

SIGHTS_{of} WONDER

HOME ACTIVITIES

REFLECTING ON TRAVEL:

CREATIVE WRITING



Francis Bedford (1815-1894), *Jerusalem, From Mount of Olives*, Jerusalem, Israel/ Palestine, March-April 1862
Albumen print, 227 x 291 mm. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2020

In this resource we invite you to respond creatively to a central theme in the *Sights of Wonder* exhibition - travel.

The Covid-19 global pandemic means that we currently find ourselves in situation which dramatically alters our relationship to this theme.

Francis Bedford's photographs document the Prince of Wales's 1862 tour of the Middle East. Following the tour the British public could see copies of Bedford's photographs. This gave them a glimpse of a part of the world that had only previously been portrayed to them through second-hand accounts and artworks such as paintings and engravings.

In the Victorian era most people would have had little to no opportunity for travel. Back in the here and now, our worlds have recently become very small, very quickly. Perhaps we are able now more able to see Bedford's photographs in a way that mirrors the everyday Victorian public's restricted access to travel.

Our small journeys, whether outside or even inside our homes, might be treasured as a chance for quiet contemplation, reflection and appreciation. With this in mind, we invite you to reflect on your new perspective on travel – how you travel now, how you may have travelled in the past and how you may travel in the future.

Now have a go at writing in response to these prompts:

1

Do you have a treasured memory of travel?

Try writing a description of the memory for someone that wasn't there.

You could try writing a poem about this memory, maybe a haiku. You could use your word cloud for inspiration.

2

Are you able to go out for walks?

Try writing about the sensory stimuli you notice on your walks. Are you noticing more than usual? Try to use detail in your description of colours, shapes and smells.

If you can't leave the house you might write about your garden or a room in your home.

3

Is there a place that you want to visit? This could be as simple as visiting the shops or as grand as seeing the pyramids.

Can you imagine what it would be like to arrive there? What would you see? How would you feel?

Can you write about this imaginary journey?



Share your responses with us at [#sightsofwonder](#)