

**SINGAPORE HERITAGEFEST 2007**  
**UNIQUE MEMORIES, UNIQUE STORIES**

**Students' Activity Worksheet**

**Introduction**

How many of you have memories? What are memories? What do you remember? Are your memories different from your friends? Or do you share the same memories?

***Unique Memories, Unique Stories*** explores memories of the people through the objects they have kept over the years. Although the stories behind these objects are personal to the owner, they may trigger similar or different memories in visitors like you. Discover these stories and find out how some of these experiences may become your heritage.

There are five sections in this exhibition:

- Introduction: we explore what is memory, what do we remember, and how do we remember
- Sweet Memories: memories of our school days and childhood
- Reminiscing the Firsts: memories of our firsts, such as first job, first love, first date and first home
- Thinking of Tradition: memories of how we celebrate events and festivals in the family
- In Memory: memories of places, people and buildings no longer with us, or have changed, or have moved on

**Section One - What is memory?**

Memory is our ability to register, record and recollect information. There are three types of memory. Can you name them in the blank spaces?

- 1     **S** **E** **N** **S** **O** **R** **Y** memory  
       **S** **H** **O** **R** **T** term memory  
       **L** **O** **N** **G** term memory

- 2 Memories maybe activated by five senses. See if you can name them in the crossword puzzle below:

		<b>S</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>T</b>		
		<b>O</b>				<b>A</b>		
<b>T</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>		<b>S</b>		
		<b>N</b>				<b>T</b>		
		<b>D</b>		<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>

- 3 The opposite of remembering is forgetting. It is just as important for your mind to forget information as it is to remember. Why is it so?

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(So our mind can be more efficient and effective. Otherwise, the mind has to sieve through too many information to get the actual information that we need.)

- 4 Personal memories are memories that we remember as an **INDIVIDAL**

Collective memories are memories that we remember as a **GROUP**

**GENERIC** memories are general memories of the time that we live in.

- 5 Can you give some examples?

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(Individual memories: what we did on our own, eg homework, brushing teeth etc  
 Collective memories: what we did as a group, eg ECA, class, family projects, excursions, dinners, plays etc  
 Generic memories: memories of the time – eg celebrations, National Day, Festivals, disasters, celebrations etc)

## 2 Section Two - Sweet Memories

As a young nation in the 1960s and 1970s, we had a lot of campaigns and activities in school. These programmes were necessary to nurture good habits and healthy lifestyles. What do you think these activities encourage?

a) **Tree Planting Day**

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b) **Drink Milk programme**

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c) **Use Your Hands campaign**

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d) **Save Water campaign**

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(Tree Planting Day - to create a clean and green image for Singapore; Drink Milk programme - to create a healthy Singapore, children during those times were malnourished; Use your hands campaign - to inculcate good habits in students to maintain a clean environment around them, also build up good attitude to manual work; Save Water campaign- to inculcate the sense of value of water in water scarce Singapore.)

2 Have we changed over the years? What are the school activities that are very different from what you have today? Can you name a few?

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(Drink Milk programme vs TAFT programme; Sports Day; games children play – more sophisticated these days etc)

## Section Three - Reminiscing the Firsts

1 Do you recognise any of these objects? Some of these objects are similar to the ones that you are using now. Can you pair them together?

Typewriter	Emails
Gramophone	iPod
Letters	Personal Computer
Radio Headset	CD player

(Typewriter – Personal Computer; Gramophone – CD player; Letters - Emails; Radio Headset – iPod)

2 Discover how these objects have evolved over time.

#### **Section Four - Thinking of Tradition**

Traditions are often “hand-me-down” practices from our forefathers to our parents to us. Although most of the time, there are similarities in the way we celebrate events and festivals, we sometimes have our own “family” way of doing things.

Look out for the answers (numbers) for the questions given in each box. If you add the numbers across the puzzle (horizontal, vertical or diagonal), you will find that the total is always 15.

Take your time to find out the stories behind the objects while you looking for your clues.

How many sections are there in the aluminum <b>Malay Tiffin</b> carrier? _____	<b>Singapore</b> celebrates its independence on the ____ of August. _____	How many <b>ice trays</b> are there? _____
How many kings are there in the <b>Nativity scene</b> ? _____	<b>How many sections are there in this Exhibition?</b> _____	The <b>First Day</b> covers were collected since 19_0s _____
How many sections are there in the <b>Wedding Tray</b> ? _____	How many <b>sewing machines</b> are there? _____	How many eggs are there in the <b>wire basket</b> ? _____

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

(To highlight that concept of “sum of many parts” here; different individual memories contribute to the collective heritage of the future).

### Section Five - In Memory

Do you recognise these places, persons and buildings? Find out more about them.

- What was the most “hip” performing space in the 1960s and 1970s?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (National Theatre)
- What was the year that Singapore won both the Malaysian Cup and the Malaysia League?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1994)
- c) This river used to be polluted with trash, filth and daily discards and is the life line of Singapore's economy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Singapore River)
- d) A legendary footballer who was the captain of the Singapore Team that won the Malaysian Cup in 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Fandi Ahmad)
- e) The year that the "EA" surfix started for car plates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (1972)

As you can see, every object, place and person has a story to tell. These are the milestones in our lives. Start documenting your memories and stories. One day, they will be shared with other people.

### **Follow Up Activities**

- a) Start a journal to document what happens in your life each day. Record your hopes, dreams aspirations and ideas. And one day, when you are down or are wondering where you are going, flip through your journal and you will be amazed to see how you have grown as a person and how your priorities in life have shifted.
- b) Another idea is to start a scrap book where you can paste your favourite photographs of people you know and love or of places you enjoyed visiting or even writing stories or poems of your travels, etc. They will be of comfort to you and a reminder of the good times you had.
- c) Have you thought of starting a memory box? This can be a special box you buy off the shelf or an old shoe or any other box that you can recycle. Decorate it in whatever way you like and then start putting in things that bring back memories for you. They can be good or sad, but what matters is that these objects, letters, photographs, etc. are part of your story.