

The Lady Journalists



Portraits of Marie Imandt and Bessie Maxwell

Two Intrepid Ladies Travel the World

On the 16th February 1894, Marie Imandt and Bessie Maxwell, both journalists from Dundee set off on a World Tour. They worked for newspaper magnate, DC Thomson and the tour was a media scoop. It was the first time a newspaper had sent female correspondents specifically to report on the lives and work of women.

DC Thomson announced that the two ladies were:

"about to enter upon an enterprise that will stand unique and unparalleled among the greatest achievements in journalism."

The intrepid Misses Imandt and Maxwell travelled for more than a year, covered over 26 thousand miles and visited ten countries. Their lively illustrated reports, published in *The Courier* and *The Weekly News*, are a fascinating documentary of nineteenth century travel.

Travel the World with the Lady Journalists Mini project

Session 1.

Introduce class to project by exploring the topic 'Travel the World with the Lady Journalists'

- Who were they?
- What job were they given?
- What was the purpose of this job?
- What was it like for a woman to travel at a time when few ventured abroad?
- What did they see?
- How did they manage this epic journey?
- What did they send back?

Session 2.

Class are given responsibility of becoming journalists and reporting back about their journey to 'Dundee and the World' exhibition.

- Split class into groups of 3 or 4, and give each group the task of reporting back on an individual theme eg. Japanese Tea Ceremony or Buddhist Art.
- Photocopy sketch and note sheets for each pupil, take to display and fill in.
- Groups to visit 'Dundee and the World Gallery' and explore individual topics using sketch and note sheets and pencils to sketch artefacts or report back about these topics or cultures.

Session 3.

Groups to work together in classroom researching their chosen topic and gathering together all their sketches and text.

- Perhaps text could be typed up on computer using old fashioned fonts or simply cut out from note sheets.
- Maps of the areas explored could be used in their final piece.
- Sketches in oval frames could be cut out, ready to paste in.
- You can paint a wash over your sketches, maps and text by placing a tea bag in warm water then brushing over them.

Session 4.

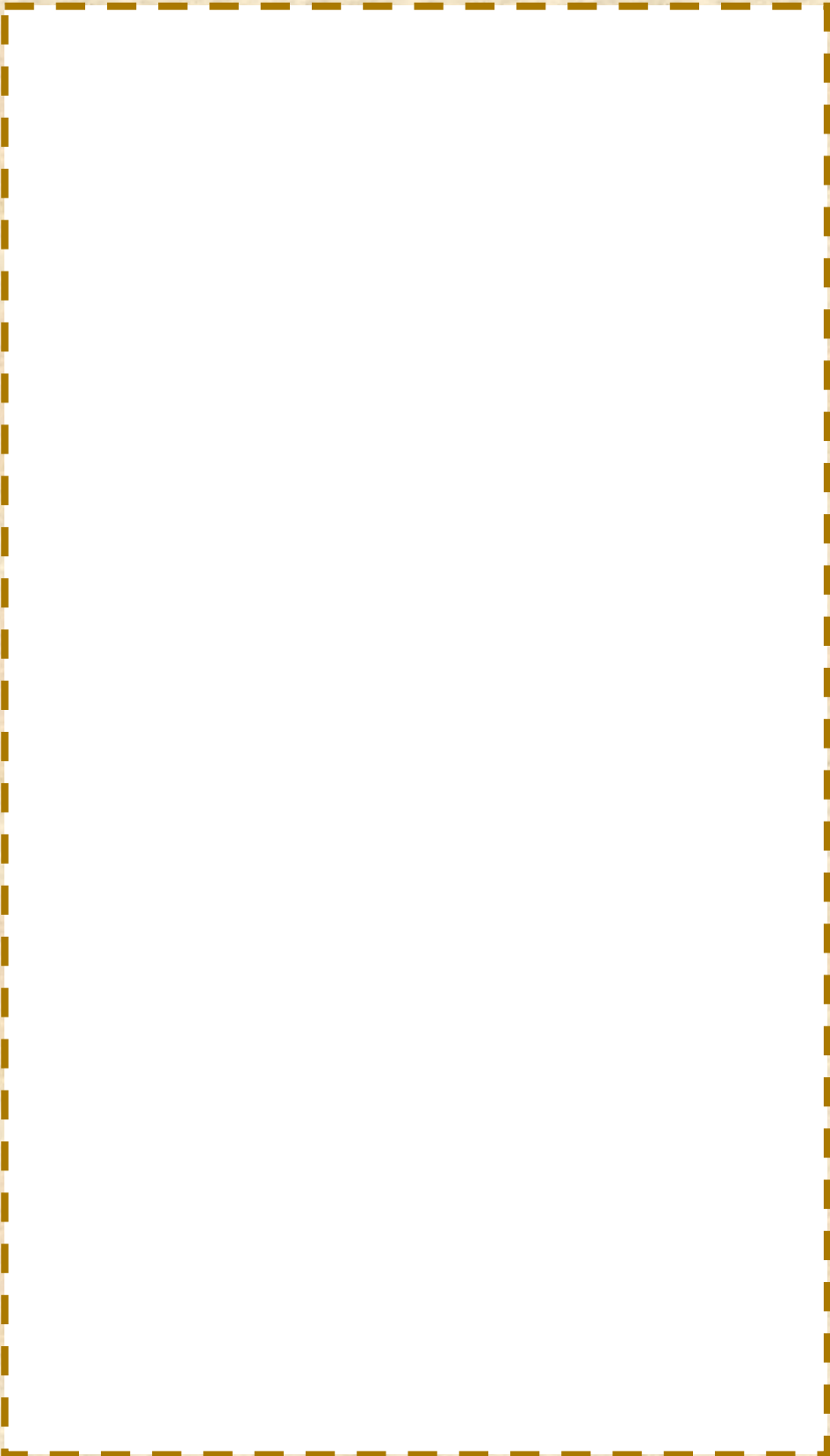
Give each group half a mount board or large piece of card, and ask them to display their work on them.

- Arrange work along boards in the style of the Lady Journalists and paste down.


Session 5.

- Groups to prepare notes to report back to class about their individual topics and show their finished display boards.
- Class could display collection on wall.

Note page for your 'Dundee and the World' Gallery Visit



**write about what
you see on your
exploration here**



Can you sketch something from exploration of your individual topic in each oval? It could be a rare artefact or perhaps a person from a photograph in the display.

