

The Box Learning

Schools Programme



Museum
Gallery
Archive



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Booking
made easy

One of the country's most ambitious cultural spaces is ready for you to explore

Welcome to The Box, Plymouth's new multi-million pound museum, gallery and archive. With brand new exhibition spaces alongside state-of-the-art facilities for research and learning, it's the perfect place to teach, inspire and engage students of all ages.

All our sessions are co-designed with schools, offering creative learning experiences across the curriculum that spark students' curiosity, creativity and conversation.

You can use this schools brochure to find out about the activities and resources that are available at The Box. Visit our website for the latest on offers, news and projects for schools, and to book your experience with us.

Enrich your students' learning with a workshop at The Box

Our workshops for schools support your students' learning. We believe in the power of art and history to shape and change the world around us, and our expert team want to share that with your students.

1

Experience hands-on encounters that can't be replicated in the classroom.

2

Support your students to gain 'Cultural Capital' and become lifelong cultural learners.

3

Develop your students' enquiry and oracy skills, inspired by using real sources of evidence and jaw-dropping contemporary art.

4

Enhance your teaching in the classroom with memorable experiences and visits that support your curriculum teaching.

5

Access objects and artefacts from our stores that aren't on display to the public.

EYFS

Start your group on a lifelong journey of awe and wonder, with an in-gallery session for our youngest visitors. Our EYFS/ Reception level sessions capture the excitement of visiting a museum and gallery for the first time. Sessions are tailored to your needs for snack and break times.

All sessions

Session length:

1 hour

Session price:

£3.50 per student

Dear Zoo Museum

I wrote to the Museum to send me Drake's Drum, but it was too noisy! In an adventure around The Box that stimulates all the senses, your group develops museum visiting skills, handling real and replica objects as they go.

EYFS: Understanding the World, Communication and Language

Science and Species: Marine Life

Take a look under water – which species have made Plymouth their home over thousands of years? From tiny plankton to enormous whales, this sensory journey of songs, rhymes and remarkable experiments will introduce your group to the science behind the species that have populated Plymouth.

EYFS: Understanding the World, Mathematics

lifelong journey



Primary

Ages 5–11

Led by expert facilitators, a workshop at The Box will give your students skills in scientific, historic and artistic enquiry. Our curriculum-linked sessions are hands-on and participatory and accommodate a range of learning styles.

All sessions

Session length:

1 hour

Session price:

£3.50 per student

Natural History ^{KS1}

Herbivores, omnivores, carnivores – which skull belongs to which animal? Your students will become scientists and learn to identify, categorise and name skulls from our collection, before matching them to the correct animal and putting them on display.

Curriculum focus: Science

Toys (STEM/STEAM) ^{KS1}

A lot of STEAM can be experienced through toys. In this session, your students begin a lifelong journey of learning through experimentation, discovering how toys are made and then conceiving, designing and testing their own.

Curriculum focus: STEM/STEAM

Bridges, Breakwaters, Lighthouses (STEM/STEAM) ^{KS2}

Inspired by the amazing examples of engineering in Plymouth (including the lighthouse, the Breakwater and the Tamar Bridge), your students will become engineers. They will use a range of maker technology to apply design thinking to solve new design challenges.

Curriculum focus: STEM/STEAM

Ancient Egypt ^{KS2}

A new box of artefacts from Ancient Egypt has arrived at The Box. Can your class become Assistant Curators and help our Curator of Archaeology to discover what they are, and how they should be displayed?

Curriculum focus: History

All sessions

Session length:

1 hour

Session price:

£3.50 per student

Prehistory: The Bronze Age at Whitehorse Hill ^{KS2}

Witness your students becoming archaeologists, uncovering amazing artefacts from prehistory, and discovering how they were made and used. With chances to handle objects that are thousands of years old, students develop enquiry skills to unlock secrets from the past.

Curriculum focus: History

Plymouth's Polar Explorers ^{KS2}

Museums are vocabulary rich environments and can inspire writing through engaging all the senses. In this session, your students encounter Robert Falcon Scott's Polar explorations and the objects and artefacts he took with him, to imagine the experience and develop their own writing.

Curriculum focus: Literacy, History

World War II and the Blitz in Plymouth ^{KS2}

There's been a cover up! It's 1941 and the Blitz in Plymouth has had a devastating effect on the city, but no journalists are reporting it. Can your students become detectives and use real objects and archives to uncover the truth of how the Blitz impacted Plymouth?

Curriculum focus: History, Local history



Primary

Ages 5–11

All sessions

Session length:

1 hour

Session price:

£3.50 per student

Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada KS2

Enhance your teaching about Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada by giving your students the chance to encounter real and replica objects and archives from our collection that explore this fascinating history. Developing historical enquiry techniques, your students will discover the many sides of Drake for themselves.

Curriculum focus: History, Local History

Tudor and Elizabethan Plymouth: A Port of Discovery KS2

In the Tudor and Elizabethan period, Plymouth saw some amazing expeditions of discovery leaving and returning from her shores. Discover the role that Plymouth played in the increasingly globalised world at this time, and the impact that these expeditions had at home.

Curriculum focus: History, Local History

Evolution, Inheritance, Diversity KS2

How have the species that make Plymouth their home evolved over thousands of years? Your students will become scientists and discover how everything from mammoths and hippos to bugs and beetles have evolved, diversified and adapted to their climate over time.

Curriculum focus: Science

facilitators
expert

Secondary

Ages 11–16

Our workshops support and develop your students' skills to enable them to become independent learners across a range of curriculum areas. Hands-on and creative activities will springboard them to their next stage of learning.

All sessions

Session length:

1 hour

Session price:

£3.50 per student

Britain after 1945 KS3–4

How did Britain and Plymouth change after the end of World War II, and what impact does this have today? Through activities framed around enquiry questions, your students discover how Plymouth became the multi-cultural city it is today.

Curriculum focus: History, PSHE

Transatlantic Slavery and Abolition KS3–4

The first ship that transported human cargo from Africa and across the Atlantic left from Plymouth. In a series of activities delivered with sensitivity and respect, your students will encounter objects related to the history of the transatlantic slave trade and its abolition.

Curriculum focus: History

The Spanish Armada KS3–4

Enhance your teaching about the Spanish Armada by giving your students the chance to encounter real and replica objects and archives from our collection. Developing historical enquiry techniques, your students discover the many sides of Sir Francis Drake for themselves.

Curriculum focus: History, Local history

STEAMPunk Escape Room KS3–4

Your class will be challenged to work as a team through science, technology, engineering and maths puzzles, connected to iconic building and structures in Plymouth. Can they escape in time?

Curriculum focus: STEM/STEAM



creative activities

SEN

Ages 3–25

Our SENSational sessions for students with special educational needs and disabilities, including those with profound and multiple disabilities and ASC, are open to visits from a range of educational settings. These multisensory workshops have been co-designed with SEN teachers, students and specialists in this area, to support students to respond to The Box's galleries, displays and resources.

All sessions

Session length:

90 minutes

15 students max

Session price:

£3.50 per student

When Giants Walked in Devon (Mammoth)

This activity takes students back in time 30–40,000 years to when mammoths, cave lions and enormous deer ruled the area. It tells the story of the mammoth in a sensory way, enabling students to experience aspects of life thousands of years ago.

A World of Difference (Mammoth)

This activity encourages close observation skills by getting students to explore the gallery and make links between handling objects and what they see in the gallery. Students consider the diversity of their environment and of the natural world. Exploration includes handling objects and exploring the gallery together.

To the Beat of Drake's drum (100 Journeys)

This activity focuses on life at sea in Elizabethan times through the eyes of Sir Francis Drake. Students travel back in time to the beat of Drake's drum and then experience different aspects of life aboard Elizabethan ships using sensory props.

Each session can include two activities, from the seven options.

All sessions

Session length:

90 minutes

15 students max

Session price:

£3.50 per student

Around the World from Plymouth (100 Journeys)

This activity focuses on the women and men who have set out from Plymouth (or who have strong links to Plymouth) to meet new people and explore the world. Students consider what objects are useful for a long journey and then explore the gallery. The activity also encourages students to think about meeting new people in their own lives, as well as exploring the concept of ownership.

Shipshape (Port of Plymouth)

This activity focuses on Plymouth's shipbuilding heritage. It encourages students to explore the different materials that have been used to build ships over centuries and then work together to build their own model ship.

Plymouth is my Home (Port of Plymouth)

This activity focuses on what is special about our local area by looking at some of the everyday aspects of your students' lives. It encourages them to compare these with similar aspects in the past by exploring Plymouth 'then and now'.

Searching for the Stars (All galleries)

This activity develops students' confidence in an unfamiliar environment. They must find three of the museum's star objects, asking appropriate adults for help and directions.



Mayflower

Session details

Session length:

1 hour

Session price:

£3.50 per student

Mayflower Facilitated Session EYFS, Primary, Secondary

Discover the Mayflower story guided by one of our expert facilitators, who will lead you through the gallery undertaking activities and encountering stories along the way. Students explore the causes of the Mayflower voyage, the journey itself, what life was like in the Plymouth colony and the significance and legacy of the Mayflower voyage today.

Session details

Session length:

1 hour

Session price:

£3.50 per student

Mayflower: Artist Facilitators Session Primary, Secondary

In these artist-led in-gallery sessions, your class enquires into a topic or artistic discipline of your choice, before developing their own creative response to what they discover. Topics could include journeys, representation, or identity. Artistic disciplines of fabrication techniques, 17th Century artisan craftsmanship, or using different mediums, can be explored with your class.

Session details

Session length:

Full Day

Session price:

£8 per student

Mayflower Masterclass Secondary

How do you curate an exhibition, and what are the steps and decisions that go into a display? Your students will work with the curator of the Mayflower exhibition to explore the fascinating journey behind exhibition, and then hone their own curatorial skills through a series of activities and challenges.

Visit **theboxplymouth.com** to see all our online resources.

Mayflower Resources – Online

Include the Mayflower story into your teaching through our free online resources. Use our 'Turtle Island' animation alongside teacher packs, podcasts, timelines and more to help unlock the fascinating history of the Mayflower voyage for you and your students.

gallery-led artist-led



Artist Facilitators

Give your class the chance to work with a practising artist, to explore our visual arts displays and develop their own creative responses.

These workshops use Philosophy for Children and Visual Thinking Strategy techniques to empower every student to think, commit, reflect and justify their opinions on visual arts.

All sessions

Session length:
90 mins

Session price:
£3.50 per student

Art as Reflection

Contemporary art often reflects on a historic context. Work with one of our artist facilitators to explore in-situ responses by practising contemporary artists, who have responded to the historic collections and displays at The Box.

Art as Participation

Art can be created by and for the public, changing spaces and how we interact with each other. Work with one of our artist facilitators to explore our larger than life installations.

Art as Contemplation

Art is often encountered in galleries, providing moments of reflection and contemplation. Work with one of our artist facilitators to develop your students' contemplation and enquiry skills.

Art, People and Place

Art has been used to depict people and places across the world, and it's no different in Plymouth. Work with one of our artist facilitators to explore the works that capture our city and its people.



Loan Boxes

Bring history, science and art to life in your classroom, by hiring one of our Loan Boxes.

These collections of real and replica objects, archive material and film cover a range of curriculum linked areas, and can be an inspiring topic starter or enhancer for your class.

Loan Boxes

Cost: £20 per week
Collection only

Other boxes available are:

Joshua Reynolds Paint Box
Watercolours of Plymouth
35mm Cameras
120mm Cameras
Seashore
Ancient Rome
Tudors and Elizabethans
Ancient Greece
Viking and Saxon Britain
African Drums
African Mbira
Victorian Writing
Prehistory: Stone Age
Prehistory: Bronze Age
First Aid in World War II
Building Materials of Plymouth

Highlights include:

Ancient Egypt Mummification

Witness the theatrics of Ancient Egypt with this Loan box, including a mummy, Canopic jars, and the intestines, brains and other body parts that were extracted during mummification.

Curriculum focus: History

Engineering South West

Archival film footage and images are presented in a toolbox, to help students to explore the amazing engineering feats that characterise Plymouth.

Curriculum focus: STEAM

WWII: Evacuees from Plymouth

Explore the moving images and archival documents of children evacuated from Plymouth during the Second World War.

Curriculum focus: History



curriculum-linked

Online Resources

Dive deeper into our collection of over two million outstanding objects, breathtaking works of art and mind blowing scientific collections, through exploring our online resources.

Our free resources support a number of curriculum and topic areas, with more being launched every term. Find films, image banks, podcasts, animations and more by visiting our Learning Resources page at **theboxplymouth.com**

Visit the **boxplymouth.com** to discover more free online resources.

Highlights include:

In the process of (doing something)

This new series of online resources is aimed at young people at Key Stage 4&5 and students at HE/FE level studying art and design subjects. Filmed interviews with practicing artists offer an insight into the creative process of a range of artists, from those represented within our collection, exhibition programme or commissioning process, to those who choose to work in the region.

Suitable for: Art and Design, Design and Technology

Plymouth in World War I KS2-3

This downloadable resource of images from our collection and supporting activity ideas supports your teaching of the World War I topic. It looks at the impact of World War I on local people's lives – touching on recruitment, conscription, the fighting, the cost, the aftermath and the 'home front'.

Suitable for: History, Local history



enrich your classroom

Arts Award

Find out more about how a visit to The Box can support your students to complete an Arts Award by visiting theboxplymouth.com

Post-16, Higher and Further Education

Many departments within The Box work with, support, or in some way enrich learning opportunities for further and higher education students.

Find out more about our activities for this group by visiting theboxplymouth.com



Collaborate
and support

Things to see at The Box

Alongside our permanent galleries, our exhibition programme will feature jaw-dropping art by emerging and established British and international artists. Visit **theboxplymouth.com** to book your visit.

Permanent Galleries

The Box's permanent galleries showcase the best of our collections for you and your students.

Mammoth

Encounter a lifesize woolly mammoth alongside hundreds of marine pickled specimens, butterflies, taxidermy, birds' eggs and other species, bursting out of the cases.

100 Journeys

From Francis Drake's Cup and an Egyptian coffin, to Gertrude Benham's treasures and Captain Scott's skis, this gallery is a Pandora's box of curriculum-linked artefacts and information.

Port of Plymouth

Covering over 5,000 years of history, this gallery tells of the significance of the Port of Plymouth over time through prehistoric artifacts to the feats of the industrial revolution, the Eddystone Lighthouse and the working port and dockyard.

Cottonian Research Room

The Cottonian Collection should be considered Plymouth's greatest gift. It is Plymouth's only Designated Collection – a mark of national significance in non-national museums – and is full of treasures to explore.

Our Art

This gallery celebrates the breadth and depth of The Box's art collections. Over 300 objects from our ceramics, silverware, glass, textiles and costume collection are on display, alongside significant visual artists from the South West such as Sir Joshua Reynolds and Rose Hilton.

Active Archives

Interactive displays help you to discover how Plymouth has changed in response to major historic moments. Highlights include the Bomb Book, which demonstrates the impact of air raids on the city, and an Elizabethan charter to Sir Francis Drake.

Media Lab

The history of film and photography is shown through images, film and the technology that created them. There is the chance to read the news in a mock TV studio and to get up close and personal with local hero Gus Honeybun!

Memory Box

This is our social history space – a chance for pupils to see objects that might be familiar to them from their grandparents, their childhood or from their own knowledge of the past.

Photo Album

Photography displays from our collection or new projects showcase Plymouth and its people – can you spot anyone you know in the photos?

Temporary Exhibitions

Our temporary exhibition programme brings new collections and stories to Plymouth, alongside jaw-dropping art by British and international artists.

Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy Spring 2020 – Autumn 2021

Objects, images and ideas explore early English attempts to colonise America, recognise conflict and coexistence with Native America. This exhibition details the lives of its passengers, and considers the cultural, demographic and personal legacies of the story.

Making It May 2020 – August 2021

This inaugural exhibition features internationally renowned artists Sir Antony Gormley, Leonor Antunes, Eva Grubinger, Alexandre da Cunha, and Christopher Baker.

Immigrant Song September 2020 – January 2021

Artists respond critically to the ideas of Mayflower and migration including new commissions by John Akomfrah and the group show Another Crossing.

A typical day at The Box

Bring 30 students

Arrival	Welcome You'll be greeted at the door by your schools' facilitator for the day. Drop your bags in your reserved bag drop box and get ready to explore The Box.
Morning	Your workshop Take part in your booked workshop, with hands on activities guided by our expert facilitators.
Lunch	Learning Space Lunch in our Learning Space, to fuel up for the rest of the day.
Afternoon	In the galleries Explore our galleries with activity sheets to support your experience.

Bring 60 students

	Group 1	Group 2
Arrival	Welcome	Welcome
Morning	Your Workshop	Gallery visit
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Afternoon	Gallery visit	Your Workshop

Bring 90 or 120 students

The Box can accommodate up to 120 students, or four classes, per day. Contact us to arrange a larger group via theboxplymouth.com



Booking made easy

We want you to have the best experience, from the minute you book to post-visit inspiration.

1

Book with ease

Just visit theboxplymouth.com

2

Dedicated coach drop-off and schools entrance

Located next to the Simmons Learning Space.

3

Reserved bag-drop

Included as part of your taught session.

4

Automatically reserve a lunch space

Safe and secure, away from the bustle of the public galleries.

5

All the details you need

From pre-visit info to post-visit inspiration, including a Teacher's Hazard Assessment to support your visit planning.



Visit our website for the latest offers,
news and projects for schools, and
to book your experience with us;

theboxplymouth.com



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**