

Session outline

The Spanish Armada Study Day

Key Stage 3, History and Citizenship

A day of workshops for students to explore why the Spanish Armada failed - encouraging independent enquiry skills through the examination of primary sources.

An illustrated presentation will introduce students to the themes of the day including contextual information about the Spanish Armada and the relationship Elizabeth I had with Spain. To investigate why and how the Spanish Armada failed students will then participate in each of the following activities:

Object handling: A hands-on session in which students investigate replica handling objects that cover a variety of different themes such as life on board ship or navigation. Students will choose objects that inspire their interest and will use digital learning technology to further investigate, select evidence, and finally present their ideas to their peers.

Pictures and Portraits: Students will be led by their teachers to Royal Museums Greenwich's world famous art collection in the Queen's House, to find clues about the Spanish Armada and join in fun learning activities with the help of beautiful investigation cards.

Manuscripts: A rare opportunity for students to view and decipher original 16th century manuscripts, including a spy book made for Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth I's spymaster. This session will highlight some of the problems faced by researchers when interpreting original documents and will also highlight the importance of Elizabeth's spy network.

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

Pre-Visit Preparation and Information

In advance of your trip you will be sent a teacher copy of our investigation cards that your pupils will use in The Queen's House. On arrival, you will be given a timetable for the day's activities. Students will participate in activities which will encourage them to formulate their own ideas and opinions throughout the day. However, some prior preparation would also be of use in order to maximise their learning experience.

