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.

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.

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.

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.

Queen Cleopatra
Cleopatra was a rich and powerful Egyptian queen. This painting tells a story: look at the lid 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

Do you know? What do fashionable people wear today?

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

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

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

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

Did you know? In an apprentice with a master artist.
The opera and live concerts were important types of entertainment.

Who is who?

Write or draw what they are holding:
The artist [de Largillierre]...
The singer [Farinelli]...
The composer (writer) Pietro Metastasio...
The student and singer Teresa Castellini...
The servant/apprentice painter...

Try drawing some different textures:
- Fluffy feathers
- Sparkling jewels
- Curly hair
- Satin robes
- Shining armour

Official website of the National Gallery of Victoria
www.ngv.vic.gov.au

Family Trail Discover Hair-Curling Facts About People and Fashion of the 18th Century

TOTALLY WIGGED OUT

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...
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.

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.
- Some ladies’ waists were pulled 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 the skin worse.

Susanna Gale

Susanna Gale’s parents commissioned this portrait of her before she was to be married. Susanna was 14 years old when the 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.

Did you know?

- This portrait was painted, but she looks wise and important.
- Susanna Gale’s parents commissioned this portrait of her before she was to be married.
- Susanna was 14 years old when the portrait was painted.
- She is holding a rose.
- She is dressed in a beautiful gown.
- She is standing up high, looking down.

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 buttons
  - 5 gold buttons in a row
  - a sword
  - a hat with a feather
  - a wig with black bows
  - a portrait in a locket

Extreme fashion

- Well-dressed people usually needed a servant to help dress them and it could take hours.
- Hairstyles became so high and huge that some people had trouble getting through doorways.
- Men wore the wigs that women wore.

Did you know?

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

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

Did you know?

- Buildings Sir Samson would have visited.
- This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

NGV International

180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Open 10am–5pm

Wednesday–Monday

Closed Tuesdays

Open all Victorian public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day

NGV Education and Public Programs.

This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

Did you know?

- Buildings Sir Samson would have visited.
- This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

NGV International

180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Open 10am–5pm

Wednesday–Monday

Closed Tuesdays

Open all Victorian public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day

NGV Education and Public Programs.

This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

Did you know?

- Buildings Sir Samson would have visited.
- This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

NGV International

180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Open 10am–5pm

Wednesday–Monday

Closed Tuesdays

Open all Victorian public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day

NGV Education and Public Programs.

This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

Did you know?

- Buildings Sir Samson would have visited.
- This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

NGV International

180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Open 10am–5pm

Wednesday–Monday

Closed Tuesdays

Open all Victorian public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day

NGV Education and Public Programs.

This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

Did you know?

- Buildings Sir Samson would have visited.
- This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

NGV International

180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Open 10am–5pm

Wednesday–Monday

Closed Tuesdays

Open all Victorian public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day

NGV Education and Public Programs.

This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

Did you know?

- Buildings Sir Samson would have visited.
- This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

NGV International

180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Open 10am–5pm

Wednesday–Monday

Closed Tuesdays

Open all Victorian public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day

NGV Education and Public Programs.

This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

Did you know?

- Buildings Sir Samson would have visited.
- This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

NGV International

180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Open 10am–5pm

Wednesday–Monday

Closed Tuesdays

Open all Victorian public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day

NGV Education and Public Programs.

This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

Did you know?

- Buildings Sir Samson would have visited.
- This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

NGV International

180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Open 10am–5pm

Wednesday–Monday

Closed Tuesdays

Open all Victorian public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day

NGV Education and Public Programs.

This NGV Family Trail has been prepared by NGV Education and Public Programs.

For more details visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au or call 03 8620 2222

Did you know?