

Appreciating NSmen Art Jam 2025  
Lesson Plan for K1&K2 (5-6 years old)

Theme: Appreciating NSmen Art Jam 2025	Duration: 90 minutes
Level: K1&K2 (5-6 years old)	Setting: Classroom

**Learning Objectives:**

1. (Pre-lesson) Children will be encouraged to ask their fathers or other family members about their National Service experience and role.
2. Children will be able to understand the purpose and importance of National Service.
3. Children will learn about NSmen's contributions and duties through simple everyday examples.
4. Children will be able to understand that without the efforts and sacrifices of generations of NSmen, Singapore wouldn't be a sovereign nation today. National Service has helped cultivate an environment that paved the way for progress and growth over the past six decades.
5. Children will be able to complete the Appreciation NSmen Art Jam activity.

**Resources:**

1. Appendix A: Letter/e-memo to parents
2. Appendix B: The 6 Services of National Service
3. Appendix C: Images of our way of life
4. Appendix D: Images of international brands in Singapore
5. Appendix E: Images depicting national identity and social bonds
6. Appendix F: Images of SAF and SCDF providing humanitarian aid to Myanmar earthquake victims
7. Appendix G: The 4 areas that National Service contributed to Singapore's growth
8. Appendix H: Appreciating NSmen Art Jam template and instructions
9. Crayons/colour pencils. Other decorative materials such as stickers.
10. Scissors
11. Glue

**Pre-lesson Preparation:**

- Teacher will prepare letter/e-memo (Appendix A) for parents. The letter/e-memo will inform parents about the upcoming lesson on Appreciating NSmen Art Jam, and fathers/male family members are encouraged to share their National Service involvement and experiences with the children prior to the lesson.

**Lesson:**

Activities	Resources
<p><b>[10 mins] Introduction/Tuning In:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher will tell children that 1 July is SAF Day, and it is a day that we show appreciation to the individuals who have served National Service to defend our country and keep our community safe.</li> <li>Teacher will explain what National Service is and the 6 Services of National Service.</li> </ul> <p><u>What is National Service?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Service is a compulsory duty that every male citizen and Permanent Resident of Singapore must do when they reach 18 years old. National Service can be served in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) or Singapore Police Force (SPF).</li> <li>They will serve Full-time National Service for 2 years. After their 2 years of service, they go on to serve as Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen). They continue to keep themselves ready through regular training.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note to teacher: Teacher can, at this point, ask children if they have seen their fathers or family members wear the SAF, or Police or Civil Defence uniform instead of their work clothes and not be home for a few weeks. Teacher can then explain this is because the fathers/family members go for their in-camp training to ensure they still have the skills required to keep Singapore safe and secure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher will then tell children that there are 6 Services of National Service, and they are: Army, Air Force, Navy, Digital and Intelligence Service, Police, and Civil Defence. Teacher can ask children if they know what each Service does. (Spend a few minutes on discussion)</li> <li>Teacher will share the role of each Service:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Army</u> – Our Army defends our land should there be a war.</li> <li><u>Air Force</u> – Our Air Force protects our airspace and is the first to respond to any threats in our skies.</li> <li><u>Navy</u> – Our Navy guards our seas and also responds to dangers over piracy.</li> <li><u>Digital and Intelligence Service</u> – Our DIS builds capabilities to protect and keep Singapore safe from digital and online threats.</li> <li><u>Police</u> – SPF’s role is to prevent, deter and detect crime. Their work makes Singapore a safe place to live.</li> <li><u>Civil Defence</u> – SCDF ensures the safety of the people through firefighting, rescue and emergency medical services.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>Appendix B Image 1 to 6</p>

<p><b>[45 mins] Main Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher will explain that, in addition to the role of each Service, National Service also plays an important part in shaping Singapore into the country we are today.</li> <li>Teacher will illustrate the importance of National Service and how it has supported Singapore's growth over the past six decades in these 4 areas:</li> </ul> <p><b>1) <u>Our Independence and Freedom</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher will show images of Singapore's way of life and have a small discussion with children on life in Singapore. Discussion points can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The people in these photos look happy. What are the things that make you happy?</li> <li>Do you think people in Singapore get to do the things they like, such as playing, exercising and working?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Teacher will share that this year is Singapore's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday – 60 years of being an independent nation.</li> <li>Teacher will explain that independence means having our own place to call home where we are free to live happily, make our own choices and build our future. Teacher can give simple examples using 'home' as an analogy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At home, we can freely hug mummy and daddy to show them our love</li> <li>We can choose what toys we want to play with, which books we want to read and what games to play.</li> <li>We can enjoy eating a meal together with our parents (and siblings).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Teacher will explain that sometimes our parents lock the doors at home to prevent bullies from entering and hurting us. Just like that, Singapore is a big home to many families and we also need to protect it from dangers so that we can continue to enjoy our way of life.</li> <li>Our fathers and family members who serve NS help keep Singapore safe because they love and care for us.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Note: This will lead to the next section on how NSmen protect Singapore.)</i></p>	<p>Appendix C Image 1</p> <p>Appendix C Image 2 to 4</p> <p>Appendix C Image 5</p>
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<p><b>2) <u>Peace and Security for Singapore to Grow</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher may spend a few minutes asking children how do NSmen protect Singapore. Teacher may discuss by each Service, such as “How do you think the Army/Navy/Air Force (etc) protect Singapore?”</li> <li>Teacher to iterate the ways NSmen protect Singapore, both inside the country and outside its borders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) guards our land, air, sea and cyberspace.</li> <li>The Singapore Police Force (SPF) and Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) keep our streets safe, prevent crime and respond to emergencies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>When our homes are safe, neat and clean, our friends and neighbours will like to visit us and spend time in our homes. Your friends will also like to come and play with you. Just like our homes, when Singapore is a safe and peaceful country, people from other countries will want to come to Singapore to live, work and be our friends too.</li> <li>Next, teacher will show images of international brands that have set up businesses in Singapore and ask children if they recognise them. (Spend a few minutes on discussion). Teacher may also explain what each brand is known for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal Studios Singapore: Theme Park (Play)</li> <li>Toys R Us: Retail store for toys (Shopping)</li> <li>Uniqlo: Retail store for clothes (Shopping)</li> </ul> </li> <li>The teacher will explain that when NSmen keep Singapore safe and peaceful, businesses and people from other countries, like the ones we saw, would like to come here to live and work together with us.</li> </ul>	<p>Appendix D Image 1 to 3</p>
<p><b>3) <u>Unity as Singaporeans</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher will next show an image of children of different races and ask if they can identify a Chinese, Malay, Indian, Eurasian. Teacher to further ask children to name friends/schoolmates who are of different races.</li> <li>Teacher will highlight that in school, children from different races and families come together to study, play and have fun.</li> <li>Likewise for their fathers and family members, when they serve National Service, they train and live with their friends from different races and families. Because of this, they become close friends and are proud to protect our country.</li> </ul>	<p>Appendix E Image 1</p> <p>Appendix E Image 2 &amp; 3</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singapore is home to people of many different races, languages and religions, and we live together as one united people. When we care for our friends and show kindness to others, we help make Singapore a strong and happy place for everyone. A good example is how everyone comes together on 9 Aug, National Day, to celebrate Singapore’s birthday with joy and pride.</li> </ul> <p><b>4) <u>Singapore as a Helpful Neighbour</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher will share that when Singapore is strong, we are able to help others in need. Teacher to tell children about the earthquake in Myanmar on 28 Mar.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A big earthquake shook the ground, and many houses and buildings fell</li> <li>• Many families lost their homes and did not have clean water or electricity at that time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Singapore, as a good, kind and helpful neighbour, helped them:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Singapore Armed Forces sent essential supplies like water filters, canned food, meal packs and tents for families to stay safe.</li> <li>• The SCDF sent brave teams to help search and find people who were missing. They also treated and gave care to those injured/hurt.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Teacher will explain that when Singapore helps others, we make strong friendships, just like how we help each other in school. And we are able to continue to enjoy peaceful interactions with them.</li> </ul>	<p>Appendix E Image 4 to 6</p> <p>Appendix F Image 1 &amp; 2</p>
<p><b>[5 mins] Closure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher will conclude lesson by recapping the 4 areas in which National Service has helped in building Singapore. Teacher can ask children one point/example they can remember for each area.</li> <li>• Teacher will iterate that it is important that we appreciate the sacrifices made by NSmen. Without their sacrifices, Singapore would not be able to celebrate its 60th birthday and we would not be able to enjoy the life that we have now.</li> <li>• Besides their fathers, children should also appreciate other men, young and old, who have served National Service in the past, such as their grandfathers, uncles, neighbours, bus drivers, and hawker stall uncles.</li> <li>• Teacher will tell children they are going to do an art activity to show their appreciation for these NSmen.</li> </ul>	<p>Appendix G</p>

<p><b>[30 mins] Appreciating NSmen Art Jam:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help children understand why they need to show appreciation for their NSman father/male family members, the Teacher will explain that National Service training is tough, but they train hard out of love—to protect us, our homes, and our families.</li> <li>• Children will proceed to do the art jam activity with guidance from teacher.</li> </ul>	<p>Appendix H</p>
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