

Spanish Armada

School Session Overview October 2025

Key information

Length of session: 3 ½ hours with a ½ hour lunch break

Key Stage: KS4 (3 on request)

Location(s) of session: Lecture Theatre, Classroom, Gallery (My Greenwich, Tudor and Stuart

Seafarers), Queen's House

| Learning objectives | Curriculum links |
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| Learners will: Investigate what the Museum's collections can tell us about the events and aftermath of the Armada Be able to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of different sources including paintings, objects and original manuscripts Use objects to examine what it was like for seafarers in the English and Spanish fleets Consider the Armada's place in British history | KS4 History: OCR History B (SHP) Paper 1: Elizabethans, 1580-1603 Edexcel Key Topic 2: Challenges to Elizabeth at Home and Abroad, 1569-88 AQA Paper 2, Section B: Elizabethan England c.1568-1603 |

Key words

Armada, fleet, seafaring, propaganda

Overview of the session

The session comprises 3 activities with an introduction and conclusion. Each activity runs for 30 learners, a group of 60 will be split into 2 groups who will do the same activities in a different order. The activities are:

Looking at historic documents/gallery visit

Learners will work in groups of circa 15 for this activity. They will investigate original 16th Century documents, including a letter from Philip II, to work out what they reveal about the Armada. They will also look in detail at some Armada objects in the Tudor and Stuart Seafarers gallery.

Object handling

In groups, learners will handle replica objects and consider what they can tell us about the lives of Tudor seafarers. Objects include weapons, food and navigational tools.

Queen's House exploration

Learners will look in detail at some of the Tudor portraits and decode how symbols and stance are used to portray subjects in a certain way.

Every learner will be given an A5 booklet to record their opinions during the day which they can take back to school.

| Suggested pre visit knowledge/ activities | Suggested post visit activities |
|--|--|
| This session works best for learners if they have already learned something about the Spanish Armada. Particularly the causes of the Armada and an overview of the events. | Look more closely at the objects we have explored today. Links to help you on our website are below. Picture Yourself was designed as an English resource but offers many interesting ways to look at The Armada Portrait. |



Links to useful resources

<u>Picture Yourself: Heritage, Oracy and Public Speaking | Royal Museums Greenwich</u>
<u>Search Results | Royal Museums Greenwich</u> – search our collection for digital copies of Armada objects – this link takes you straight to Spanish Armada objects.

Research guide P3: Charts of the Spanish Armada by Robert Adams in the Museum | Royal Museums Greenwich A detailed account of the Armada and the Robert Adams charts used in the session.

Content guidance

This session and our Tudor and Stuart Gallery make reference to death and injury.