



**STORIES  
FROM  
THE SEA**

## EXPLORATION ONLINE ACTIVITY 4



### WRITING ABOUT A MYSTERY

An expedition led by John Franklin has disappeared near the North Pole. There is no trace of it to be found and curiosity in Britain is running high. In this activity, children role-play as investigative journalists and piece together clues to produce a newspaper report about the mystery.

For background information about the expedition, see the following links.

For the clues, look at the following objects from the objects web page: search balloon; meat sample; medicine chest; picture of Franklin.

Children can come up with ideas about what might have happened to the expedition and discuss them.

#### Immersion

Show children a range of examples of investigative newspaper reports and explain the key features of newspaper journalism: strict word count, grabbing the reader's attention and describing the action immediately rather than setting the scene. Ask the children to choose the article they think works best and to explain why. Children could interview each other and incorporate the interviews into their article.

#### Plan and draft

Children plan and draft their article. They can experiment with writing it at different lengths and expressing it as a series of tweets. They can write the headline for the article.

#### Write up and publish

Children write their final newspaper article and headline. This could be published along with reports written by their peers as a class newspaper.

#### Extension/differentiation

Children write the newspaper article for different audiences; e.g., simple and sensational or sober and factual.

The class makes a drama about the mystery disappearance.



Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

