

Session outline

The British Empire Study Day

Key Stage 3, History and Citizenship

A day of workshops that will help students discover how the British Empire changed people's lives in Europe and Asia whilst developing students' historical enquiry skills.

At the beginning of the day students will be introduced to the British Empire. Importantly they will consider some of the contemporary legacies of this history and the continued impact on their lives today. Throughout the rest of the day they will explore these questions through a variety of sessions including:

Working with Sources: In this hands-on session, students have access to the Museum's collection of original and replica handling objects and accompanying sources. These focus on the India before the East India Company, including the Mughal Empire, experiences of trade and Empire 1600-1857, and the end of Empire. Working in groups, there are opportunities for students to share their findings and build a bigger picture than if they were working individually.

'Traders' gallery: Traders is an immersive gallery which allows visitors to explore the importance of the East India Company. For over 250 years the East India Company uniquely shaped trading relations between Britain and Asia. This trade involved key commodities, different locations and many people. Whilst visiting the gallery groups will use mobile devices to collect information about the objects on display, and through a series of activities, form their own opinions about what these objects can tell us about the East India Company.

At the end of the day students share their overall findings with each other, identifying what they have managed to find out and also identifying any further questions which have resulted from their time at the Museum.

Pre-Visit Preparation and Information

Upon arrival you will be given a timetable for the day's activities. All taught sessions are facilitated by Museum staff, whilst in the gallery you will have access to the Museum's mobile learning tablets to help you and your group explore the gallery in greater depth. Students will participate in activities which will encourage them to formulate their own ideas and opinions. However, some prior preparation would also be of use in order to maximize their learning experience.

Find out more about the 'Traders: the East India Company and Asia' gallery, view objects and play film clips about trade commodities such as tea and textiles at rmg.co.uk/visit/exhibitions/traders

