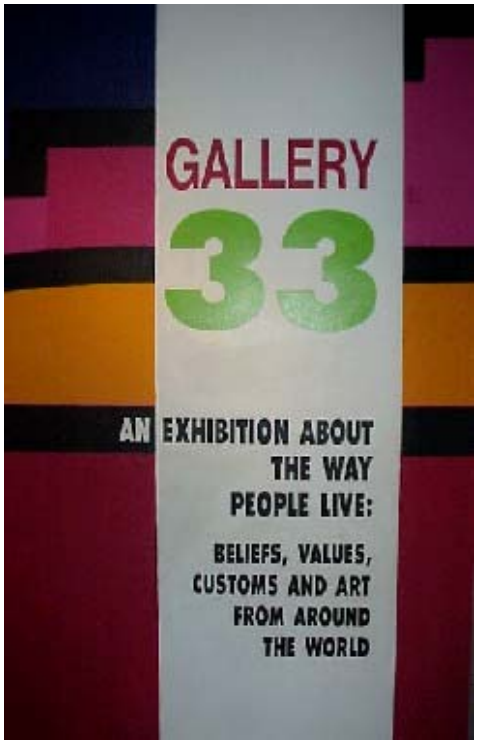
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

FINDING OUT ABOUT GALLERY 33

Pupil worksheets



Birmingham City Council

Teachers' notes

- The accompanying question sheets are designed to help KS2 and KS3 pupils during a visit to the Museum and Art Gallery.

- The questions aim to encourage pupils to think about the issues of collecting and selecting and using objects to represent ideas. These issues, and many others, are discussed in more detail in the teachers' booklet: 'Gallery 33: A Meeting Ground of Cultures'.

- We suggest that each pupil does not attempt every question sheet. We advise that each pupil should be given the first sheet, which acts as an introduction to the gallery. The last three sheets, on societies, also address important issues. Other sheets could be used if time permits. You may prefer the pupils to work in groups, discussing rather than writing.

- A plan of the Gallery and a world map are included in the pupil sheets.

- Schools Liaison provides one copy only of these sheets. Before your visit, please copy the number you require for your group.

- Exhibits are changed from time to time. If you wish to see a specific exhibit, please ring to check before your visit.

Schools Liaison Department Telephone: 0121 303 3890

FINDING OUT ABOUT GALLERY 33

These question sheets are to help you to find out more about Gallery 33.

The questions are in sets, and each set has a statement or conclusion (in a box).

This is an exhibition about the way people live:
beliefs, values, customs and art from around the world.

First of all….

- When you first go into Gallery 33, take a few minutes to walk slowly round the gallery, looking at the headings in the display cases.
- Notice that each case has objects from many different countries, and that there are modern objects alongside old ones.
- When you have had a general look round, go back to the entrance to G33 and look at:

Board of photographs

- Look at the photos. All these people live in Birmingham today.
- About 24 different languages are spoken by residents of Birmingham
- About one third of Birmingham's population comes from Black and Ethnic Minority Communities.
- What percentage of the City's population is under 30?

Music

- Why do people make music? _____
- What different ways can be used to make sound?
  _____
  _____
- Choose a musical instrument that you haven't seen before.

Name of instrument _____

How does it make sound? _____

What country does it come from? _____

- Mark this country on the world map.
- Think of the sort of music you like best, and why you like it. Does it make you feel sad, happy, proud..... or what?
  _____
  _____

People all over the world use music to show their feelings

Look at the 'Vibes' exhibition and play some music of your own choice.

Signs and Symbols

Each culture has its own set of signs and symbols.
They can stand for an idea or an object, or carry a message.

Go to the light box in the far corner of the Gallery.

Take a separate piece of paper.

Use the light box to either:

(i) make your own totem pole,

(ii) write your name in Egyptian hieroglyphics, or

(iii) design your own coat of arms.

If you have time, make a signifier (symbol to represent yourself) to hang on the totem pole.

Eating and Drinking

- Choose an object in the case that is used for a special event

Name of object _____
Use _____
Country of origin _____

- Choose an object that is used every day.

Name of object _____
Use _____
Country of origin _____

- Mark these countries on the world map.

- Look at the picture board.

The photographs are in pairs, representing 'Feasting and Fasting', ‘Reward and Punishment' and 'Sacrifice and Sacrament'.

Do you agree that the middle two pictures represent reward and punishment? Write down your reasons.

_____
_____
_____

Write down the names of foods or drinks that are served in your family on special occasions.

_____
_____

What was kept in this 300 years ago?

Why was this important then?

Food is not just for keeping us alive. It can be used as a reward, as a symbol, to bring people together or to mark a special event.

The Decorated Body

- Find 3 different objects that can be used for combing hair.
  Write down what they are, what material(s) they are made from and where they come from.

Name of object _____ Made of _____Country of origin _____
Name of object _____ Made of _____Country of origin _____
Name of object _____ Made of _____Country of origin _____

- Mark the countries on your world map

- Look for a modern object and an old object that have the same function.

Name of modern object _____ Country of origin _____

Name of old object _____ Country of origin _____

Function of both objects _____

- Mark these countries on your world map

- Why do you think old and new things have been displayed together?

  _____

  _____

People from all over the world, in the past and today, use similar objects for the same purposes

- Look at the picture board.

Write down some of the reasons people have for decorating or changing their bodies.

How do people you know decorate or change their bodies?

Masks

- Try on masks.

Notice the way each one changes your appearance, even though half your face may still show.

- Choose one mask and look at yourself in the mirror.
  How does it make you feel?

- Look at the display case and the picture board.

  Write down the names of the following:

  A mask used for protection _____ Country of origin _____
  A mask used for entertainment _____ Country of origin _____
  A mask used to frighten _____ Country of origin _____

- Name one other mask that you think should be displayed here.
  What is it used for?

- In the box below, draw one mask from the display. Next to it, describe the sort of clothing or decoration you think would go with the mask.

Masks create an illusion and can give the wearer protection, power or disguise.
Masks have been used throughout time in many different cultures.

The Collectors' House

Look at the replica hut in the centre of the gallery. Many of the exhibits in Gallery 33 were collected by the three people shown outside the hut.

- Why did they collect objects?

  _____

  _____

- Do you think the things they collected give us a true idea about the people and the country they came from?

  _____

  _____

- What do you think people who live in these countries today feel about these objects being on display in Birmingham?

  _____

  _____

- What special or everyday objects would you choose from home to start your own display?

  _____

  _____

Societies

A society is a group of people who depend on each other and have their own customs and patterns of behaviour.
These are based on common beliefs and values.

Read the label on the case labelled 'What is a society?'

- In what society(ies) would you place yourself? (Think of how you identify yourself - your gender, religion, rank, age, group of friends, family background)

  _____

  _____

What shapes the roles of women and men?

Look at the Congratulations cards.

- How do they show gender differences?

  _____

  _____

- What effect do you think this has on children and parents?

  _____

  _____

- Why was the photo of Benazir Bhutto (elected prime minister of Pakistan 1988) included?

  _____

  _____

- Whose photo would you have chosen?

  _____

  _____

Practically all societies distinguish between the roles of men and women, but the relative power of each role varies from one society to another.

Why do we celebrate certain events in our lives?

- Look for objects marking these events:

Birth
Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah
Retirement
Christening
Death

In most societies, the major events of a lifetime are celebrated by special ceremonies called rituals.

- What have been the major events of your life marked by a special ceremony

  _____
  _____

- What objects would you use to represent these events?

  _____
  _____

What is religion?

- Which religions are represented here?

  _____
  _____

- What would you have included in this exhibit?

  _____
  _____

Religion is the belief in a power which directs our lives.

- Do you agree with the statement

"Religion promotes stability and unity within a society"?

Why is ethnic identity important?

Read the label

- What would you have put in this case to represent your ethnic identity?

  _____

How did you gain your position in society?

Read the label.

- What is the difference between Pato Banton's and the Queen's position in society?

  _____

- Are there any similarities between their positions?

  _____

Number 6 shows an axe carried by tribal leaders as a sign of their high position or rank.

- What does the Queen wear on ceremonial occasions to show her rank?

  _____

- Are any symbols of rank used in your school? If so, what are they?

  _____

- How can you change your position in society?

  _____

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Gallery 33 and that it has helped you to understand more about how people all over the world use objects for different purposes.