

THE QUEEN SPEAKS

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THE BICENTENNIAL EXPERIENCE

On the 9th of July, the secondary 3 cohort went on a learning journey to Fort Canning Centre to learn about the history of Singapore in the last 200 years through the Bicentennial Experience. Here is what happened:

When we arrived at Fort Canning, we were brought to a room where we could "travel back in time". In the middle of the room, we could see a waterfall instillation where water droplets fell from the ceiling, creating the effect of rainfall. A few moments later, bright, coruscating lights were seen flashing all over the room vividly, and all of a sudden, the raindrops started to fall... upwards! We were now in the 14th century.



Act 1: Beginnings. We were brought to a small theater where actors acted out a story of how Singapore was first discovered by Sang Nila Utama, and how our country gradually evolved into a naval base and gateway to the Johor sultanate in the 17th century.

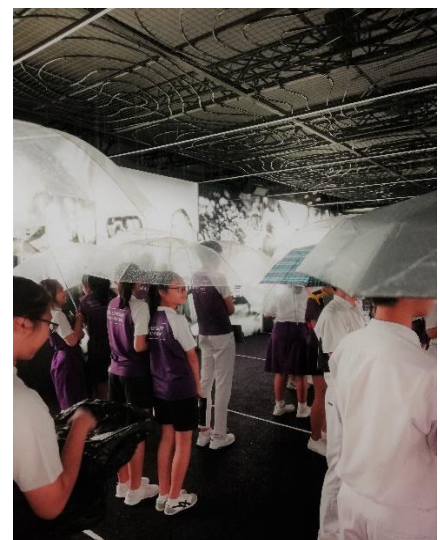
Act 2: Arrival. We learnt that ever since the British arrived in 1819, Singapore evolved once again by linking its trade with many countries including Europe, which created many economic opportunities for migrants, making Singapore a thriving nation. This was all showcased in a spectacular 360 degree screen surrounding us, with our seats revolving with the film. It was definitely a good new experience that makes learning history fun.

Act 3 Connectivity. We learned how Singapore witnessed the emergence of new technological inventions, expansion of infrastructure and industries, as well as the proliferation of new ideas of identity and belonging.

Act 4: Occupation. We were then brought to a dark room, to experience Singapore's darkest days when the Japanese Occupation occurred from 1942 to 1945.

We listened to a survivor's story of how he saved his own life during the Sook Ching Massacre and how he almost died.

Act 5: Destiny. We finally entered a room holding umbrellas, and raindrops were falling from the ceiling. The 4 walls in the room were massive movie screens, showing us all the achievements we have achieved over the years, such as Joseph Schooling winning our first ever Olympic gold medal, Fandi Ahmad scoring his famous goals, and our all-female team who conquered Mount Everest!



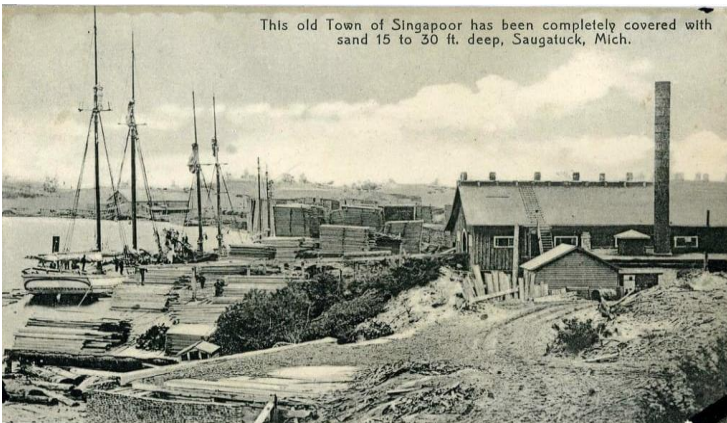
The rain then died down, ceased, and the screens projected our current nation as a thriving city, reminding us of Singapore's history and the sacrifices our ancestors made to shape Singapore to the way it is today.

Uncommon facts about Singapore

- 1) Singaporeans are the fastest walkers in the world. We have the average walking speed of about 6.15km per hour.



- 2) Our city has a twin sister also called Singapore, in Michigan, USA. Unfortunately, it is now a ghost town buried deep under the shifting sands of Lake Michigan.



Singapore Michigan USA



A three-dollar note used at Singapore Michigan, USA

- 3) The millionaire concentration of Singapore is very high. 17% of the population, or one in every six people, has assets worth \$1 million or more, which is the highest in the world.



- 4) Buildings in Singapore cannot be more than 280 metres tall. However, the Tanjong Pagar Centre, which opened in 2016, is Singapore's tallest building at 290 metres, claiming the record after permission was granted for it to go above the usual height restriction.





5) There's a 'Hug Me' Coca-Cola machine in Singapore at the National University Singapore. When you hug the machine, you can grab a free drink!

6) The largest Japanese graveyard situated in South East Asia is here in Singapore, Hougang. There are 910 tombstones.



Japanese Graveyard in Singapore

7) The Singapore pledge in olden times was different from today's pledge!
This is the old pledge:

*"We, as citizens of Singapore,
pledge ourselves to forget differences
of race, language or religion
and become one united people;
to build a democratic society
where justice and equality will prevail
and where we will seek happiness and
progress by helping one another."*



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