

Guess who?

He was a powerful politician and one of the most fashionable men in England...



Find his portrait from these clues.. What was his name?



Draw a portrait in the frame.



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Farinelli

The opera singer Farinelli was very famous. He entertained people from far and wide, and had many friends and admirers. He travelled a great deal and this group portrait was painted before the friends said goodbye to him.



Who is who?

Write or draw what they are holding..

The artist Jacopo Amigoni...

The singer Farinelli...

The composer (writer)
Pietro Metastasio...

The student and singer
Teresa Castellini...

The servant/apprentice painter...

Find another painting with clues about a person in it. Can you find a musician, a soldier?

Did you know? To become an artist you would train as an apprentice with a master artist. The opera and live concerts were important types of entertainment.

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The Crown Prince of Saxony

The Crown Prince Frederick Augustus of Saxony dressed in his splendid wig and shining armour especially for this portrait and hung it on his palace walls.



Why do you think he chose to wear this armour for his portrait?

Imagine what the Crown Prince of Saxony's costume felt like. The artist had to paint in different ways to show the different textures.

Try drawing some different textures:

Fluffy feathers

Sparkling jewels

Curly hair

Satin robes

Shining armour

Did you know? The painting *The Banquet of Cleopatra* once hung on his palace walls. Can you find it?

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Queen Cleopatra

Cleopatra was a rich and powerful Egyptian queen. This painting tells a story. Read the label on the wall to find out why Cleopatra is about to drop her earring into her glass. When the artist painted this he imagined the scene and changed Cleopatra from looking like an Egyptian queen all dressed in white robes adorned with gold. Indeed, here Cleopatra looks like a fashionable woman of the 18th century.



A fashionable woman:

had pale skin

dressed in full-length gowns made of silks and satins

wore her hair piled high and decorated it with jewels or flowers

had a very small waist pulled in tight with a corset

had very wide hips. A panier (basket) under her dress made the shape.

Is Queen Cleopatra fashionable?

Do you know? What do fashionable people wear today?

Page v:
Allan Ramsay *Richard Grenville, 2nd Earl Temple* 1762 (Details). Everard Studley Miller Bequest, 1965

Page vi:
Jacopo Amigoni
Portrait group: The Singer Farinelli and friends c.1750-52 (Detail). Felton Bequest, 1949

Page vii:
Nicolas de Largillierre *Crown Prince Frederick Augustus of Saxony* 1714-15 (Detail). Everard Studley Miller Bequest, 1968

This page:
Giambattista Tiepolo *The Banquet of Cleopatra* 1743-44 (Detail). Felton Bequest, 1933

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NGV KIDS



TOTALLY WIGGED OUT

FAMILY TRAIL
DISCOVER HAIR-CURLING FACTS ABOUT PEOPLE AND FASHION OF THE 18th CENTURY

Before you start...

- Collect a pencil and a map from the information desk
- Go to European Painting 17th – 18th Century, Level 2

Enough to make your hair curl!!

- Today we sometimes call rich, powerful and often fashionable people Big Wigs, because in the 18th century rich and influential people wore wigs!
- Wigs became very fashionable in the 17th century after the French king Louis 13th wore one when he started to go bald.
 - Wigs were made of horse or human hair. Human hair was the most expensive.
 - A wig hairstyle was easy – you could take it off at night and put it on in the morning and send it off to the wig dresser for regular styling.
 - Wigs were good for lice control. A shaved head under a wig was not attractive to lice.
 - Wigs were whitened by brushing powder through them.



Extreme fashion

- Well-dressed people usually needed a servant to help dress them and it could take hours.
- Hairstyles became so high and hips so wide some ladies had trouble fitting through doorways.
- Men were the ones who wore stockings.
- Some ladies' waists were pulled in so tight with a corset that it made them faint.
- Perfume was very important as people didn't bathe often.
- Poisonous lead oxides in face whiteners could make wearers very ill.

The Pybus family

Their father was an official with the East India Company. The trading company filled sailing ships with some of the finest silks from exotic lands and brought them to Europe to make the most fashionable clothes. The family often lived overseas. Once while home in England they all posed to have their family portrait painted.



Decorate this hat

Meet the Pybus children:

- Martha holding a ribbon-trimmed hat
- Anne, smelling a scented rose
- John, dressed like his father
- Charles, standing on his mother's lap

Find another family portrait.

- Compare the way the children are dressed.
- Do all the children have hats?
- Who is wearing a wig?

Did you know?

- Infant boys wore skirts instead of pants and girls were not allowed to show their ankles.

Susanna Gale

Susanna Gale's parents commissioned this portrait of her before she was to be married. Susanna was 14 years old when this portrait was painted, but she looks wise and important. With her fair skin, she was considered very beautiful. The artist first painted her face and then had other people pose as Susanna to complete the painting.



How has the artist made her look important?

- Tick your answer...
- She is holding a rose.
 - She is dressed in a beautiful gown.
 - She is standing up high, looking down.

Can you stand in a way that makes you look important?

Walk from one side of the painting to the other and look at Susanna looking at you.

Draw a new background for Susanna



Did you know?

- The portraits were painted in a studio and the artist painted in the background.

Sir Samson Gideon

Deep in conversation is Sir Samson Gideon and his friend. They are on holiday in Italy, a place many wealthy English gentlemen used to travel to on their 'Grand Tour.'

Who do you think they might be talking about?



Tick when you find:

- 5 gold and silver buckles
- 5 gold buttons in a row
- a sword
- a hat with a feather
- 2 wigs with black bows
- a portrait in a locket

Find a painting of Venice with its canals and grand buildings Sir Samson would have visited.

Did you know?

Buttons were a sign of wealth and fashion. Gentlemen could own up to 300 waistcoats.

Cover: **Nicolas de Largillier** *Crown Prince Frederick Augustus of Saxony 1714–15* (Detail). Everard Studley Miller Bequest, 1968

Page i: **Allan Ramsay** *Richard Grenville, 2nd Earl Temple 1762* (Detail). Everard Studley Miller Bequest, 1965

Page ii: **Nathaniel Dance** *The Pybus family c.1769* (Detail). Felton Bequest, 2003

Page iii: **Joshua Reynolds** *Miss Susanna Gale c.1763–64* (Detail). Felton Bequest, 1934

This page: **Pompeo Girolamo Batoni** *Sir Sampson Gideon and an unidentified companion 1767* (Detail). Everard Studley Miller Bequest, 1963

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