

# Say Cheese!

## What is a Portrait?

A **portrait** is usually an image of a person, a group of people, pets or animals. Images can be made in different ways using various mediums.

For example, before photography, portraits of people were either **painted or sculpted**.



Photography gained popularity in the late 1800's. With the ability to produce images **cheaper and faster** than painting or sculpture, photography became the medium of choice for people who wanted to get a portrait done.

Photographs could also capture images of **big groups** together and soon everyone was getting their family photograph taken. Have you seen some of these portraits in old photo albums?

**Portraits** don't just capture a person's looks, they also reflect their personality, status, and interests. Portraits can also capture a person's emotions like grief, happiness, and hope.

# ACTIVITY

Try using your mobile phone camera to take a **portrait photograph** of someone you know. Consider the theme you want to capture, for example, themes like **celebration, fear, happiness, surprise**.



It is important to keep certain things in mind when you compose a portrait.

1. Who is your subject? Is it a portrait of just **one** person or does it feature **many** people?
2. Consider **where** you will take the portrait. Does the background of the portrait suit the person in the portrait? Does the background **reflect the mood** of your subject?
3. What advice will you give your subject so you can capture the **mood or theme**?