

## TREASURE HUNT

Can you find photographs in the gallery  
that depict the following:

A baby with  
a birthday cake

A bride  
and groom

A tricycle

An Army  
officer

Circus  
performers

A famous  
Malaysian  
singer

An album  
by the  
Alleycats

Two girls  
flying an  
aeroplane

A turtle

A Christmas  
tree

A lady  
with a full  
length mirror

A spittoon

Ayer Itam,  
Penang  
postcard

An Ipoh  
Library  
membership  
card

A woman  
clutching a  
crescent  
moon

A woman  
with a  
gold tooth

## ILHAM KIDS! ACTIVITY SHEET

### Bayangnya itu Timbul Tenggelam

Photographic Cultures in Malaysia



Young girl looking out to sea, Penang  
c.1960s, Hand tinted silver gelatin print  
Private collection

This is a photograph of a  
young woman looking out  
to the sea. She looks like  
she is enjoying the scenery  
and the cool sea breeze.

Where do you think this woman is?  
What could she be thinking about?

Look at the expression on her face.  
Does she look worried or does she  
look relaxed?

This photograph was taken in the  
1960s. This was an important  
time in Malaysian history as the  
Federation of Malaya had merged  
with Singapore, North Borneo, and  
Sarawak on 16 September 1963  
to form the nation of Malaysia.  
Perhaps the young woman was  
thinking about the future of this  
young nation and the part she and  
her family would play in it.

Create a story about this young  
woman. Imagine her hopes and  
dreams.



Studio portrait, Penang  
c.1940s, Hand tinted silver gelatin print  
Private collection



**Look at this portrait of these two boys.**

Do you think they are friends?  
Do you think they are brothers?

Why do you think so?

Look at the way they are dressed.  
Look at how they both have their hands on their hips.

Who do you think is more serious?  
Who do you think is more playful?  
Why?

Imagine you were taking a selfie with your sibling or best friend.  
How would you both be dressed?  
How would you pose? Perhaps you would include other elements in the photograph — perhaps a hobby or an activity you both enjoy doing?



Studio portrait  
c.1960s, Silver gelatin print  
Private collection



**What do you think these two sisters enjoy doing in their spare time?**

## 1-MINUTE PORTRAIT

When people used to pose for photographs in photo studios in the old days, they had to keep still for a long time so the photographer could take their photographs. This was because cameras had a much slower shutter speed. Try timing yourself sitting completely still for one minute. Have someone photograph you at the end of that time.

Look at the photograph. Notice your facial expression and body language. How did it feel to be still for that long?



Studio portrait using trick photography, Penang  
1974, Silver gelatin print  
Private collection



**Look at this photograph of two friends. It looks like their heads are joined together!**

But wait, is this real?

Like artists, photographers like to sometimes play tricks. Nowadays people use photoshop to do this, but in the 1970s, photographers had to use different techniques such as photo collage or double exposure to create comic images.

Why do you think the two friends wanted to be photographed this way?

Have you heard the expressions "we are of one mind" or "two heads are better than one"? Find out what these expressions mean.