

Story ship

School Session Overview

October 2025

Key information	
<p>Length of session: 60 mins</p> <p>Key Stage: EYFS / KS1</p> <p>Location(s) of session: <i>Cutty Sark</i></p>	
Learning objectives	Curriculum links
<p>Learners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop communication, language and literacy skills • Use imagination, creative thinking, song and movement to help recreate a story • Discover and explore a local London landmark 	<p>KS1 History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time. • know where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods. • ask and answer questions. • understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past <p>KS1-6 English: Spoken Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates • Listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
Key words	
figureheads, cargo, ship, tea, travel, sea, China, Australia, sailor, captain	
Overview of the session	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Learners are introduced to what <i>Cutty Sark</i> is and when it sailed.</p> <p>Storytelling Activity</p> <p>With song, dance, and drama, learners take part in a retelling of Robert Burns' poem <i>Tam O' Shanter</i> and uncover how Nannie the Witch became <i>Cutty Sark's</i> figurehead.</p> <p>Figurehead Activity</p> <p>Learners examine the figurehead display, deciding which one is their favourite. They are encouraged to think about what figurehead they'd want on their own ship.</p> <p>Ship Exploration</p> <p>As a class, learners explore the ship using one of our self-guided Story Ship trails.</p>	

Suggested pre visit knowledge/ activities	Suggested post visit activities
<p>Know what a cargo ship is. Show London, China and Australia on a map and introduce the idea that people once sailed there to trade things like tea.</p> <p>Explain how <i>Cutty Sark</i> is now a landmark in London.</p>	<p>Learners can make their own figurehead with the craft kit supplied. We encourage schools to continue to build vocabulary through fun movement, themed actions and commands/ship-related verbs and roles. Play a game: Captain Says (like Simon Says) Captain says: hoist the sails! Captain says: sip your tea!</p>
Links to useful resources	
<p>KS1 Art and Design Design figurehead.pdf Stories from the Sea: Shipwrecks resource Royal Museums Greenwich Cutty Sark KS1 Literacy activity: A day in the life of a sailor Royal Museums Greenwich Stories from the Sea: Exploration resource Royal Museums Greenwich Drama-at-school-speech-bubbles.pdf</p>	