

Appreciating NSmen Art Jam Lesson Plan for K1 and K2

Theme: SAF Day 2022: Appreciating NSmen Art Jam	Duration: 60 minutes
Level: K1 & K2 (5-6yo)	Setting: Classroom

Objectives

1. (Pre-lesson) Children will be able to learn more about National Service (NS) from their fathers or family member(s) who have served NS
2. Children will be able to understand the purpose and importance of NS.
3. Children will be able to complete the Appreciation craft gift.

Materials

1. Appendix A: Letter for parents
2. Video – “Every Singaporean Son – The Animated Series Episode 1: Enlistment”
3. Video – “Why We Serve - Our NS Stories: Episode 3 [Soldier, Sailor, Airman - A Common Purpose]
4. Appendix B: Appreciation Craft templates
5. Crayons/Colour Pencils
6. Scissors
7. Glue

Pre-lesson Preparation

1. Teacher to prepare letter (Appendix A) for children to bring home to show parents. The letter will inform parents on the upcoming lesson on National Service, and the child is encouraged to find out more from their fathers and/or family member(s) about their service – Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) and Singapore Police Force (SPF) – NS involvement and experiences prior to the lesson.

Introduction (5 mins)

1. Teacher will begin the lesson by showing children a clip on National Service
Link to video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3ojNasG8Yk&list=PLbOSqJKglMt1NoVjXebhq7B9t2yY3atZ&index=1>
Video clip name: “Every Singaporean Son – The Animated Series Episode 1: Enlistment”

Main Activity 1 (30 mins): Learning about National Service

1. Teacher will tell children the video shows what every male (boy) Singaporean will have to go through when they reach 18 years old, and it is called National Service.
2. Teacher will further explain what National Service is and the importance of National Service.

What is National Service?

National Service is a compulsory duty that every male citizen and Permanent Residents 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).

They will serve National Service for 2 years. During these 2 years, they will be known as full-time National Servicemen (NSF). After their 2 years of service, they go on to serve as Operationally-Ready National Servicemen (NSmen). They continue to keep themselves combat-ready through regular training.

Note to teacher:

The 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.

Why do we have National Service?

When Singapore became independent in 1965, we had to build up our defence force so that we could defend and protect our country. As Singapore had a small population, we could not have a regular armed force of sufficient size to prevent external threats. Hence, the Singapore government decided to introduce compulsory enrolment of male youths as the best way to build up Singapore's defence force.

Why is it important to have National Service?

National Servicemen help to build a strong SAF or Home Team that can:

- prevent terrorists from attacking our airport or Jurong Island, or harm innocent people in shopping malls and crowded places
- prevent others from coming into Singapore and occupy our land
- prevent others from blocking our air and shipping routes that are important for our

economy

3. Teacher will then share with children that besides training to protect Singapore when the need arises, NSmen have also helped in overseas and local crises. For example, during Covid-19 pandemic, SAF and HomeTeam NSmen were deployed to help out in areas such as contact tracing, managing quarantine facilities, and operations at the migrant worker dormitories.
4. Teacher could refer to the below to answer possible questions from children or use the questions to initiate discussion:

Question: Can girls (females) serve National Service too?

Answer: Females can volunteer at SAF Volunteer Corps, where they can contribute in areas such as security, transport, medical, legal or counselling. They can also sign on as a regular or DXO (Defence Executive Officer i.e. non-uniformed defence professional).

Question: Can the NSmen choose where they want to do their National Service? i.e, Army, Navy, Air Force, Police or Civil Defence?

Answer: Since 2018, NSF have been able to indicate their interest in the various NS vocations in the Singapore Armed Forces, Singapore Civil Defence Force and Singapore Police Force. The **final** deployment is based on their suitability, skills, interests, and the operational requirements of the SAF, SCDF, and SPF.

5. Teacher will show children another video where National Servicemen share why their role in National Service is important.

Link to video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vk8FyqlJxvQ>

Video clip name: Why We Serve - Our NS Stories: Episode 3 [Soldier, Sailor, Airman - A Common Purpose]

6. Teacher will recap key points from the video that signify the important role of our NSmen:
 - a. Army – they train to be combat-ready, to defend our land should there be a war
 - b. Airforce – they protect our airspace, and are the first to respond to aerial threats
 - c. Navy – they guard our maritime security, spot and deter suspicious or piracy activities that pose a danger to us
 - d. Police – they prevent and detect crime to ensure that our neighbourhoods are safe for us to live and play in.
 - e. Civil Defence – they ensure the safety of the people through fire fighting, rescue

and emergency medical services.

7. Teacher will tell children that training in National Service is tough, but it is necessary and our NSmen go through the training because they know their training will enable them to defend our country, our homes and families.

Main Activity 2 (20 mins): Appreciating NSmen Art Jam



1. Teacher will tell children that they will do an art craft to show their appreciation to the NSmen who have sacrificed their time and trained to protect the country and our families.
2. Teacher will prepare the template according to the service of the father or family member the child is gifting the appreciation to. Children to proceed with craft activity (Appendix B), with facilitation from the teacher.

Note to teacher:

- a. There are 5 versions of the activity templates corresponding to the 5 Services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Police and Civil Defence
- b. Each template features 1 NSman + 1 Male + 1 Female figurine that can be mixed and matched to represent the NSman father/family member and the child, or the whole family by using more than one template.
- c. The children will be able to pick whichever template that is most relevant to their father's/family member's NS experience for the activity.
- d. The children will colour, cut, fold, and glue the arms onto the figurines to make a salute posture.



Mock-up of completed NSman figurine (Army)



Mock-up of completed figurine of child/other family members (Male)

- e. *The children will write their personalised appreciation message at the back of the NSman figurine to give to their fathers/family members.*



Mock-up of completed NSman figurine (Army), where the appreciation message will be written

Closure (5 mins)

1. Teacher will gather children and tell them that they can bring the craft home and give it to their father/family member(s).
2. (Encouraged to participate) Teacher to gather children and take a photo of them with their art craft and in a Salute pose, and share the photo on the school's social media, with hashtag #NS55salute and #safrasg.