



Take One is inspired by the National Gallery's Take One Picture programme. It encourages teachers to use collections as a springboard to develop skills and understanding across the curriculum. Work in many subject areas can be inspired by using an object as a starting point.

These notes are designed to help you use one object from the Jewish Museum's collection to highlight UK Jewish History; celebrate its diversity and richness and enable children to relate to their Jewish past through making connections to their everyday Jewish lives. The object is a focus for cross-curricular teaching and learning and subjects covered include History, Jewish Studies, Citizenship and Art.

A visit to the Jewish Museum to see your chosen object offers your class a stimulating learning outside the classroom opportunity.



Educational Approach

The educational approach has three elements:

- ways in
- questioning
- lines of enquiry.

Identify a few ways in to introduce the object to pupils that will raise their curiosity and develop their imagination; identify key questions to initiate discussion and identify lines of enquiry- a range of themes, issues or avenues for exploration which are generated by the object.

Ways in: Strategies to support looking

Show a high resolution image of the object on a whiteboard. The image can be found on the JCP Fronter site

- Describe the object to someone who cannot see
- Draw the object without taking the pencil off the paper/looking at the paper

Questioning: Open questions to initiate dialogue develop imagination and facilitate higher order thinking

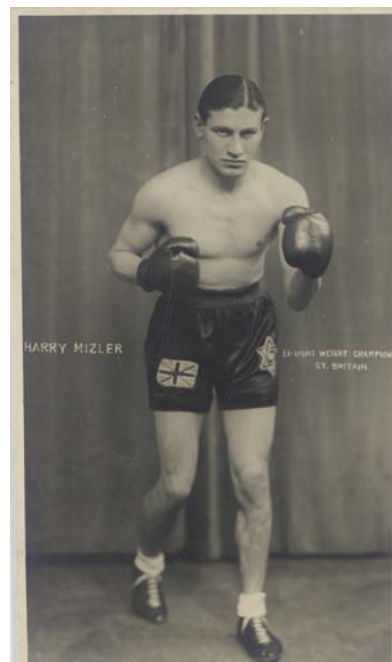
The following questions may be useful as a starting point for developing speaking and listening skills with your pupils.



EVIDENCE: ABOUT THE OBJECT

Harry Mizler (1913-1990)

These shorts belonged to Harry Mizler, a Jewish boxer who lived in London's East End. Harry, known as 'Hymie' to his family, was taught to box at a young age by his two brothers, Judah and Morris. He began fighting professionally at 14, and went on to have a very successful boxing career, representing Britain in the 1932 Olympic Games. These were the shorts that he was wearing when he won the British lightweight championship in January 1934, at the age of 21. The symbols of the Star of David and the Union Jack represent his identity as a Jewish person and a British citizen.



Harry Mizler (1913-1990)

Jewish immigration to London's East End

Between 1881 and 1914 large numbers of Jewish immigrants arrived in Britain, fleeing religious persecution in Eastern Europe. Many settled in London's East End, where cheap housing was available. Soon, a strong Jewish community was established, with many synagogues and kosher shops.

However, life was not easy for immigrants. Housing was often cramped and dirty, and many were forced to work long hours in a variety of trades (e.g. as tailors and bakers) for little pay. Harry would often have to wake up very early after a tiring fight in order to help at his parents' fish market stall.

Jewish Boxers

Boxing offered an alternative way of life to East London's poor immigrants.



Daniel Mendoza (1765-1836)

As boxing was not considered an appropriate sport for the upper classes, fighters often came from ethnic minority backgrounds.

The boxing ring was a space where everyone was equal, regardless of race. As a form of self-defence, boxing allowed people from ethnic minority backgrounds to challenge racist attitudes. Daniel Mendoza (1765-1836) – the first famous Jewish boxer – set up a special boxing school in 1787. With so many Jewish boys learning fighting skills, one man commented that 'it was no longer safe to insult a Jew'.

Boxing also offered immigrants the chance to become national heroes, at a time when fighters were popular sporting celebrities.

Moreover, boxing was well paid – even an ordinary fighter could triple what his father made by working in the slums. Harry's older brother Morris also became a professional boxer to help fund his parents' business.

By the 1920s, Jews were the largest active ethnic group in professional boxing, both in the UK and America. Between 1903 and 1938 there were 25 Jewish world champions!

You can find out more about Jewish Olympic champions in the Jewish Museum displays. Ben Helfgott, a British Holocaust survivor, was a former champion weightlifter. Discover more about his story in the Welcome Gallery.

Lines of Enquiry: Ideas for Creative Planning across the Curriculum

You can use Harry Mizler's shorts as a starting point for developing students' critical and creative skills, while inspiring learning across the curriculum. You may want to consider possible themes or 'lines of enquiry' as a first step in your cross-curricular planning. Choosing a line of enquiry may help you build strong links between curriculum areas.

Here are a few possible 'lines of enquiry' inspired by the boxing shorts:

- British Jewish sports personalities
- Jewish/Israeli sporting icons in the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Immigration experiences
- Jewish trades in the East End then and now
- Symbols, pride and identity
- Sports advertising then and now
- Experience of being part of a Jewish team or squad

Line of enquiry: **Symbols, pride and identity**

Here are a few ideas of how you can develop a range of learning opportunities to engage pupils with a single line of enquiry.

