

Create your own portrait

This is a painting of Mary, Queen of Scots. Portraits like this can tell us much more than what a person looked like.

Clothing

Look at Mary's clothes. She is wearing a white veil. White was the traditional colour of mourning in France.

This tells us that Mary was in mourning.

She is also wearing a large, linen ruff around her neck. This was a status symbol – the bigger the ruff, the more important you appeared!

This tells us that Mary was very important.



Objects

Mary is holding a cross in her right hand and a prayer book in her left hand.

These religious objects tell us that Mary was a Catholic.

Background

In the background of the portrait there is an image of Mary being executed.

This tells us how Mary died.

At the top left of the portrait there is a royal coat of arms.

This tells us that Mary was a queen.

What you need

- A pencil
- Colouring pencils or paints and paintbrushes

Instructions

1. Choose a friend or family member to draw. Ask them to pose for you or find a photo of them.
2. Decide if the portrait will be full-length, half-length or just their head and shoulders.
3. Draw the portrait.
 - Think about the clothes you want to show the person wearing, and what this will tell the viewer.
 - Also consider the objects they might hold in the portrait and what this will say about them.
4. Draw the background of your portrait.
5. You might want to add some words to the background.
6. Colour in the portrait using colouring pencils or paints and paintbrushes.

Fun fact

A self-portrait is a picture you draw of yourself.

