

Let's imagine: portrait

Each week the Museum is going to publish a 'Let's Imagine' activity sheet. This activity sheet will include a picture of an object in the Museum. It will tell you about the object and then it will be up to you to imagine a story, poem and/or picture inspired by this object. The sheet will include at least three questions or statements to help get you started and inspired.

This week's object is a portrait that can be found in the permanent exhibition. Read the information below the picture to find out more about the person in this portrait.

Imagine you're an art historian, describe the portrait. Include what you think the painter is saying about the person they are painting.

Draw or paint a portrait of yourself or a family member.

Write a story or poem about being transported back in time to Tudor times. Imagine you meet and interview John Winchcombe. What do you ask him and what are his answers?



This is a portrait (painting) of John Winchcombe. It was a sign of your wealth and importance to have a portrait painted in Tudor times. John Winchcombe was both wealthy and important and had manors in both Thatcham and Bucklebury. He made his money through the cloth trade. He produced a type of woollen cloth called kersey, which was so good and sought after that it was exported far and wide (and known as Winchcombe kerseys). He is known today as 'Jack of Newbury', which originates from a work of fiction about John Winchcombe's story. This is now thought to be a collection of tall tales that have little basis in truth or his real life story.