

Session outline

Trafalgar Tales

Over the centuries, the sea has inspired thousands of stories and hosted many a fearful battle. Our **Trafalgar Tales** session looks at one of the most famous naval battles of all time and equips children with the skills and motivation to create their own story narrative back in the classroom.

The National Maritime Museum has collaborated with the National Literacy Trust to create this museum learning session and supporting extension resources linking history learning with literacy outcomes.

This immersive session takes children back in time to a fascinating period of history, encourages them to retell the story of the Battle, and provides background material and a planned structure for their own writing.

The session begins with the world of the sea, evoking the sights, sounds, smells and feelings conjured by the sea in their own experiences and throughout history. Children work in the Museum's Voyager's gallery collecting words linked to the sea and building a poem together. Then they step back 200 years in time as they are press-ganged into the world of Lord Nelson and the Napoleonic wars with the help of handling objects and costume.

Arriving in the 'Nelson, Navy, Nation' gallery, children are introduced to a busy dockyard scene where characters voice their thoughts on joining the navy.

Using a story writing template to shape their ideas, children consider whether they would have wanted to be in the Navy at this time. They use a painting to inspire and create a battle soundscape. Communally they retell the story of a young boy who joined up aged 14, took part in the Battle of Trafalgar and lived to tell the tale.

Children then use the rich resources in the gallery to research content for their own stories. Will they be a ship's Captain, cook or cabin boy? Will they be a young woman, concealing her gender to serve? What was life like on board? How will they describe the day of the battle - do they survive?

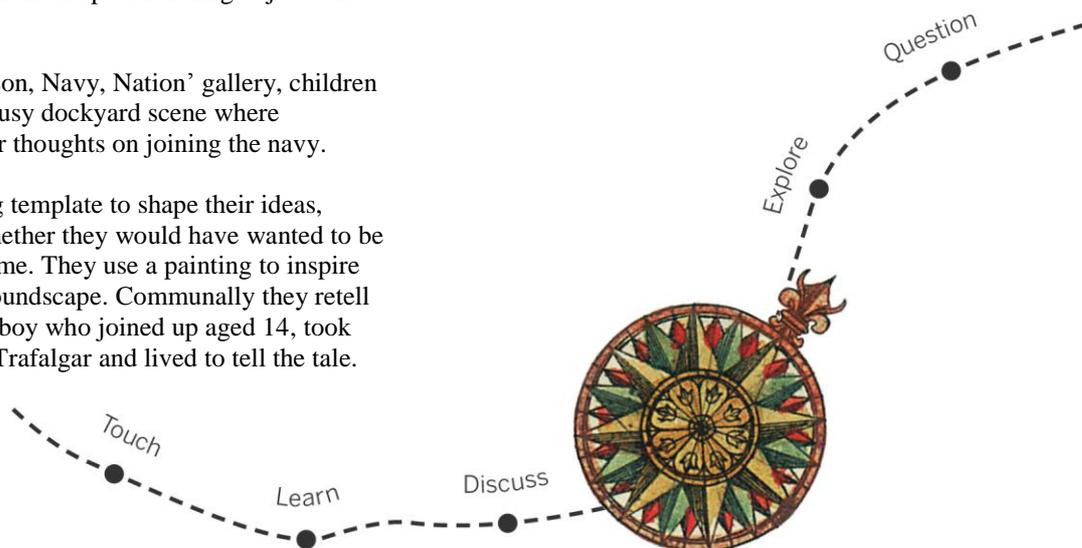
By the end of the session the children will be ready and eager to write their own stories in school, and will take away their own logbook containing writing plans. To add a sense of purpose to their writing, they will be encouraged to send their stories back to the Museum and they will be posted on the Museum's blog.

This session can be booked as a standalone visit, or used as part of a wider cross-curricular unit of work created with the [National Literacy Trust](#).

KS2 Curriculum links

Literacy: poetry, storytelling, narrative writing, non-fiction writing (see [Trafalgar Times](#) resource)

History: study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066



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