

LEADING LIVES STUDY DAY: *Horatio Nelson*

Horatio Nelson was a great leader and a national hero, arguably the first celebrity. From relatively modest beginnings he rose to lead the Royal Navy to a series of dazzling victories against the French and Spanish fleets, culminating in his death at the Battle of Trafalgar at the age of 47 in 1805. His leadership was distinguished by superb man management and he also possessed tactical brilliance and tremendous courage.

Through this 'Leading Lives' study day, students use Nelson's example as a framework for understanding how leaders tackle the core challenges facing every group and organization – motivation, teambuilding, crisis management and building a strong, shared identity.

We start by taking a look at leadership through Nelson's career in a dynamic and fast-paced introductory session, a blend of film, discussion and activities. Nelson and his context are analysed by leadership experts from the navy and private sector, and by the Museum's Curator of Naval History. Students are encouraged to think critically about his leadership skills. What made him so successful? How did he gain the trust of his men?

Students then work in groups, participating in a workshop in the Museum's vibrant RE·THINK space and a digital activity in the Museum's flagship *Nelson Navy Nation* gallery. The workshop focuses on provocations around modern business practice. The digital activity focuses on six key areas of the Business Studies curriculum, relating these to gallery objects. The students learn more about the objects through short films accessed on iPads and then reflect on questions about modern business practice, recording their answers.

In the afternoon, students participate in an exciting immersion in real-time decision-making through the crisis leading up to the Battle of Trafalgar. They are put in Nelson's position, given the information that he had available and asked to make decisions.

The final session of the day offers students a chance to put their questions to a business leader who will present a personal view of today's leadership challenges.



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MARITIME
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Curriculum
links

Business Studies, team work, motivation,
leadership

In the
classroom

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classroom activities to help you prepare for your
visit and follow it up back at school:
rmg.co.uk/schools