

Notes for Tutors

We have provided *Pre-Visit Questions & Activities* to prepare learners for their visit. The questions are designed to enable pre-visit group discussion of relevant themes. The activities are designed to provide your learners with an understanding of the National Portrait Gallery and relevant vocabulary linked to the *Take Two Portraits* visit.

Before the visit learners will need some understanding of:

- Present continuous and simple past tenses
- Simple question forms
- Prepositions of place
- Adjectives of colour
- Suppositions – could be, might be
- Names

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The National Portrait Gallery and its history (Level 1 + above)
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Pre-Visit Discussion Questions

Discuss these questions with your learners:

- What is a gallery and what is in it?
- Why do we collect objects and pictures?
- Have you visited a museum or gallery before? What did you enjoy about the visit?
- How should we behave in the Gallery and why?
- What kinds of things will we see in the Gallery? *Paintings, Photographs, Sculptures*
- What is a portrait?
- What can we use a portrait for? (Think of different examples such as a record of what the sitter looked like, memories, celebration, a record of the people who have contributed to British society and culture.)



NPG 29597



NPG 1250



NPG 6347

Activity 1: What do you think a gallery is for?

Work with a partner. Read the words and use your dictionary to check the meaning of any you are unsure of.

Collect	Conserve
Educate	Exhibit

What does each of these words mean?

Use each word to make a sentence to describe what a gallery does.

For example: A gallery exhibits art.

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Activity 2: Planning your journey to the National Portrait Gallery

Note for tutors

We have provided a series of Pre-visit Questions for your group to explore the Gallery.

Divide your learners into two groups. Group one will plan the journey. Group two will gather information about the Gallery.

Each group should:

- collect information
- report back to the other group
- be ready to answer any questions from the other group
- prepare questions to ask the other group about their topic

Useful websites:

National Portrait Gallery: www.npg.org.uk/visit

Transport for London: www.tfl.gov.uk

Group 1. Planning the journey

Answer the following questions:

- Where is the National Portrait Gallery?
- Which 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?

Group 2. Getting information about the National Portrait Gallery

Answer the questions:

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

Activity 3: Information about the National Portrait Gallery and its history (E1+ 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. All the portraits are of important people from British History. The Gallery moved to a new building in 1896. The Gallery has two million visitors a year.

Answer the questions.

The National Portrait Gallery was started in

The first picture in Gallery was a picture of

.....

The Gallery has pictures of

The new building opened in

The Gallery has visitors a year.

Activity 3: Information about the National Portrait Gallery and its history (L1 + 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 people who have contributed to British History. 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 two million visitors a year.

Answer the questions.

When was the National Portrait Gallery started?

What was the first portrait in the National Portrait Gallery?

Where is the National Portrait Gallery located?

When did it move to this location?

How many visitors does it receive a year?

Activity 4: Gallery vocabulary

Note for Tutors:

This activity has been designed to familiarise your learners with vocabulary for their Gallery visit. We suggest you ask your learners to work in pairs. Cut out the words below and divide them between the pairs. Depending on the level of your learners, ask them to act out/ demonstrate their word(s) to the group, or write a sentence to explain each word.

Artist	Sitter
Expression	Pose
Portrait	Label
Canvas	Half-length
Vote	Equality
Pose	Suffragettes
Charity	Campaign

Activity 5: Compare and contrast

Note for Tutors:

This activity explores two famous portraits from the Collection. The aim of this activity is to familiarise the learners with the Compare and contrast method of looking at portraits and to begin to develop their visual literacy skills before their Gallery visit.

We suggest you ask your learner to work with a partner or in a small group to look at these portraits from the Gallery's Collection and answer the questions below.



King Henry VIII (1491-1547),
King of England (1509-1547)
NPG 4027



King Edward VI (1537-1553),
King of England 1547-1553
NPG 5511

- Look at the poses of the two sitters. How are they standing?
- What are they wearing? What is similar about their clothes?
- What are they holding? What other objects can you see in the two portraits?
- What do you think is the relationship between the two sitters?
- How can you tell that both the sitters were kings of England?
- What can you tell about their personalities from these portraits?