

Ship discovery tour

School Session Overview

October 2025

Key information	
<p>Length of session: 75mins</p> <p>Key Stage: KS2</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"> understand some aspects of the history of <i>Cutty Sark</i> including its destinations Understand why <i>Cutty Sark</i> is now in Greenwich Know the jobs sailors did Develop a basic understanding of the chronology of the <i>Cutty Sark</i>. 	<p>KS2 History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources
Key words	
sail, sailing, sailor, cargo, China, Australia, Greenwich, captain, river Thames, import, export	
Overview of the session	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Learners are given a brief overview of the ship's history and are asked to examine ship models to consider why <i>Cutty Sark</i> was such an iconic ship.</p> <p>Guided Tour</p> <p>The class is divided into small groups and given a mystery item that is connected to the <i>Cutty Sark</i>. Learners take part in a guided tour of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> where they will use their discovery skills to find the links between the objects and the ship. They share their discoveries with the whole class during the tour. The tour concludes in the dry berth where learners think about why <i>Cutty Sark</i> now rests in Greenwich and its connections to their own lives.</p>	
Suggested pre visit knowledge/activities	Suggested post visit activities
Introduce different roles on a historic sailing ship to spark curiosity about life at sea. (e.g. captain, sailor, cook, carpenter). Encourage learners to think about what skills they would need for each job and what challenges they might face.	Invite learners to write a letter from the perspective of a young sailor on board <i>Cutty Sark</i> . What were their daily duties? How did they feel during the long voyage and what challenges did they face? What did they miss most about home and what incredible things did they see?

Links to useful resources
Stories from the Sea: Shipwrecks resource Royal Museums Greenwich Stories from the Sea: Exploration resource Royal Museums Greenwich Cutty Sark learning resources Royal Museums Greenwich Nautical terms and everyday phrases National Maritime Museum