



Snapshots

Time required
(mins)



Key Stage 2

Learning outcomes

- ✓ I can use descriptive language to express feelings and opinions
- ✓ I can understand and talk about how pictures tell a story
- ✓ I can listen to and show respect for the views of others

Resources needed

- Print-outs of photographs from The Brown Sisters by Nicholas Nixon, are available at <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2014/nov/19/nicholas-nixon-40-years-brown-sisters-portraits-moma>
- Folders or paperclips to batch the images
- Post-it notes
- Pushpins, Blu-tack or Sellotape
- A clear space on a wall in the classroom

How Do We Belong?

A simple introduction to how a portrait, whether of a class or a family, can tell us about the relationships between people.

Preparation time

20 minutes

- Print out four images from the link on the left, one from each decade
- Make six copies of each image, or enough so that each group of five pupils can have a set of images
- Put the images in a folder for each group

What happens

1. Organise the class into groups of five.
2. Distribute one folder of photos to each group.
3. Ask each group to examine the four images and discuss their responses. Some useful prompting questions:
 - *How might the individuals in the photos be related? What clues do we have to help us understand the group's relationship?*
 - *Why might the photographer have taken these portraits?*
 - *What do you think the photographer might want us to know about the group?*
4. Ask each group to pin or stick the photographs on the wall in chronological order.
5. Ask each group to write words or phrases on the Post-it notes that describe how they feel about the photographs and place these alongside the portraits.
6. In turn, ask each group to share their thinking with the whole class.

Reflection questions

- *Does the order in which you arranged the portraits matter?*
- *How did observing and questioning the portraits change the way you responded to them? Think about how you feel about them now compared to when you first saw them.*
- *How might the portraits help us understand how we connect with others in our class, or our family?*

This activity works well with

- A Day in Our Life (Selfies)
- String Connections (Selfies)