1 & 2)

### Read this text

The National Portrait Gallery was started in 1856. The first picture given to the Gallery was a portrait of William Shakespeare. The Gallery moved to a new building in 1896.

This is the building you will visit with your guide.

The Gallery has one million visitors a year.

### Answer the questions

The National Portrait Gallery was started in .....

The first portrait in the Gallery was a portrait of .....

The new building opened in .....

The Gallery has .....

visitors a year.

# ESOL PROGRAMME: PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

## Comprehension activity

**Information about the National Portrait Gallery and its history  
(Entry 3 & above)**

### Read this text

The National Portrait Gallery was started in 1856. The first picture given to the Gallery was a portrait of William Shakespeare. The Gallery collects portraits of famous British people. The collection includes paintings, drawings, statues, photographs and caricatures. The Gallery moved to its present building in 1896. This building is in St Martin's Place close to Trafalgar Square. The Gallery has one million visitors a year.

### Answer the questions

When was the National Portrait Gallery started? .....

What was the first portrait in the Gallery? .....

Where is the Gallery located? .....

When did it move to this location? .....

How many visitors does the Gallery receive a year? .....

# ESOL PROGRAMME: PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

### Gallery vocabulary activity

#### Work with a partner

Make sure you both know the meaning of the words you have been given. Use your dictionary if you need to check any words. Don't show the word to anyone else.

Think of a way to either use gesture or describe the word during the feedback session, in order for the class to guess what the word is.

Gallery	Ink
Picture	Monarch
Portrait	Coronation
Label	Crown
Wood	Sceptre
Panel	Gold
Canvas	Silver
Oil	Pearl
Paint	Diamond