



STORIES FROM THE SEA

SHIPWRECKS CLASSROOM ACTIVITY 3

SOUNDSCAPE DESCRIPTION



Key learning outcomes

Discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's imagination

Using a soundscape to explore and collect ideas for writing

Activity

As a class, look at the painting 'The Wreck of the East Indiaman *Dutton* in Plymouth Sound, 26 January 1796'. Discuss what's happening in the painting using the questions provided with the image of the painting and your own questions. Explain to the children that they are going to make a soundscape so they can hear what is happening in the painting. Together create a list of all the elements in the painting that could be heard (e.g. the wind, the sea, the sea birds, sailors, people on the shore). Listen to the 'ships in a storm' sound file in the link above for some inspiration. In groups, children can use their voices and / or a selection of musical instruments to create their soundscape. Children can perform and record their soundscapes using an MP3 recorder. After creating and listening to the soundscapes, work as a class to build a word bank to describe each sound element (e.g. creak, whistle, shriek). Children can use these words and

others to write a rich description of the scene or a sound-based poem.



Resources

<http://soundlikenoise.org/tag/ships-in-a-storm/>

'The Wreck of the East Indiaman *Dutton* in Plymouth Sound, 26 January 1796', by Thomas Luny in the **Shipwreck Objects** gallery

A selection of musical instruments (optional)

An MP3 recorder



More ideas

Less able children can be supported in writing their description or poem by first 'graffitiing' a print-out of the painting with words chosen from the word bank that the class have created. For example 'creak' could be added to the side of the ship and 'howl' to the windy sky. These annotated paintings could be added to a display of children's work.