

A Port of Discovery

Pre-visit resource



Museum
Gallery
Archive

Tudors and Elizabethans: A Port of Discovery

Key Stage 2

About this pre-visit resource

This pre-visit resource gives you detailed information about the session you are attending with your class, as well as some extra tips about our venue, so that you can be well prepared for your visit to The Box.

About this workshop

This workshop takes place in the **Simmons Learning Room** at The Box. It explores some of the amazing expeditions that left from and returned to Plymouth during the Tudor and Elizabethan period. Students take part in a range of hands on activities, to explore the impact that these voyages would have had on Plymouth and her people.

Curriculum links

History
Local History
Tudors
Elizabethans
Sir Francis Drake



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Detailed Workshop Outline

The session begins with the Learning Facilitator introducing Plymouth as a port, by looking at Plymouth's location on an interactive digital map.

1. The students discover what Plymouth and the world were like at the beginning of the Tudor period, viewing a map that indicates the impact of the Treaty of Tordesillas on world power. They find out about John Cabot's voyage in 1497, as well as those of Francis Drake and John Hawkins later. The Facilitator will introduce that the students will be discovering the impact of these and other global voyages on Plymouth, through taking on the characters of different people in the past.
2. The students then take part in a 'Pack your ship's chest' activity. Assuming different characters that would be on board a ship, they discover what life on board would have been like, by selecting and choosing objects that they should take with them. Their choices are guided by information about the different roles on board a ship.
3. Following this the students find out about how ships would navigate around the world during this period. They discover navigation instruments including a log-and-line, traverse board and astrolabe, and undertake challenges to learn how to use them.
4. The students then "return" from their voyage, with a ship laden with cargo from around the world. They take part in a trading game, assuming different characters who would have been present in Plymouth during this period. They have to negotiate the best prices and trade goods with each other, discovering the types of goods that were imported and exported from Plymouth along the way.
5. The session concludes with the students examining a historic map of Plymouth from the end of the Elizabethan period, demonstrating how it changed during this time. The students discuss the impact of global trade during this time, and reflect on its continued impact today.

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Key themes

Key themes of the workshop include:

- Trade
- Navigation
- Globalisation

Key vocabulary

Key and new vocabulary covered in the workshop includes:

- Astrolabe
- Traverse Board
- Log and Line
- Navigation
- Trade
- Globalisation

Preparing for your session

Visit the Barbican and identify buildings from the Tudor and Elizabethan period – invite your students to imagine that they lived there, and write about their experience.

Find out about Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins. There are lots of resources available online to help you – we really like those available on Kahn Academy.

Plan a pre-visit to The Box before you come with your class, so you are familiar with the environment and spaces before your visit.

Visit the galleries

The galleries at The Box hold objects and archives about the topic you have explored in this session, as well as other fascinating subjects. To find out more about this topic, visit the **100 Journeys** gallery at The Box.

Risk assessment

To help you to write your risk assessment for your visit, we have created a Teachers Hazard Assessment which holds common risks and solutions that you might want to include. Visit this page <https://www.theboxplymouth.com/schools/school-visits> for the Hazard Identification Sheet.[t.](#)

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