

☆ Ship Ahoy!

This activity was first developed in 1982 by Susan Hart and Stuart Scott. We have revived it for the new history curriculum, since the Thames can be used as a local study by everyone in the watershed.

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<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/shipahoy.pdf>

Teacher Notes

The 24 Thames characters could be used as an "Introduce Me" activity (take a look at our East India Company trade goods activity:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/eastindiacompany.pdf>

to clarify what we mean by this), or groups can sort them on to the sorting board which is best enlarged to A3. We have not yet provided pictures but aim to do so later. We'll also be adding more characters in case you have classes of more than twenty four. In the old activity we also had a connect four game. Let us know if you would like us to add this.

We are also developing a similar activity on the children who lived along the Swale and Ouse in the 18th and 19th centuries.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops and conferences worldwide but mainly in the UK. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers ideal opportunities for assessment of spoken language.

*They provide scaffolding for differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally work effectively over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/shipahoy.pdf>

☆ Ship Ahoy!

Your set of cards tells you about a lot of different people living in London in the 18th century. All their lives are connected to the River Thames. Sort your cards on this sorting board.

☆ People who build ships or supply things needed on ships.

☆ People who make a living through trade or transport on the river.

☆ Craftsmen or industries using river water.

☆ People who keep law and order on the river.

☆ People who provide goods and services to seaman and others.

☆ People who make money illegally from the river.

Smuggler

My trade is a quiet one. We smugglers work mainly at night. We bribe the crew of a ship anchored in the river. The crew stay "asleep" in their cabins while we are at work. When the tide is ebbing we cut the ship loose and down the river she goes. We take as much of the cargo as we can and disappear into the Kent and Essex marshes.

Footpad

I work mainly near Wapping Stairs. I live in a tenement nearby. When it is dark enough, I keep an eye open for sailors who have drunk too much in the taverns in the Ratcliffe Highway to watch out for danger from a footpad like me. I hope they have just been paid off after a long voyage. If they give me a hard time then it's straight into the river with them!

Body Snatcher

The tides on the river flow fast and the currents are dangerous. Many stumble and fall in. Some are helped and others choose to end their lives in the water. I know where the river will take them. I fish them out with my boat hook. The doctors in the West End pay me well. People call me a body snatcher but I prefer to be called a collector.

Mudlark

I'm ten years old and I have been a mudlark ever since I can remember. I make my living sifting through the mud on the river banks when the tide is out. I sell the wood I find for a few pence. If I am lucky I can go to bed (in a doorway) with a full stomach. Some days I find nothing to sell and go hungry

Brewer

I am a brewer. We make the finest ale in town. The hops come up the river by barge from Kent, and the malt from Essex. We have our brewery near the river so that we can get the water for the beer with ease. No matter which way the wind blows, nobody can forget the breweries along the banks of the river.

Fisherman

I make my living out of fishing down Greenwich way. I use lines baited with maggots and raw meat strung out behind my boat. I catch whitebait and eels, and salmon too on a lucky day. I sell my catch to taverns in Greenwich, Deptford and Limehouse.

Tanner

I work as a tanner in Southwark. My job is to clean, scrape and prepare leather. We use a lot of river water mixed with oak tannin, to soak the skins until they are soft. There are many tanners along the banks of the Thames and the Fleet. Our job is a dirty and smelly one.

Gaoler

I'm a gaoler on one of the hulks moored in Bugsby's Reach. I guard the prisoners digging the canal across the Isle of Dogs. The prisoners get up at 5.30 am, wash the decks, stow their hammocks and go in longboats to their work. I search them for illegal goods when they return. Many are waiting for the boats to take them to Van Diemen's Land.

Fence

I live in a tenement at the end of Saviour's Dock right next to the glue factory. My 'family' of children give me my living. They're good at following sailors or merchants and 'borrowing' their pocket handkerchiefs. They scour the river banks for things to sell, and are very good at climbing through the tiny windows of warehouses.

Child Smuggler

I must be the smallest smuggler in Bermondsey. My job is to climb up anchor ropes with a knife in my mouth to cut ships loose. I am also very good at creeping between bars and through portholes. If I grow too fat I'll be no use to my master, so that's why he keeps me short of food.

Thief

I spend a lot of time standing in an alley near Prospect Stairs. This alley is right beside a spice warehouse. My friend passes goods through the window bars and I hide them in a large canvas bag. I can get a good price for pepper, cinnamon, ginger and cloves from another merchant who has a warehouse by the Tower.

Cardsharp

I look out for seamen just back from abroad, who look as if they could easily be parted from their gold. I work in the taverns in Bermondsey. My tools are just a pack of playing cards. Once I've caught a sailor, I don't let him go until his pockets are empty. You see I win every game. My friend on the other side of the table tells me all about the other cards using winks and nods.

Prisoner

I was sentenced six months ago for stealing a bolt of wool cloth from a lighter at Rotherhithe. I may be transported, but at the moment I am a prisoner on a hulk near Gravesend. The ship stinks, the food is rotten and the work (digging docks) very hard. Each day I curse the magistrate who sentenced me to this hell.

Dyer

I have worked as a dyer these twenty years. The dyeworks is close to the river bank in Shadwell. I used to carry water from the river to fill the dye vats, but now I have the lighter job of dipping the woollen cloth into boiling dye. Some herbs for dye colours come on wherries from East Anglia and indigo on East India Company ships. The cloth is brought by ships up the Thames.

Sailor

I have just returned on the "Tiger" from Jamaica. We brought back a cargo of raw molasses. We left the port of Bristol over nine months ago with a cargo of tinware for the Gold Coast. Most of the slaves we took to the West Indies survived. The weather was calm and the voyage a swift one. I've nearly spent my money so I'll be off to Labrador in a week or two.

Laundress

My arms are tired. I've spent the day at Wapping Stairs scrubbing linen shirts and shifts. I don't know why people want clean clothes in London. The coal smoke makes them dirty again in no time at all. Still if they didn't want to stay clean us laundresses would be out of a job. The Thames is none too clean nowadays so our work is more difficult. People still drink the water though so you ought to still be able to wash clothes in it.

Grain Merchant

My warehouse is close to Saviour's Dock and I wheel and deal in grain. You see, as a grain merchant, my job is buying grain and selling it to flour mills, horse keepers and cowkeepers. When trade is good, I make a healthy living, I can tell you. I keep a close eye on my porters and carters since they'd steal if I let them. I've got some tricks for giving short weight to my customers though.

Lighterman

As a lighterman I depend a lot on the tide. I know this river like the back of my hand. If you make a mistake you could be swept down to Gravesend. I carry goods from the ships anchored in the river to warehouses up and down the river. I'm trusted by the merchants so I often carry valuable cargo: rum, sugar, coffee and silk. I know the tides so well I can travel upstream to Brentford without raising my sail.

Carter

I have a hard life as a carter. I have to roll heavy barrels and move awkward bales on and off my cart. I like my horses though and they get the best oats and hay. If a barrel falls and bursts 'by accident', I usually get to take a bit of something home for my old missus.

Publican

I own the "Town of Ramsgate" in Wapping High St. It's a busy house. Fishermen from Kent & Essex unload their catches onto lighters just outside. I sell gin and beer to dock workers. This tavern has lodgings for seamen. I try to keep honest men and women in the house but rascals, thieves, and smugglers are all around.

Policeman

My job is dangerous. I patrol the river, and keep an eye out for thieves and smugglers. The Thames is packed with ships loaded with valuable goods. Every night (and during the day too) hundreds of pounds worth of goods are stolen. Without the river police it would be thousands. The ones we catch end up in Newgate or on the hulks downriver.

Shipbuilder

I work at Piper's Wharf. We are just small shipbuilders, but we make the best barges and wherries you will find on the Thames. Our barges carry goods from Suffolk, Norfolk or Essex. They bring barley malt for the breweries, hay and oats for horses and cows, and fish to sell at Billingsgate. One wherry always brings fresh oysters from Colchester and Orford.

Water Carrier

Many Londoners depend on me for their water. I collect it from the conduits supplied by the waterworks at London Bridge, and carry it in wooden buckets to my regular customers. We carry the buckets on a yoke, so us watercarriers need wide shoulders as well as strong legs.

Shopkeeper

I keep a small shop in Three Colts Lane near Limehouse church. I sell tobacco and food to dockers and the seamen who lodge around this area. When they have just returned from long voyages the sailors have plenty to spend in my shop. Their money soon runs out though, and then they will pawn their clothes for a chew of tobacco or a bottle of gin.

Porter

I work as a porter in a warehouse. I stack the goods that have come from all over the world. My master is a sugar merchant so I work hard rolling barrels of rum and molasses from the ships into the warehouse, and then from the warehouse into waiting carts. Plenty of others are after my job so I have to work very hard to keep it

Ferryman

I have been a ferryman for eight and twenty years. I was bound apprentice for seven years with no money, just my keep and my clothes. I went to sea for a spell. I then returned and bought a boat for 28 guineas. My licence cost £4. There isn't so much work for us as there used to be. And they will be building more bridges across the river.

Warehouse Keeper

I am in charge of a large cotton warehouse in Wapping. It is full of bales of cotton cloth from India and the East. As warehouse keeper it is my job to make certain that goods don't disappear. My master is always accusing me of pilferage, but if he wants me to be more honest he should pay better wages.

Executioner

My name is John Hopper and I am the Common Executioner. Only yesterday I hung three pirates from the same gibbet on the Isle of Dogs. I receive little pay but often agents come from the hospitals to buy the bodies. I also whip those sentenced by the courts. The public come to watch so I do my duty well and give them good entertainment.

Ropemaker

Some say there are a hundred ropewalks between London Bridge and the Royal Dockyard in Deptford. You need strong arms to work in one and you are out of doors all the time. I turn the wheel that twists the strands of hemp into thick ropes for a ship's rigging. When you think how many yards of rope there are on every ship, us ropeworkers will never be short of work.

Carpenter

I work as a carpenter in the Royal Dockyard. We build the frigates and men of war that put fear into the Spanish and French. Henry VIII started the dockyard. The timber is brought up river from the Sussex and Hampshire forests. Ropes, tar, sails and cannon are all made between here and London Bridge. We make some of the finest ships in the navy.

Caulker

I work in a dry dock. I used to repair the rigging on ships, but I'm too old to go leaping around in the sky. I spend most of the time scraping the barnacles off the ships' bottoms and caulking the gaps between the boards, so that the ships are watertight. Ships that I work on have been all over the world: Africa, India and the Americas.

Shipowner

I come from a wealthy family, and I have decided to invest money by becoming a ship owner. I have two fast clippers and merchants are pleased to hire them to transport tea and silk from India. I provide a reliable crew and get a share of the profits of course