

Interesting Facts about Punggol

Written by: P3 to P6 Editorial Board CCA members

Since Mee Toh School is located in Punggol and the majority of us live in Punggol, it is good to know more about this place. A short article like this cannot re-tell the long history of Punggol. Nonetheless, here are some interesting facts which will surprise you!



Kampong Houses in Punggol, 1958
<https://remembersingapore.org/2012/04/04/from-villages-to-flats-part-1/>

Illustrated by Yang Zhi Shan P5-1

The name Punggol, also spelt as Ponggol, has a Malay origin and means "hurling sticks at the branches of fruit trees to bring the fruits down to the ground". Punggol began as a fishing village. The settlers auctioned their catch at the wholesale fish market to fishmongers who sold the fishes to customers in wet markets. Today, Punggol is well-known for its seafood eateries. Punggol Settlement at Punggol Point was completed in 2014 and currently houses a number of seafood restaurants which are popular during weekends with diners from Punggol, Sengkang and beyond.

Wealthy Europeans who lived in colonial Singapore recognised Punggol as the ideal retreat location and chose to build their bungalow-style country houses. One such bungalow, the Matilda House, was built by an Irish lawyer, Alexander William Cashin, as a

present for his wife in 1902. With an extensive fruit garden, a view of the Punggol River and the Straits of Johor, horse stables and tennis courts, the Matilda House served as a weekend resort for his family. The building has been conserved and now serves as a clubhouse to the residents in the Treasure Trove Condominium.



Mr W.L.S. Basapa with his pet Bengal tiger, Apay, in 1920s.
<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/first-zoo-in-singapore-rated-wonderful-by-einstein>

Illustrated by Chan Xi En P5-2

Punggol was home to one of Singapore's first private zoos. Ponggol Zoo, also known as Basapa Zoo, was set up in 1928 by an Indian estate owner, William Lawrence Soma Basapa, also known as "Animal Man" due to his interest in animals. Originally located in Serangoon Road, this zoo was moved to a bigger plot of land in Punggol. With a collection of 200 animals and 2,000 birds, Ponggol Zoo was a major attraction. Did you know that Albert Einstein visited this zoo in 1922? Ponggol Zoo was closed and destroyed during the Second World War.

We hope these fun facts will entice you to conduct your own research to find out more about this wonderful place.

Learning Styles

Written by: Xiao Shun Qi P5-1 & Sow Jin Feng P6-1

According to Howard Gardner, learning styles are the ways we acquire an understanding of knowledge and complete a range of tasks. He states that students learn in seven different ways. By finding out our learning styles and using the style to acquire a knowledge or skill, we can learn and do better in school. Let's find out how true it is!

Table 1.1 shows the seven dominant learning styles identified by Howard Gardner.

Visual learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observe things to fully understand them• Learn best from visual objects, such as diagrams and charts, and writing things down
Auditory learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn best through discussions and talking• Benefit most from listening to their own voice like reading texts aloud
Kinesthetic learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn best through using their body, hands and sense of touch. For example, they use their hands to make things, fit things together or take them apart.• Benefit most from hands-on activities
Social learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn with other people• Good at understanding others' feelings and thoughts.
Solitary learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Like to work independently• Good at understanding their own feelings, strengths and weaknesses.
Verbal learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Like using good vocabulary to talk and write• Like to ask questions frequently
Logical learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work best using numbers, structures and reasoning• Seek out rules and procedures

Table 1.1. Marenus, M. (2020, June 09). Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences. Simple Psychology.

We surveyed 40 Primary 6 students, comprising boys and girls. Firstly, the participants were asked to use the information in Table 1.1 to determine their learning styles. From the survey as reflected in Figure 1.1, we gathered that the most common learning styles among the participants were visual learners, followed by solitary learners, and then, logical learners. There was no auditory learner. You can also discover your learning profile by ticking the appropriate boxes in Table 1.1.

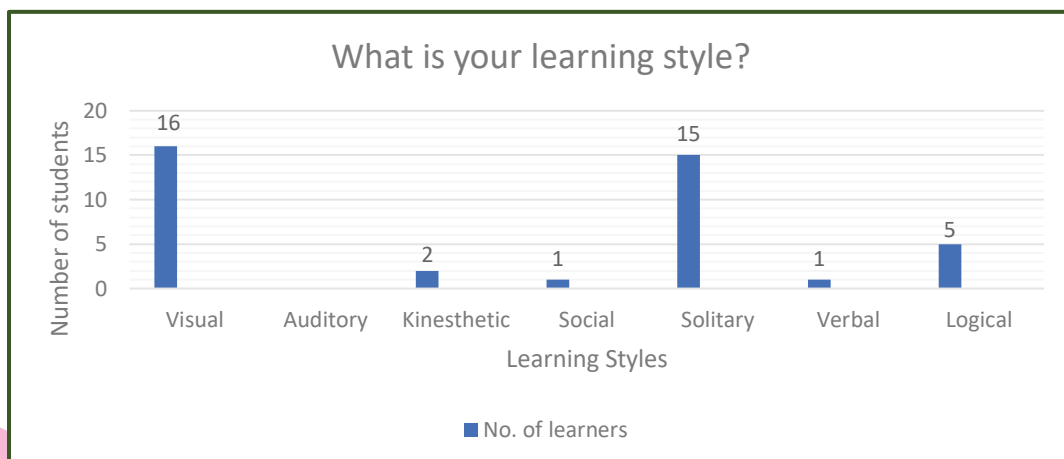


Figure 1.1

Next, we asked if they had been studying according to their learning styles.

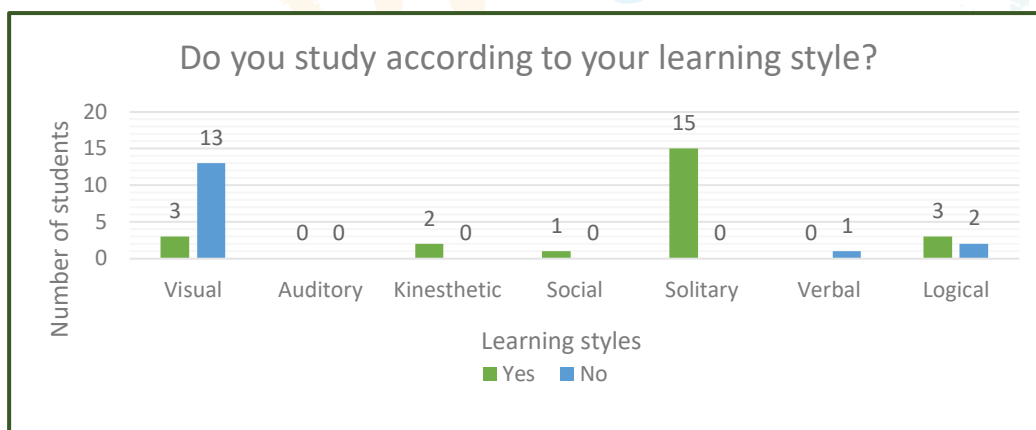


Figure 1.2

According to Figure 1.2, 60% of the respondents indicated that they studied according to their learning styles. The rest did not study according to their learning styles. So, is it true that by using our learning style to acquire a knowledge or skill, we can learn and do better in school? With that, we went on to investigate the relationship between their learning styles and academic performance. We gathered the number of respondents who had studied according to their learning styles and managed to score between 80 and 100 marks for at least three subjects out of the four in their recent tests. We presented the data in Table 1.2 below.

Learning Styles	No. of respondents who had studied according to their learning styles and managed to score between 80 and 100 marks for at least 3 subjects.	% of respondents who had studied according to their learning styles and managed to score between 80 and 100 marks for at least 3 subjects.
Visual	3	100%
Auditory	NA	NA
Kinesthetic	2	100%
Social	1	100%
Solitary	11	73%
Verbal	NA	NA
Logical	2	66%

It seems like visual, kinesthetic and social learners do well when they used their learning styles to study. However, not 100% of the solitary and logical learners who had studied according to their learning styles managed to score between 80 and 100 marks in at least 3 subjects! We learnt that our findings may not be conclusive as only 40 students participated in this survey. Other factors such as determining whether they have learnt well through only one test may also limit the reliability of our results. Nonetheless, it is an interesting exercise. Do you think you learn better when you use your preferred learning style? You can try this little experiment on yourself!

In conclusion, we have learnt that adopting our learning styles is one of the ways to improve our academic performance. Our performance could be affected by other factors such as our personality, motivation or the study strategies and resources that we adopt.

Fun Time!

Punggol

D B L V W E P H G J M A T I L D A R
 E T F S C T I S R N H P F M J A K M
 U T I C R R G Y E W T Z U B V X L F
 Y V S W Q A R X S T G N V N Y J G G
 K I H Q C D E O I S T T L S G X M P
 A L E F S E A Z D F D L R I E G X O
 L L R F M M R E E C Z Z E K E R O I
 J A M C A A I C N I X R O M N H C L
 T G E T U R N P T K F O Q O E Z E G
 Y E N Y Z K G W S V M H J N S N P G
 T X D G Z S E A F O O D K T L F T R
 R Z T T O A V I X H L K R M Z V D L

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

SETTLEMENT
 PIG-REARING
 FISHERMEN
 RESIDENTS

TRADEMARK
 PUNGGOL
 MATILDA
 SEAFOOD

VILLAGE
 ZOOS

References for Interesting Facts about Punggol:

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