

What Was Before the Selfie?

ART

Get curious

Observing

Set off on a tour - hunting for portraits. You can look for portraits at school, or search further afield.

Are there any statues in front of your school building? Portrait photographs in your classroom? Or portraits of famous people decorating the walls of the school? You can also go to shopping malls, galleries, places of worship or simply stroll along the streets of your town to hunt for portraits. Remember that portraits aren't just works of art - they can also be found on everyday objects.

Take photographs or draw sketches of the most interesting portraits you see.

Video/ Slide show

Watch a film featuring an artist who uses modern technology to create portraits. Talk about creating portraits.

What is important for portrait artists?

What tool does the artist use? What tools were used in the past?

What do these modern instruments give the painter?

What does the artist start from when drawing a portrait of a particular person?

What (objects) does the artist include in the portrait?

Get going

Puzzle/quiz

Students guess the identity and occupation of persons depicted on paintings from various times.

Students work in small groups. Show slides, giving groups about 30 seconds after each slide to discuss the answer and write it down.

Conclusions

Check if you guessed the occupations of the depicted persons correctly.

Show slides with answers. You can ask: How can we guess the occupation of a person from a portrait? Which elements of the portrait served as clues? What else can we learn by carefully studying the details of a portrait?

Creative expression

Students draw a portrait of a ruler on the basis of an oral description.

Ask children to draw a portrait of a ruler. Give them a short characteristic consisting of a few information details.

Presenting results

Compare your portraits of the ruler.

Does a king look the same in every single drawing? Why do you think he doesn't?

Talk

You will see some twentieth century portraits painted by Picasso.



Ask: Why are the portraits so awkward?

Did Picasso's contemporaries look like that? Or maybe the artist didn't know how to paint realistic portraits?

Discuss it with students

Get practicing

Creative expression

Students follow in Picasso's footsteps and "paint" a Picasso-style portrait.

Each student create a Picasso-style portrait. It can be a portrait of themselves, their family member, a friend or any other person. Students experiment with the Cubist form (geometrization of shapes), and also with colour. Ask your students to cut out figures from papers in different colours. For this purpose you can use the template with figures provided in the panel. Next you can organize an exhibition of portraits painted by students in the classroom or elsewhere in the school.
