



Foundling
Museum

SCHOOLS RESOURCES – ENGLISH

Introductory Gallery

English KS3 and KS4

Explore the Introductory Gallery to find out about the lives of the foundling children.

- Spend 10 minutes writing a stream of consciousness piece about the Foundling Hospital: try to imagine how the foundlings felt and what the Governors, matrons and patrons were like. Try to keep writing for the whole time without taking your pen off the page.
- Read your piece of writing out loud to a partner or the whole group.



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Study the tokens in the Introductory Gallery.

- Mothers leaving their babies in the Hospital's care would bring a personal object that connected them to their child. These were kept in the Hospital as a means of linking each child back to its mother, in case the child was ever reclaimed (this very rarely happened). These objects were known as tokens.
- The majority of these tokens were written material, such as a scrap of paper with a name, a letter, a note or a poem.
- Imagine you are leaving your child with the Foundling Hospital. Write a letter or a poem for your child explaining your decision and expressing your hopes for their future.