

一衣 七十 尚衣

Modern Women of the Republic

Children's Activity Booklet





Xiao Qing and her grandmother

This exhibition displays many beautiful clothes worn by women in China and Singapore from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. Changes in fashion trends are often reflections of the changes taking place in society and can tell us more about women's lifestyles, roles and status then.

Discover more about these fashion trends as you walk around the gallery!

Museum Etiquette

- Use only **pencils** in the galleries
- **Turn off** the flash when taking photographs
- Speak and walk **softly** in the galleries
- Look with your **eyes**, not your hands
- **Leave** food and drinks outside

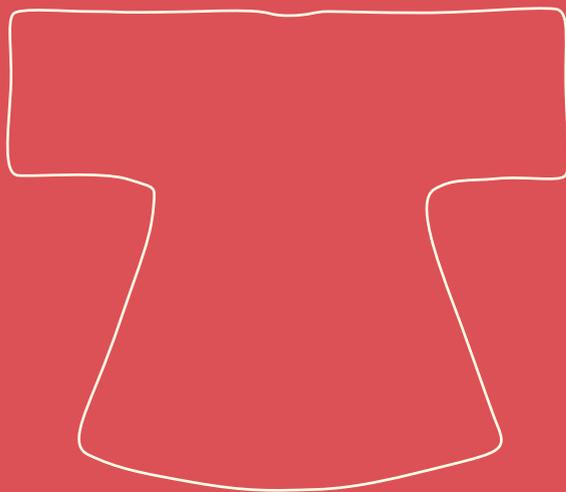
Late Qing Ao (blouse-jacket)

Come Xiao Qing,
let me show you what my mother
used to wear when she was young.

This is an *ao*, a traditional,
loose-fitting Chinese jackets with wide sleeves
that women in the past wore. Women's clothing in the
past often had auspicious symbols sewed on it, usually in
the form of flowers, plants or animals. Women expressed
their wishes for a better life, good health, happiness
and prosperity through these embroidered
symbols.



Look for an *ao* (blouse-jacket) in this
shape in the gallery:



Did you know?

"Boys at play" or "hundred boys" is a common theme in Chinese decorative art. The scene usually took place in a garden, depicting little boys engaging in various activities. They reflect the high expectation of Chinese parents to have numerous heirs.

Look closely at the blouse-jacket or *ao* and count the number of boys on the *ao*. Circle the parts where the boys appear on the border of the *ao* on the previous page.

Number of boys: _____ .

Can you spot
the following motifs on the blouse-
jacket? Indicate the locations of the following
motifs on the outline of the blouse-jacket on
the previous page.



1. Plum Blossoms
Perseverance and purity



2. Squirrel
Wish for many children



2. Peony
Wealth and good fortune



4. Lion
A successful career

Think!

What patterns or images do you like on your clothing? Why?

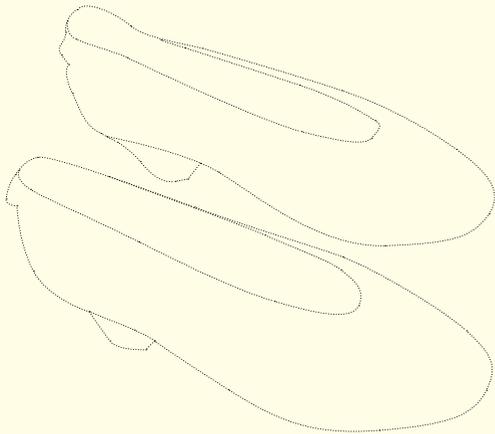
Embroidered Shoes



That pair of blue shoes look like something grandma has at home! When she walks, the heels make clacking noises!

Look for the blue shoes Xiao Qing is describing and write down its name (or caption title) here:

In ancient China, many girls learn to sew their own shoes at a young age. They would show off their skills by decorating and embroidering these shoes with auspicious symbols for good luck.



Let's draw! Help Xiao Qing decorate a new pair of shoes for her grandmother. What pattern or decoration would you put on the shoes to express your love for your grandmother?

Look for this pair of black shoes on display in the special exhibition. Also, see if you can **find** this pair of red shoes located at Gallery Three of the Memorial Hall.

Can you guess which pair of shoes was worn by younger women? And which was worn by older women? Circle your answer below.



Worn when (younger/older)



Worn when (younger/older)

Did you know?
My mother's and grandmother's preference for the colour of their clothing changed as they grew older.

Think!

Do you think women still change the colour of their clothing as they grow older today?



"Civilised new outfit"



Xiao Qing,
my grandmother did not have the opportunity to go to school, but my mother was very lucky to be born at the time when more schools were set up for girls. The style of her uniform, later known as "civilised new outfit", became very popular and women of all ages wore it in the 1920s.

My mother's uniform had large trumpet sleeves and was worn with dark coloured skirts.

Wow! The wedding dresses look like great-grandma's uniform!



Collection of National Museum of Singapore

Look for the following artefact in the gallery.

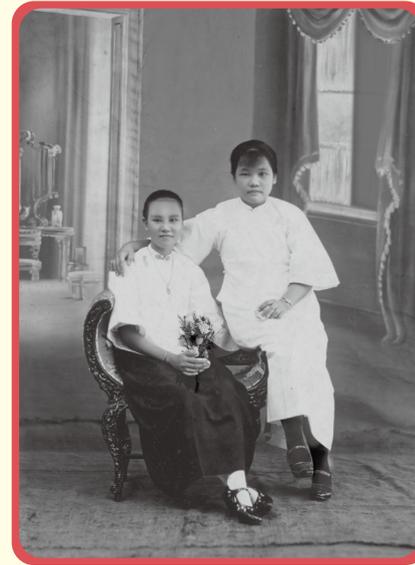
Did you know who wore this set of wedding clothes? Write her name here: _____.

She is the _____ daughter of prominent community leader _____.

Think!

Have you seen what brides wear at their weddings before? Tick the features that are found on present-day wedding clothes in the boxes below:

Wedding clothes that you have seen	White in colour	<input type="checkbox"/>
	With colourful embroideries	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Two-piece top and skirt	<input type="checkbox"/>
	One-piece dress	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Long veil	<input type="checkbox"/>



Look for this photograph in the gallery. Spot five differences between the photograph on display and the image on the left? **Circle** the differences in the image on the left.

Collection of National Museum of Singapore

Did you know?
During the early days, girls' schools in Singapore also adopted "civilised new outfits" as uniforms.



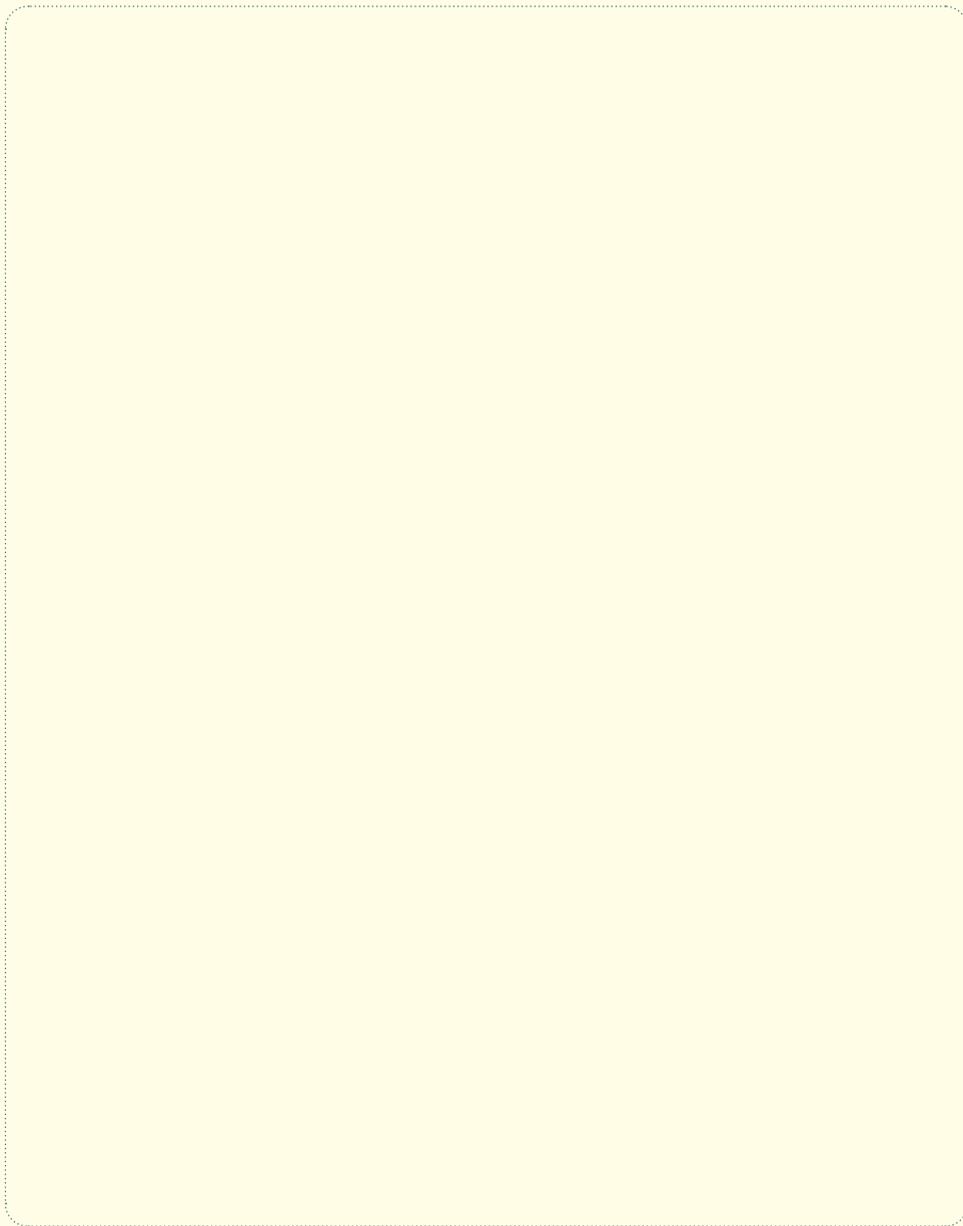
Find this photograph in Gallery Four of the Memorial Hall.

Look at the captions. Which school were these students from?



Think!

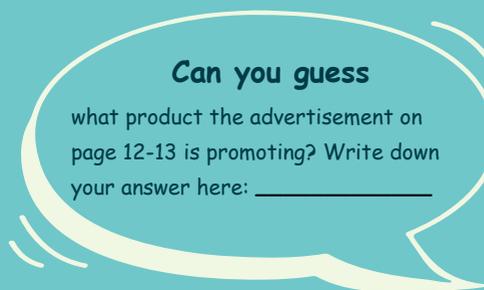
If you could design your school uniform, draw how it would look like in the box below!



Advertisements in early newspapers and pictorials



When my mother was younger, she always looked at advertisements to find out what fashion styles were popular. Beautiful models with trendy fashion were often used to promote products.



Can you guess

what product the advertisement on page 12-13 is promoting? Write down your answer here: _____



Think!

Look at the newspapers today and see if you can find images of women in advertisements. Apart from newspapers, where do we commonly find advertisements with female models today?

Let's colour! The early advertisements were all in black and white, let's add some colour on the clothes and bring them alive!



新日美
 洗衣服請用洛
 斯皂此種肥皂
 外觀與品質皆
 既

● 洛 斯 皂

洛
 斯
 皂
 粉

Manufactured by Lever Brothers Ltd, Port Sunlight.

SOLE AGENTS

Huttonbush Lazarus & Sons Ltd.
 SINGAPORE, PENANG & LUMPUR & SOLE.

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Find the section in the special exhibition with a display of colourful magazines.



Oh Grandma!
I've seen your old photographs before
and your hairstyle and clothes look similar
to the models' on these covers!

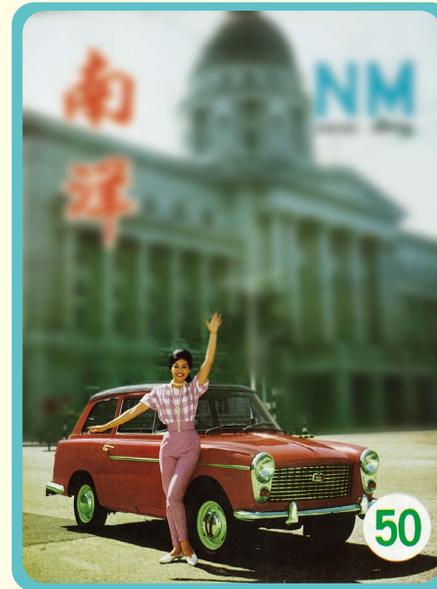
Did you know?

Pictorials were very popular among female readers in Singapore after World War II. Such pictorials always featured a beautiful and confident woman on their front covers. The appearance and dressing of these women became important reference for fashion trends at that era.

Look for the following pictorials in the gallery. Read the captions and write the year of publication in the spaces below.



Collection of National Museum of Singapore



Collection of Mr. Yung Sai-Shing

Look for this pictorial in the gallery.

The woman is posing in front of _____ and _____, which is presently _____.

The building existed since 1929 and is a landmark of Singapore's colonial past.

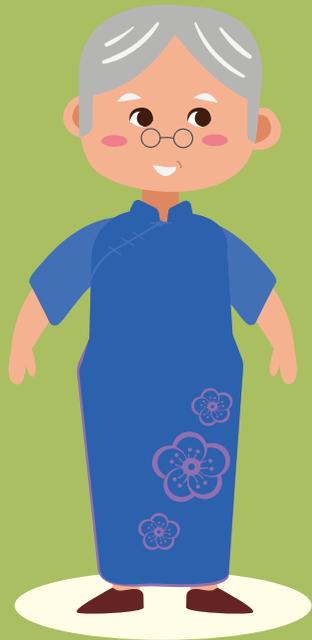


Think!

If Xiao Qing were to pose in front of a building that best represents modern Singapore, which building would it be? Draw the building in the box below.



The Evolution of the *Cheongsam*



Did you know

when the cheongsam was first worn by women, it is not as tight as it is today? In fact, it was adapted from the *changpao* ("long robe") that Chinese men wore. There are changes in the shape of the sleeves as well!



Did you know?

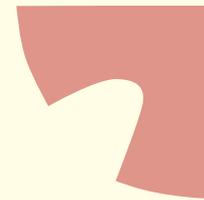
The most common sleeve lengths in *cheongsam* seen today are fitted cap sleeves. In Singapore, where our weather is hot, women sometimes wear sleeveless cheongsams.



Look for the cheongsams below in the gallery and draw lines to match the respective sleeve.



Three-quarter length sleeve



Bell-shaped sleeve



Scalloped sleeve



Collection of Mr. Hok Pui Leung and Mrs. Sally Yu Leung

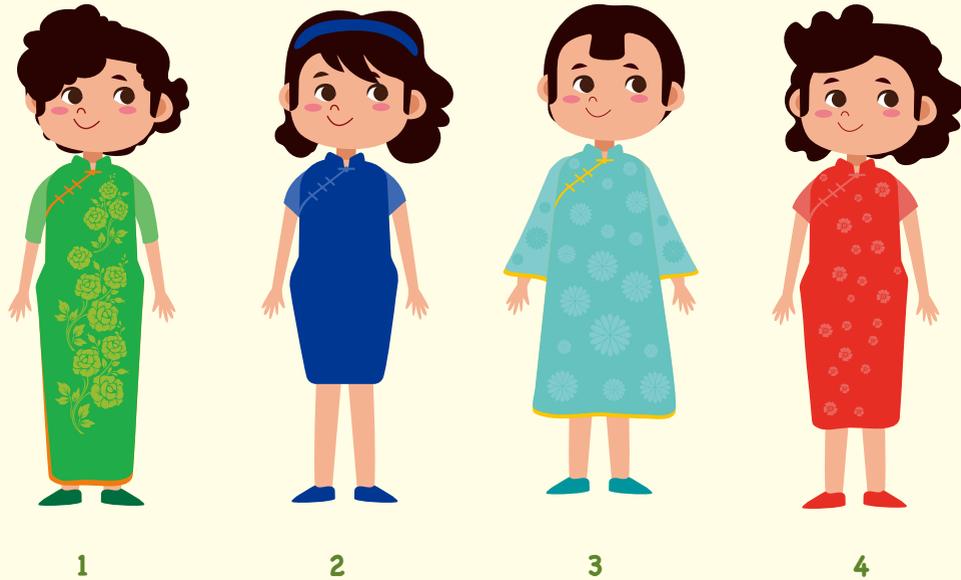


Collection of National Museum of Singapore



Collection of National Museum of Singapore

Which style came first? Try listing the correct sequence of how *cheongsams* changed over time.



From 1920s to 1960s:



Think!

Think about your most favourite style of clothes. Is it a T-shirt? Or a dress? Why do you like it? Have you thought about how this style came about?

Design your own cheongsam and decorate it with stickers in the box below!

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