

Session outline

There be Treasure – Pirates

Key Stage 2

In this lively, engaging session, children are provided with a unique opportunity to explore the topic of pirates by examining rare manuscripts from the National Maritime Museum's world-class collections. These include rare original prints, engravings, letters, journals and books.

The session begins with a female pirate actor character who tells tales of real pirates and their amazing adventures. The children are then set a challenge to find out more about real pirates from evidence recorded in original documents. Finally, children are provided with a Jolly Roger postcard to post back to the Museum to tell the female pirate everything they have discovered.

During the manuscripts section of the session, children develop their historical enquiry skills by focusing on the real historical evidence of what happened in the past and explore why and how museums conserve these rare documents for future generations.

Suggested pre-visit activities

Explore the National Maritime Museum and its collections online. A selection of high-quality digital images, teachers' notes and suggested activities on pirates and treasure are available on the resources pages at nmm.ac.uk/schools