

Global trade

School Session Overview

October 2025

Key information	
<p>Length of session: 90 mins</p> <p>Key Stage: KS2</p> <p>Location(s) of session: <i>Cutty Sark</i></p>	
Learning objectives	Curriculum links
<p>Learners will (in the context of <i>Cutty Sark</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a clear definition of trade • Understand how scale of trade has increased and improved through time and how trade connects people from all over the world • Use maps and globes to gain understanding that the natural resources, land mass, and climate of a country determine what types of food they export and import • Take weather measurements using a range of scientific equipment 	<p>KS2 History and Geography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding history, establishing clear narratives. • Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources. • Understand human geography • Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
Key words	
Global trade, trade routes, cargo, Beaufort scale, anemometer, compass, Import, export	
Overview of the session	
<p>Enquiry question: How has Global trade changed since 1869 and why was <i>Cutty Sark</i> so successful in it?</p> <p>Dry dock Learners are asked to consider global trade - the act of buying and selling goods to and from different places all over the world. <i>Cutty Sark</i> is a Victorian cargo ship - the faster a trade ship was, the more money it would make. Learners discover what made <i>Cutty Sark</i> so fast and where it went to collect cargo. Learners are put in the shoes of <i>Cutty Sark</i>'s captain and asked to gather information to plan a cargo journey.</p> <p>Lower hold and Tween deck Learners visit the ship to gather more information about <i>Cutty Sark</i> and its journeys around the globe. Where did it go? What did it collect? Which routes did it take and why?</p> <p>Main deck Learners take part in weather measuring activities on the main deck to see if they have the sailor skills needed for a successful voyage.</p> <p>Dry dock Learners return to the dry dock and plan their cargo journeys.</p>	

Suggested pre visit knowledge/ activities	Suggested post visit activities
<p>This session works best for learners when they know how to use a compass. Teach/reinforce compass points with a simple memory phrase (e.g. Never Eat Shredded Wheat). This could be done by playing a game in the playground. Once confident, link this to wind direction (e.g. If the wind is blowing from the West, which way is it coming from?)</p> <p>Remind learners that sailors depended on weather knowledge to plan voyages and accurate observation was essential for safe trade across the seas.</p>	<p>We encourage schools to compare Victorian-era global trade with how we trade goods around the world today. What has changed? What has stayed the same? Do we still trade with the same countries? How has technology changed trade? Is faster trade always better? Why or why not?</p>
Links to useful resources	
<p>Cutty Sark History The Story of Greenwich's Historic Ship Crew on Cutty Sark Royal Museums Greenwich Cutty Sark and the Tea Trade Royal Museums Greenwich Reasons for the Seasons Royal Museums Greenwich</p>	