



EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES

Class grouping:

Individual, whole group

Time:

60 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of these activities is to encourage students to explore the *Her Place* exhibition and to think critically about the strengths of the women who are featured in the exhibition. Students are also encouraged to carefully examine an artefact in the exhibition and to think about the way in which artefacts can be used to represent key parts of our lives.

Activities:

1. Manual word cloud
2. Artefact study
3. Group discussion

Preparation and materials:

- Large rolled up piece of butcher paper
- Removable adhesive such as 'Blu Tack'
- Coloured markers
- Word cloud sample
- Devices for recording student answers: e.g. clipboards and pens, iPads, laptops

Procedure

Before you begin: Find a central place where the butcher paper you have brought with you can be temporarily attached to a wall. If this is not possible/appropriate, place the sheet on the floor instead, in a quiet space out of the way of foot traffic.

Divide students into two groups so that they can undertake concurrent activities, swapping tasks once each activity is completed. One group will begin with Activity 1, the other with Activity 2. Students should swap activities after 25 minutes.

Activity 1: Manual word cloud (20–25 mins)

Step 1: Ask students to take a couple of minutes to walk around the *Her Place* exhibition and to choose **one** of the videos of the exhibited women to view.

Step 2: Once students have chosen a video, ask them to watch it in full, and to write a short summary of the story and achievements of the woman they have decided to focus on.

Step 3: Students should think of **two words** that could be used to describe the woman they have decided to focus on. Encourage thoughtful and original responses.

Step 4: As each student finishes their video summary, ask them to add their two words to the butcher paper in order to create a 'word cloud' (see examples below).

Ensure students have seen the word cloud sample and instruct them to vary the size and style of their writing and to group words relatively closely together on the paper. If a student's word already appears on the paper – or appears more than once – they should write it again in **large font** or trace over the word already there to make it **bold** in order to draw attention to its importance.

Encourage students to work collaboratively on this process.

Activity 2: Artefact study (20–25 mins)

Step 1: Explain to students that they are about to explore the lives of 10 different women by looking at different artefacts. Explain that an artefact is an object made by a human being, with historical or cultural interest.

Step 2: Ask students to look at the artefacts on display for the women in the exhibition and to choose one on which to focus.

Step 3: Ask students to describe their chosen artefact in detail and to imagine why

it might have been important to the woman who owned it, using the prompts/questions below:

1. Why do you think this particular artefact has been chosen to represent one of the women in the exhibition? Why is it significant?
2. Use a simile to describe your object.
3. Use a metaphor to describe your object.
4. Explain why you chose this particular artefact – what drew your eye to it?
5. Imagine you could ask this artefact one question. What would it be?
6. If you had to choose an artefact to exhibit to represent your life, what would it be and why?

Activity 3: Group discussion (10–15 mins)

Step 1: Gather all students back together in a group. Draw attention to the words written on the word cloud.

Step 2: Ask students to reflect on the stories featured in the exhibition and to explain why they chose a particular word to describe an exhibited woman.

Step 3: Prompt students to share their thinking about their chosen artefact. Why did they choose it? Why do they think it was included in the exhibition?

To conclude, choose 2–3 words from the class word cloud that the students think adequately sum up the theme of the exhibition.

Extension activity: If you want to work further with the word cloud created by your class once back at school, it can be used as a prompt for group or individual poetry or as a stimulus for a creative writing activity.

Word cloud examples

