

Teacher Notes

Tudor Travels and the Mary Rose

Synopsis

Francis Drake circumnavigates the globe, before a day in the life of a sailor on the Mary Rose ends at the bottom of the sea – where we find her and her historical treasures some 450 years later.

Resources:

Reliving Drake's Voyage:

Children take on various roles on board the Golden Hind and face whatever the journey throws at them! Then, they write about their adventures in a diary!

Following in Drake's Wake:

Children order events from Drake's circumnavigation and plot his route on a map. Then, they answer cross-curricular follow-up questions.

Mary Rose Sources:

Children explore three sources that tell us about the Mary Rose. They examine their reliability and usefulness and explain which they would use to answer various questions.

Mary Rose Artefacts:

Children match artefacts to their owners and a piece of information we can learn from each. They then draw their own conclusions from this primary evidence.

Key questions to consider:

What did Francis Drake achieve and why was it significant?

How was the world Francis Drake explored different from our world today?

What conclusions can we draw from historical evidence about the Mary Rose?

How can we know that conclusions we draw from evidence are reliable?

History curriculum objectives:

- Continue to develop chronologically secure knowledge of history.
- Regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions.
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- Understand how knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.
- Welsh Progression Step 3: I can use appropriate methods to gather information related to my enquiries and I am able to interpret the information obtained in the context of the enquiry question.
- Welsh Progression Step 4: I can analyse the usefulness and consider the reliability and validity of a range of evidence relating to my enquiry.
- SOC 2-01a: I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research past events.

Cross-curricula objectives:

- Geography: Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries.
- English: Participate in performances, role-play/improvisations and debates.

Tudor Travels and the Mary Rose - Comprehension

What is a circumnavigation of the Earth?

In which year did Francis Drake set off around the world?

In the animation, Francis Drake gave public and secret reasons for his voyage around the world. What were they?

What did Francis Drake receive from Queen Elizabeth when he returned to England and where did he receive it?

What was the Mary Rose and what happened to it in 1545?

Describe what sailors did on the Mary Rose, day to day.

Why is the Mary Rose so useful to historians?



Tudor Travels and the Mary Rose - Comprehension

What is a circumnavigation of the Earth?

A full journey around the whole globe.

In which year did Francis Drake set off around the world?

1577.

In the animation, Francis Drake gave public and secret reasons for his voyage around the world. What were they?

The public reason was to explore the coastlines on the far side of South America. The secret reason was to plunder Spanish treasure.

What did Francis Drake receive from Queen Elizabeth when he returned to England and where did he receive it?

He was given a knighthood on the deck of his ship, the Golden Hind.

What was the Mary Rose and what happened to it in 1545?

A battleship. It sank near the Isle of Wight while trying to defend the island from the French.

Describe what sailors did on the Mary Rose, day to day.

Perform their duties, eat and sometimes play board games.

Why is the Mary Rose so useful to historians?

It was quickly covered in mud when it sank, so many artefacts were preserved. These thousands of artefacts can tell historians all about life in Tudor times.



Reliving Drake's Voyage - Teacher Notes

Summary

Children act out Drake's voyage based on character descriptions. Events from the expedition are revealed as the lesson goes on, and they react as their characters. Once their role-play is complete, they write diary entries as their character.

Activity

Children are split into groups of at least 4. Each group will be one Golden Hind. Each child is then given one of the character descriptions on the *Characters* sheet. Any extra children above the 4 become more crew. Once everyone is familiar with their character, read the first dated event from the table below. The voyages set off, with everyone in character. Encourage the children to work daytime/night time and general discomforts such as nits and illnesses into their role-play.

At various points in the action, introduce each of the events below. The children will respond accordingly as their characters. It is up to you how long you leave between events, though the dates should give some indication of how long a gap existed on the actual voyage.

Once the voyages have returned to England, the children write diary entries as their character, documenting their experiences. You may choose to set any number of diary entries, and whether or not to tie them to the dated events.

Date	Event	Problem/change
13 th December 1577	Setting sail from Plymouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some of the crew may be upset that they are making a longer journey than Drake said they would.Supplies will get low towards the end of the long journey across the Atlantic.
5 th April 1578	Arriving in Rio de la Plata, between Uruguay and Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The crew drop the anchor. People explore or go hunting. New supplies are found.The ship will now sail down the coast of Argentina to find the Strait of Magellan.
30 th June - 2 nd July 1578	Mutiny trial in Port San Julian, Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On an island, a gentleman called Thomas Doughty is found guilty of mutiny for challenging Drake's leadership. He is beheaded.From now on, the gentleman will have to help with the crew tasks. They may grumble, or be scared of Drake.Some of the crew might think Doughty's execution was unfair.The ship will now sail through the narrow, dangerous Strait of Magellan to become the first English ship to enter the Pacific.

Reliving Drake's Voyage - Teacher Notes

Date	Event	Problem/change
September - October 1578	Losing ships in a storm in the southern Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Pacific, Drake's maps are wrong and the ship sails hundreds of miles off course. It is caught in a fierce storm. Two ships that are sailing with the Golden Hind are lost. One sinks and the other turns back to England. The Golden Hind is now alone. After this, the ship sails up the west coast of South America, looting Spanish towns and ships. Supplies and treasure are plentiful.
June 1579	Trying to find a northern passage to the Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having filled the ship with treasure, Drake sails up the west coast of North America to discover a passage back to the Atlantic, called the Strait of Anian. It gets too cold for everyone and they turn back and land near San Francisco. Once supplies are ready, the ship sets sail across the Pacific. Supplies will run very low on this incredibly long voyage.
9 - 10 th January 1580	Hitting a reef and jettisoning cargo in Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having crossed the Pacific, the crew get supplies and spices in Indonesia. Leaving the islands, the ship gets stuck on a reef. To get free, cannons, spices and supplies are thrown overboard. Once free, the ship starts the long trip across the Indian Ocean and up the west African coast to the safe ports of Sierra Leone. At the end of this journey, the ship will be days away from running out of water. 1 pint will have to be shared between 3 people, per day.
July 1580	Finally getting water and supplies in Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just in time, the ship arrives in Sierra Leone. Water and supplies are taken on. The ship heads for England.
26 th September 1580	Arriving home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ship arrives in England but hides and waits for a few days while Drake checks that the Queen is still in power and that they will be welcomed back. When this is confirmed, everyone can go home, nearly 3 years after they left!

Reliving Drake's Voyage - Characters

Francis Drake

- You are the leader of the expedition. Once at sea, you believe everyone else should obey you and that your word is final, even if that power was not fully agreed back in England.
- It is your job to sail the ship to the right places and lead the crew through dangerous waters. It is also your job to tell people what to do, and to either solve their problems or force them to keep going when they are not happy.
- You have your own cabin, with a bunk, desk, books, a table for charts and some expensive plates and cups.

Gentleman

- You are fairly wealthy and have come on the trip to have an adventure, see the world, win fame for yourself and perhaps gain some riches for yourself or your employers. You might try to persuade Drake to do things that will help you to achieve these goals.
- It is your job to offer advice to Drake and to make sure you get what you want out of the trip. You may also give orders to the crew.
- You have a small cabin with a bunk.

Cook

- You are in charge of supplies on the trip. You listen to Drake to find out how long it will be before the next supplies can be found, and plan based on that. You cook food and tell the crew what they can and cannot have to eat and drink each day. You may also help them with their jobs.
- It is your job to make sure there is enough of all of the following things and to make them last until each time you reach land: hard biscuits/rice, beer/rainwater, sheep/goats/chickens, fruit/vegetables (if you can get them).
- You sleep squashed up with the crew on the gun deck.

Crew

- You do all the physical jobs on the ship. You listen to Drake, the gentleman and the cook and do what they say. Sometimes you might argue about their choices, but Drake and the gentleman could punish you for that!
- Drake tricked you into coming onboard by saying you were going on a much shorter journey. You might be unhappy about that!
- It is your job to scrub the deck, watch for land or other ships, hoist the sails, move supplies around, fire the guns, and pump out water if there is a leak!
- You sleep on the gun deck, squashed between guns and other crewmates.

Following in Drake's Wake – The Voyage



"Below are some places that Francis Drake, visited (or looted!) on his journey around the globe. Use the dates to help you number them in the correct order in the boxes down the right hand side."

February, 1579	Looting up the South American coast, Drake crosses the equator.	
April, 1578	The ships land in Rio de la Plata, between Uruguay and Argentina.	
March, 1580	Drake repairs his ship on the island of Java, Indonesia.	
December, 1577	Drake and his expedition leave Plymouth, England.	
July, 1580	Drake gets crucial water supplies near Freetown, Sierra Leone.	
December, 1578	Drake loots Valparaiso, Chile.	
June, 1580	Drake sails past the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.	
January, 1578	The ships restock in the Cape Verde Islands.	
September, 1580	The expedition arrives back in Plymouth, England.	
March to June, 1580	The expedition crosses the Indian Ocean.	
October, 1579	After crossing the Pacific, Drake lands in Ternate, Indonesia.	
August, 1578	Drake's ships sail through the Strait of Magellan.	
June, 1579	Turning back from Oregon, Drake lands near San Francisco Bay.	

"Now you know where Drake went, and when, plot his journey on the world map provided on the next page. Use the internet, atlases or other resources to find out exactly where each place is."

Following in Drake's Wake – The Map



Following in Drake's Wake – Follow-up Questions

1. It took Drake and his crew 1,018 days to complete their journey around the globe (circumnavigation). The fastest modern circumnavigation by a sailboat took only 40 days, 23 hours, 30 minutes and 30 seconds. If you round that up to 41 days, how many days more did Francis Drake take to sail around the world?

2. Give three reasons why a modern circumnavigation may be so much faster than Francis Drake's trip.

3. What giant construction project was finished in 1914 and means ships no longer have to sail around the southern end of South America to move between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans?

4. Drake and other explorers of the time believed there was a continent attached to the bottom of South America, which they had yet to discover, that they called 'Terra Australis'. What is actually south of South America?

5. What evidence could you still find today that the Spanish took over large parts of South America in the past?

6. What is one thing Drake would notice was different about San Francisco Bay if he revisited it today, centuries after he first sailed past it?

Mary Rose Sources – Three Sources



"Here are three different sources people could use to find out about the Mary Rose. Read through the descriptions, getting ready to answer questions about how reliable and useful each source is."

The shipwreck and its treasures

While a few items from the shipwreck were discovered in 1836, it was in the 1970s and 1980s that the seabed really gave up its treasure. In 1971, the ship was rediscovered and since then, over 19,000 items from it have been found: skeletons, cutlery, games, tools, weapons, medical equipment, musical instruments and more! Amazingly, even soft items like clothes and shoes (which historians cannot usually find) had survived, preserved by the mud and clay on the sea floor.

In 1982, the half of the ship that had been in the mud was brought to the surface in one piece and preserved in a museum. Today, we can see how lots of the ship fitted together and what different parts of it were used for.

The Anthony Roll

The Anthony Roll is a record of King Henry VIII's warships which was given to the king in 1546. It was created by Anthony Anthony, who helped to supply guns and equipment to the Tudor army and navy. It includes a picture of each ship and gives information about their crews and weapons.

The list of weapons included for the Mary Rose appears to match well with the evidence dug up from the seabed. The image gives a good idea of the general shape and appearance of the ship. It shows how many masts it had and the tall upper decks at each of its ends. However, the picture is fairly basic and has some features which do not match the shipwreck itself. For example, it appears to have too many cannons, and some of them in odd or impossible places.

The BBC animation

The animation you watched was created in 2023 and was designed to show children that Tudor England used the oceans to increase its power and wealth. It gave a short look at some of the things Francis Drake did, and what life was like on the Mary Rose.

It was created by a team of writers and animators who researched the topics using a variety of sources, then tried to present the information they found in an interesting, creative and funny way.

Mary Rose Sources – Are They Reliable and Useful?



“Underline whether each source is a primary or secondary source, then answer the questions in the boxes. Use the information on the Three Sources sheet to help you.”

The shipwreck and its treasures

Primary / Secondary

Why might it be a reliable source?

What information can it tell us?

Why might it be unreliable?

What information can it not tell us?

The Anthony Roll

Primary / Secondary

Why might it be a reliable source?

What information can it tell us?

Why might it be unreliable?

What information can it not tell us?

The BBC animation

Primary / Secondary

Why might it be a reliable source?

What information can it tell us?

Why might it be unreliable?

What information can it not tell us?

Mary Rose Sources – Which Would You Use?



“For each of the situations below, decide which source or sources on the Three Sources sheet would be the best to use. Explain your choices each time and, if you choose more than one source, explain how both would work together to help a researcher. Would one be more important than the other?”

1. If I wanted to find out what the ship looked like, I would use...

2. If I wanted to find out how the ship was preserved and raised, I would use...

3. If I wanted to find out what life was like for a sailor on the Mary Rose, I would use...

4. If I wanted to find out how the Mary Rose compared to other Tudor warships, I would use...

Mary Rose Artefacts



"Below are five people who were on the Mary Rose when it sank, five lists of items which have been pulled from the wreck and five things that can be learned from studying a set of items. Every person matches to a set of items and something we can learn from looking at that evidence. Cut out the boxes, match them and stick them in."

The people

The evidence

What we can learn

A cook

A chest full of tools and ointment pots, some metal syringes, mercury, a bowl to catch blood.

The Tudors may not have always needed maps to know where they were going.

A carpenter

A skeleton with a twisted spine and a groove in the finger bones, wearing a leather jerkin, found next to a longbow.

The Tudors may have used injections to try to heal people.

A surgeon

Three compasses, navigation tools, and a sand timer for measuring how fast the ship was moving.

The sailors may well have often eaten broths or soups.

A pilot or navigator

Wooden ladles, huge copper cauldrons, small cooking pots, a tankard and a bowl with 'Ny Coep' written on them.

This man may have been able to read.

An archer

A chest of woodworking tools, a chest for clothing, and a beautiful box with a lock, holding silver coins, rings and a leather book cover.

This man must have practised the same movement over and over, for many years, because it changed his body!

Once you have matched and stuck in the boxes, think of one more thing we can learn from each list of evidence. These ideas can be simple or complex. For example, nit combs were found on the ship. You could say this tells us simply that Tudor sailors had nit combs. Or, you could say it tells us that nits were a problem in Tudor times, and that they probably spread fast on such a full and cramped ship.