

Out of Nelson's Shadow activity pack

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This activity pack complements the book 'Out of Nelson's Shadow' available from Guernsey Museums & Galleries price £4.99.

The activities relate to the naval career of Guernseyman James Saumarez (1757-1836) who served with Admiral Lord Nelson. He had a major role in the success of the British Navy in the days when Britannia really did rule the waves.

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James Saumarez

a naval career

James de Saumarez was born in Guernsey on March 11th 1757.

He had two uncles who had been in the navy, Thomas and Philip. Philip was famous for helping to capture a Spanish treasure ship on Admiral Anson's Round the World Voyage from 1740-1744. The treasure he brought back was worth over a million pounds but it was a terrible voyage with only one of the 7 ships and 145 men out of the crew of 1,936 returning.

NB This story is told in 'The Greatest Treasure' price £2.95 available from Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery, www.museums.gov.gg

James was 'entered on the books' of a ship when he was 10 and he sailed on his first ship HMS Montreal when he was 12. England and France were enemies so he dropped the 'de' in his name, just as his two uncles had done, so that he would sound less French.

In 1770 James was made a Midshipman and in 1775 when he joined the Bristol (50) he became an acting – lieutenant.

NB The numbers in brackets tell us how many guns the ship carried. A 50 gun ship would not want to fight a 100 gun ship!

In 1776 James sailed to America. The Americans wanted to be independent of Britain and the navy was helping to protect British interests there. He had a narrow escape when his gun crew received a direct hit during a battle at Fort Sullivan. He was the only one of the 8 to survive.

In 1778 he was given command of a small ship HMS Spitfire. But when the French joined the war on the side of the Americans, the ship was destroyed to stop it falling into enemy hands. In 1779 he came back to Guernsey and became third lieutenant of HMS Victory(100).

NB This was the same ship that Nelson commanded at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

In 1781 James Saumarez was involved in the Battle of Dogger Bank against the Dutch who also supported America. The battle was drawn and James played a brave part. Afterwards James was presented to the King of England, George III.



Master and Commander

James was promoted to be 'master and commander' of HMS Tisiphone (20) and he captured a French 36 gun ship. This made him popular with his crew as they got a share in money gained from taking the captured ship or 'prize'.

NB Taking a 'prize' was the only way that sailors could make some extra money. Their regular pay was dreadful - only 7 shillings a week in 1797, (about 35p in today's money.)

He sailed to the West Indies in HMS Tisiphone and was given the command of HMS Russell (74) and was made Post - Captain.

Peace

James returned to Guernsey when peace was made with France. He married Martha le Marchant and they eventually had 8 children. He visited King Louis XVI of France (who got his head chopped off a few years later in the French Revolution) and Prince William Henry of England came to dinner.

At War Again

In 1793 war broke out again with France. James Saumarez was given command of HMS Crescent (36). Many of his old crew joined up with him again. In October Crescent captured a French frigate 'Reunion' (36). James lost none of his crew in the battle and was rewarded with a knighthood by the King - so he became Sir James Saumarez.

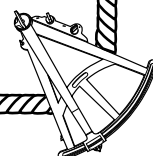
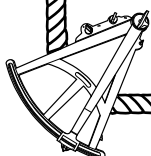
Sir James and his squadron spent their time in the English Channel giving protection and blockading French ports to stop the French ships from going anywhere.

Crisis at Cobo!

In one really exciting encounter, Sir James managed to get his ships away from a larger French squadron with the help of Guernsey man Jean Breton. The position seemed hopeless. However, Jean Breton was a pilot used to guiding ships around the treacherous rocks off the west coast of Guernsey. He and Sir James took a tremendous risk and steered their ships between the rocks - the French couldn't follow and the British squadron escaped - this action possibly saved Guernsey from invasion!

By the side of Nelson

In June 1795 Sir James was given command of a line-of-battle-ship HMS Orion (74).



In 1797 Orion and Sir James were sent to Cape St Vincent off Portugal. Horatio Nelson was commanding HMS Captain (74). Sir James almost captured the 'Santissima Trinidad' (136) a fantastic prize - but just as she surrendered Sir James and the Orion were called away to help Nelson's ship and the prize slipped away. This was a great disappointment. The British won the battle and Nelson was highly honoured. Sir James had to make do with a gold medal.

The Battle of the Nile

This time Sir James was under the direct command of Nelson and became one of Nelson's 'Band of Brothers' - that is, captains who worked with Nelson to plan battles. On August 1st 1798 there was a great victory off Aboukir Bay at the mouth of the Nile. Sir James was effectively second - in - command and should have been honoured as such but Nelson decided not to make it official so poor Sir James just got another gold medal.

He returned to England and was given command of HMS Caesar (84). Some of his crew continued to follow him and they spent their time blockading the French. Then in 1801 Sir James received orders to go to Cadiz where he was involved in the battle of Algeciras against the French and their allies the Spanish. This time Sir James' success was rewarded and he received the Order of the Bath, a prize sword and a silver vase.

Napoleon

In 1803 Sir James and his squadron were up against Napoleon Bonaparte who was determined to build himself and the French a huge Empire. Napoleon gathered his Grande Armée on the north coast of France. He threatened to invade England. Sir James was based in Guernsey in charge of the Channel Islands Squadron. He was able to work with Lieutenant General John Doyle who built Martello Towers such as Fort Grey to strengthen Guernsey's defences.

Then, in 1805, Nelson had a major victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. Sadly, he died in the battle - shot in the spine. His last words were '*Thank God I have done my duty*' and '*Anchor anchor!*' (There was a storm brewing). This battle damaged the French navy really badly and the threat to England was over. However, Napoleon and his Russian ally controlled many countries that the navy depended on for supplies to build and maintain their ships. These Baltic States, such as Sweden, and what is today Latvia, and Estonia, were put under pressure not to supply Britain. This could have been a disaster for the navy.



Sir James to the rescue

By now Sir James was second - in - command of the Channel fleet and he soon found himself sailing for the Baltic. Sir James had to use all his diplomatic skills to keep the supply lines open. He succeeded and Sweden still honours him today.

By 1812 the war was turning against Napoleon and Sir James returned to Guernsey and was created Admiral of the Blue in 1814.

NB Blue, Red and White were squadrons of the fleet.

He helped the island by giving land and £1000 to build St James Church, putting money into parish schools such as Castel and St Andrews; supporting education generally and helping the poor. He was a member of the Reform Group which gave money to seamen's wives whose husbands were DD (Discharged, Dead) - so they weren't left penniless.

In 1827 he 'Struck his Flag' (retired from the navy) and finally in 1831, he was made Lord de Saumarez. (He had waited a long time for this honour which he might have expected a lot earlier).

Lord de Saumarez (now he was retired he could bring the 'de' back into his name) died in Guernsey on October 9th 1836 and is buried in the Castel parish churchyard.

In 1860 a statue of Sir James Saumarez was made by J Steele of Edinburgh. This is on display in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.

He was described by one of his friends, Sir William Hotham
'In his person tall, and having the remains of a handsome man, rather formal and ceremonious in his manner but without the least tincture of affectation or pride....more than ordinarily attentive to his duty to God; but with the meekness of Christianity, having the boldness of a lion whenever a sense of duty brings it into action'



6

Colour the picture.....

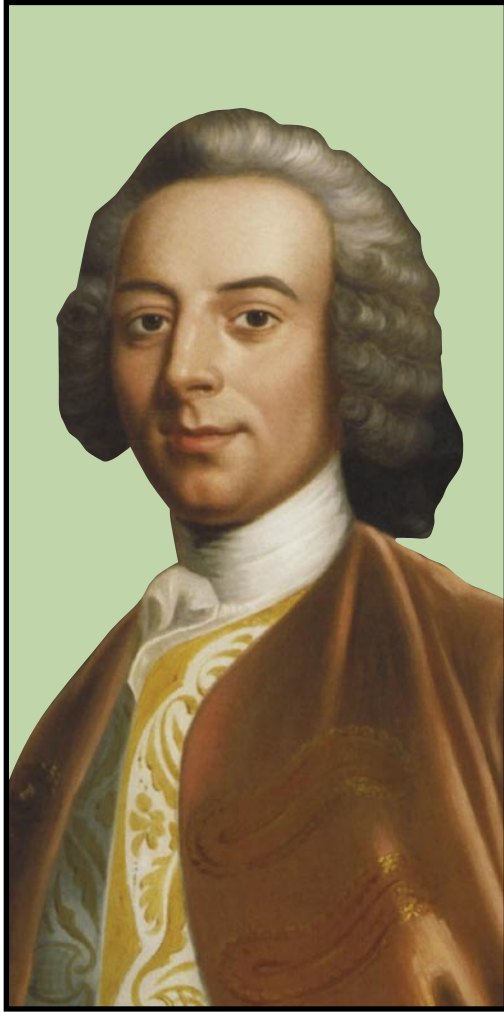


Colour the picture of James Saumarez by copying from the portrait.



Design a uniform.....

7



Philip Saumarez was James Saumarez' uncle. He designed the blue coat which eventually became the naval uniform.

Design your own naval uniform
in the box



'Ladder of promotion'

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

Both James Saumarez and Horatio Nelson began their naval careers when they were 'entered on the books'.

Use the 'Ladder of Promotion' to fill in the following titles in order of importance starting with the most junior.

Vice-Admiral

Master & Commander

Midshipman

Captain

Lieutenant

'Entered on the Books'

Admiral

Acting Lieutenant

Rear Admiral

Commodore

enter the most junior title here

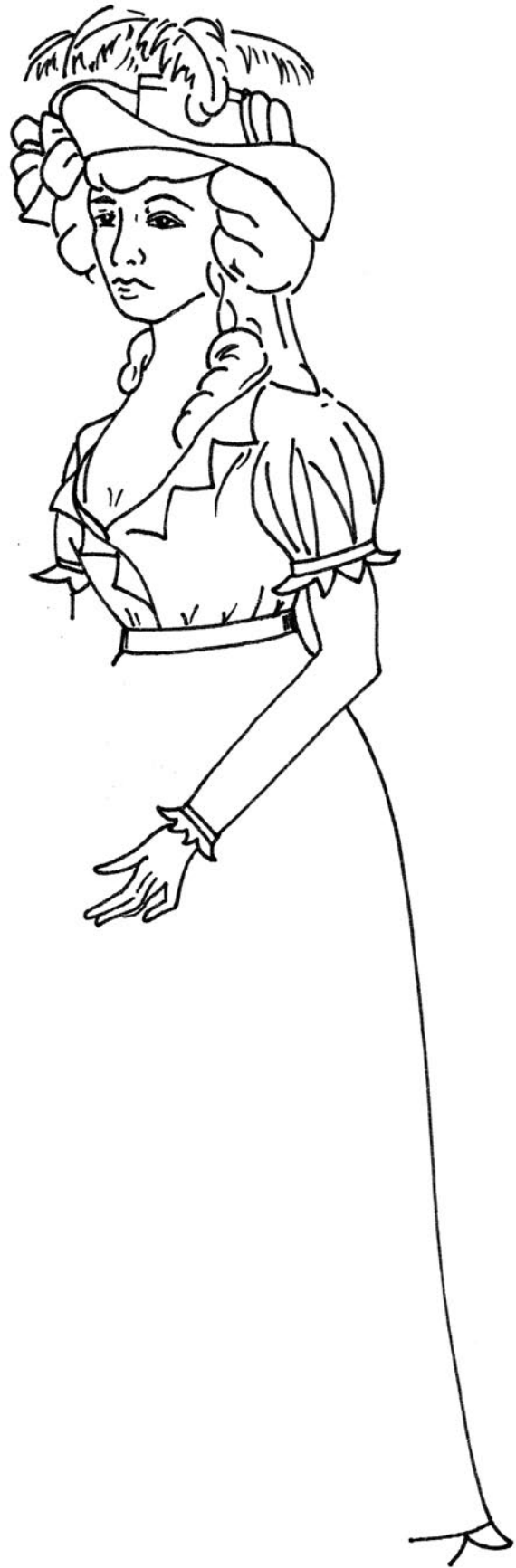


Finish the drawing.....

9

James Saumarez married
Martha le Marchant in 1778.
James and Martha had 8
children.

Finish drawing Martha and
some of her children and
colour her in.



Command of the 'Caesar'

Sir James Saumarez was given command of HMS Caesar in 1799.

The Caesar had 84 Guns. Under Sir James' command it helped to blockade Brest and fought the French and the Spanish at Algeciras.

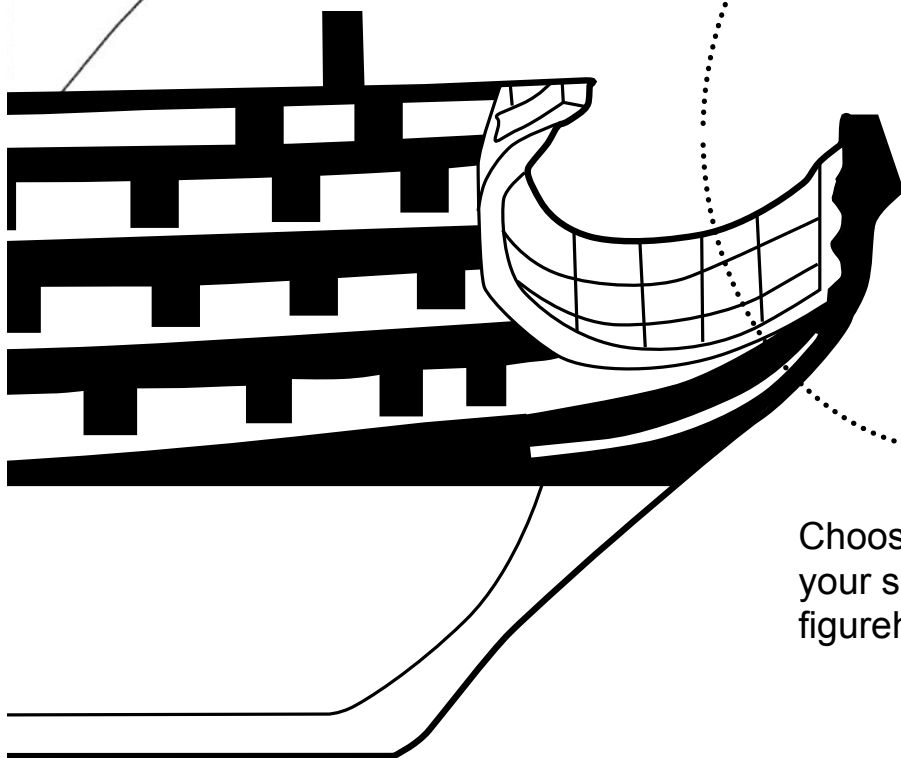
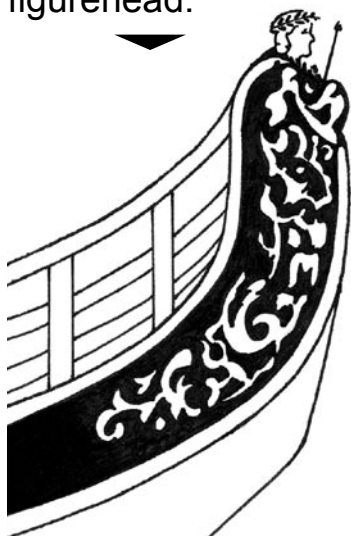
Colour in HMS Caesar and add the battle scene.



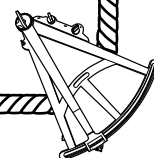
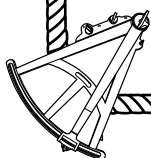
Figureheads.....

The crews were very proud of their ships and beautifully carved figureheads were placed at the prow (front) of the ship.

HMS Caesar had a gold Roman Emperor for its figurehead.



Choose a name for your ship and design a figurehead for it.



Life at sea.....

Men joined the navy because it gave a steady wage and there was the chance of a 'Prize'. When your ship captured one of the enemy ships everyone got a share of the 'Prize' which could be anything from the price of a drink to enough to buy a pub.

The navy always needed more men during wartime so they would 'press gang' men. A lot of these were 'Landsmen' who were not skilled in sailing ships.

Many of the men on a warship were trained to be gunners. Experienced sailors (able seamen) sailed the ship. Ropemakers, carpenters, cooks and surgeons also served aboard. Officers started their training as midshipmen learning navigation, tactics and sailing skills. Ships also carried Marines who were sailors at sea.

A ship-of-the-line could be made ready for battle in about 10 minutes with everything that wasn't needed stowed away in the hold or thrown overboard. This was called 'clearing for action'. A good British gun crew could reload in ninety seconds – twice as fast as the French.

Discipline was strict and the cat o' nine tails was used by some commanders more than others. It was important for the crew to be fit and ready to fight and to work as a team.

Food was dull and often full of weevils and maggots but each man had a gallon of beer or watered down rum a day. Sailors didn't get many green vegetables so they often suffered scurvy. This was an awful disease which made your body rot and your mind go delirious. On Philip Saumarez' voyage with Anson (1740-1744) 1,976 crew in 7 ships sailed out but only 145 men returned. Many of them died of scurvy. However, by the 1800s fruits such as lemons and limes were shown to prevent scurvy and British sailors were sometimes nicknamed 'limeys'.

Colour the men on the opposite page and write their titles in the boxes.

Powder monkey

Sailor

Officer

Marine



Colour the crew.....

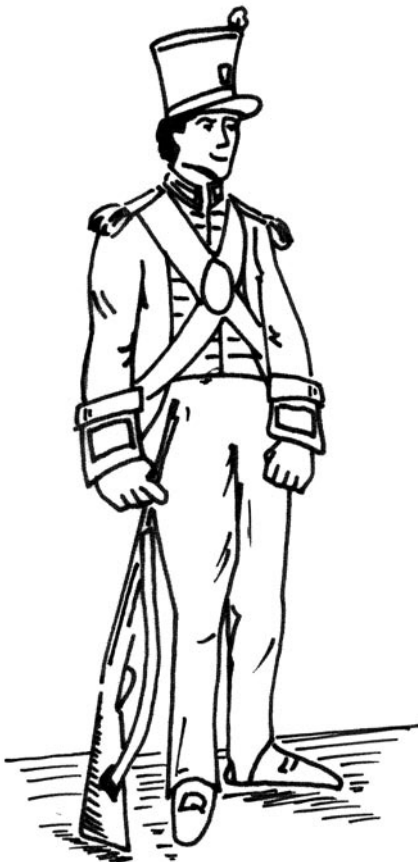
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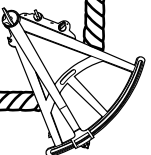
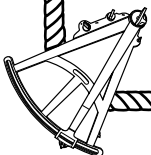
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Cannons and cannon balls.....

Ships' cannons fired cannon balls which were different weights. The cannon balls were weighed in pounds (lbs). The heavy cannon balls were used to smash other ships, the light ones to damage masts and sails.

Most gun crews had 6 men. A 'powder monkey' ran back and forth from the powder supply with gunpowder for the cannons. This was often a lad of 9 or 10 years old. A 74 Gun ship like 'Orion' which Saumarez commanded at the Battle of St Vincent would use a lot of cannon balls.

- ❓ What would be the total weight of cannon balls if all 74 guns were fired at once:

28 x 32 pounders

28 x 24 pounders

18 x 9 pounders

TOTAL lbs

- ❓ Can you convert the total weight in lbs to Kilograms (kgs)
1 kg = 2.2 lbs

ANSWER kgs

'Orion' had 475 crew members at the Battle of St Vincent.

- ❓ How many gunners were needed if all 74 guns were fired at the same time? (including the powder monkey).

TOTAL gunners

- ❓ How many of the officers and crew would be left to sail the ship and see to the wounded?

TOTAL

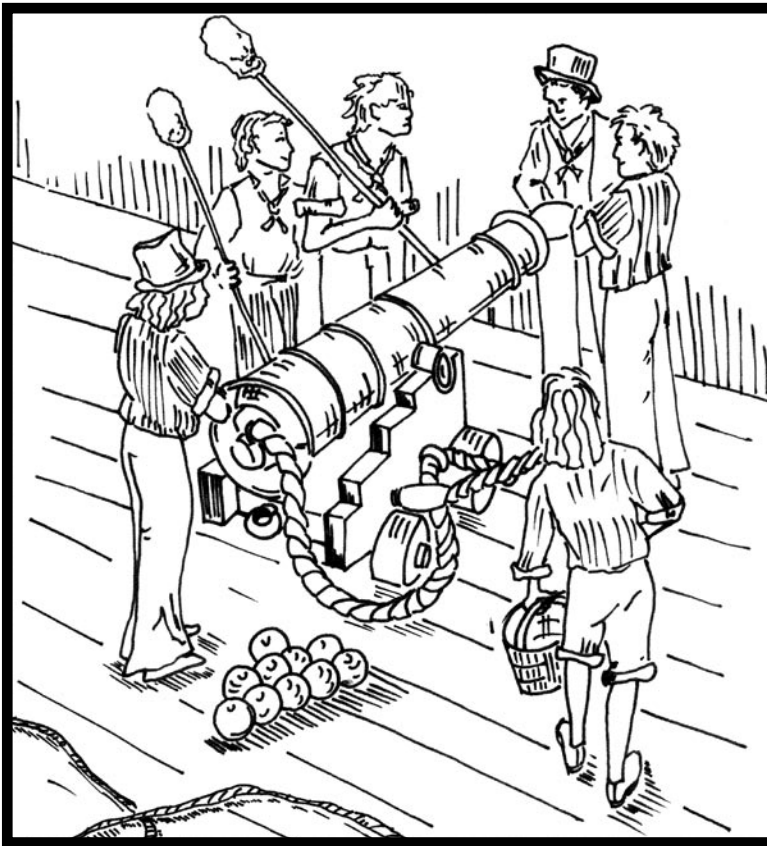
- ❓ Do you think all the guns would be fired at once?

YES or NO

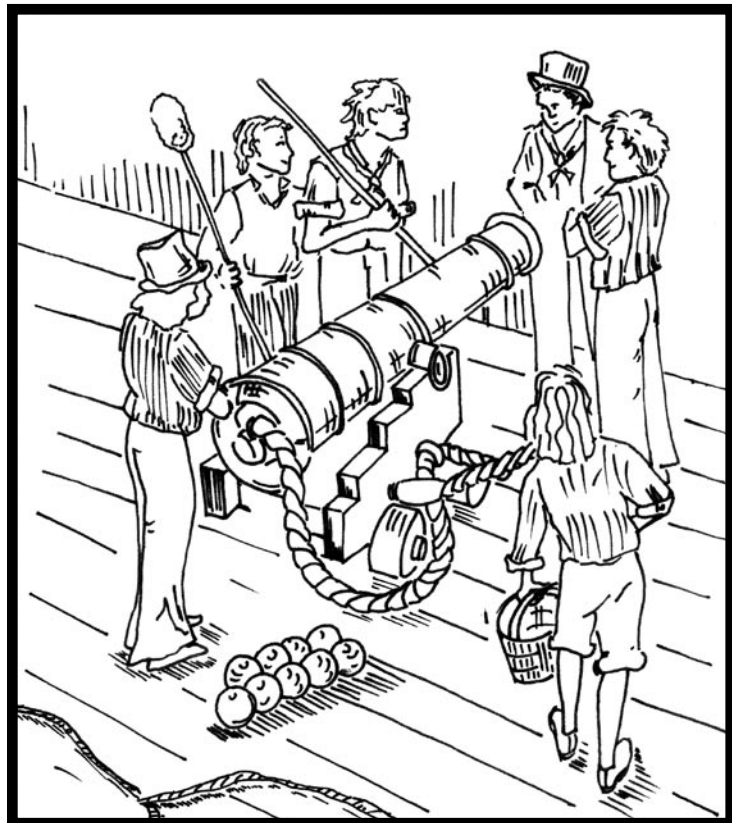


Spot the difference.....

15



These two gun crews are ready for battle but there are 10 differences between them. Can you spot them?

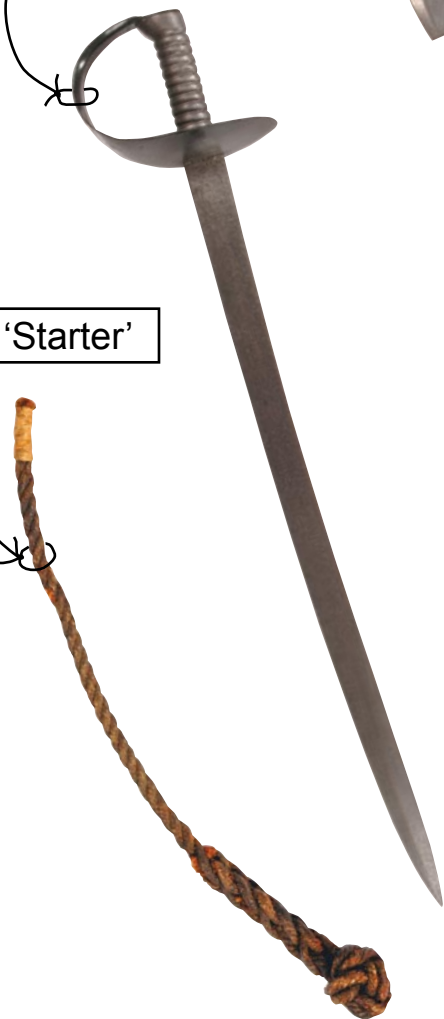


Weapons and punishment.....

The book 'OUT OF NELSON'S SHADOW' can help you match these items to their owners.

(Available from Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery and bookshops)

● Naval cutlass



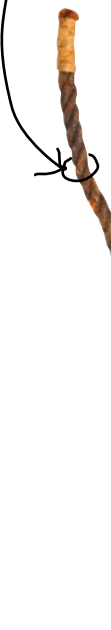
● Boarding axe



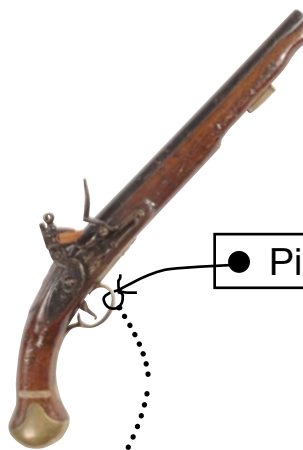
● Dress sword



● 'Starter'



● Pistol



Draw a line to connect the item with the correct person.
The first one is done for you

● **Sailor**

● **Bosun**

● **Admiral**



Jigsaw puzzle.....

17

Cut out and piece together the jigsaw below to make a picture of Saumarez and his crew on the Bristol during the attack on Fort Sullivan

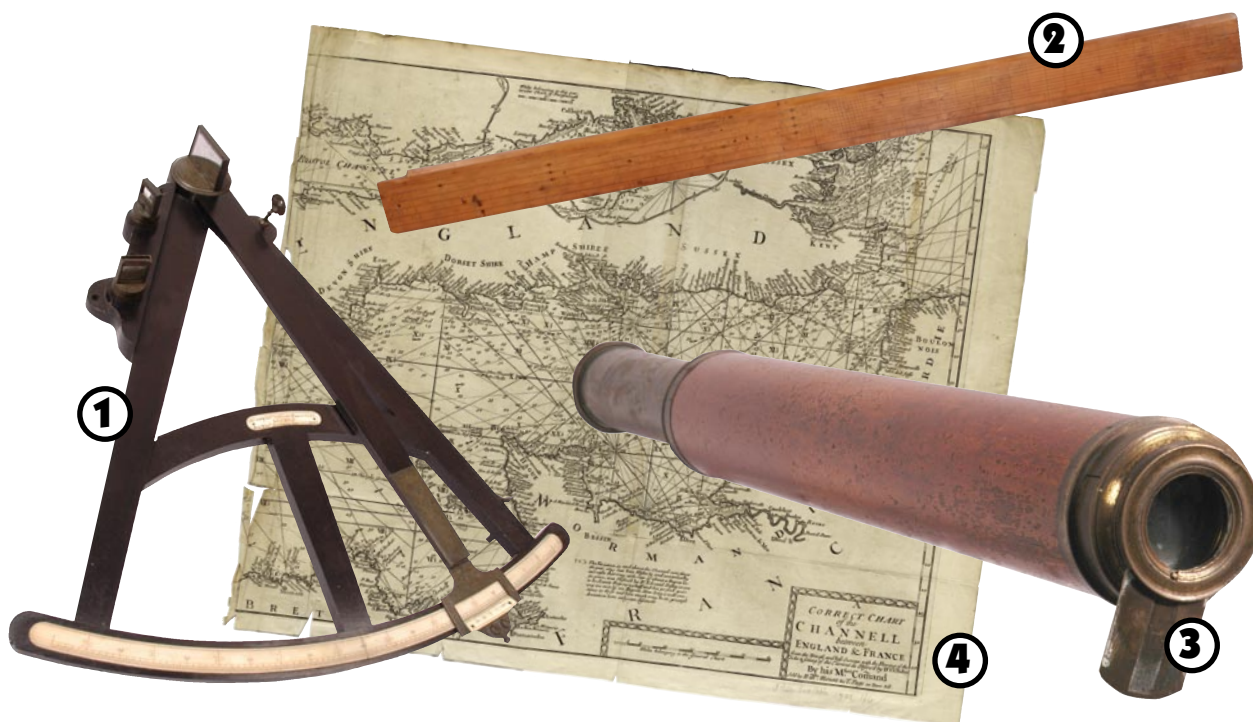




Training to be an officer

19

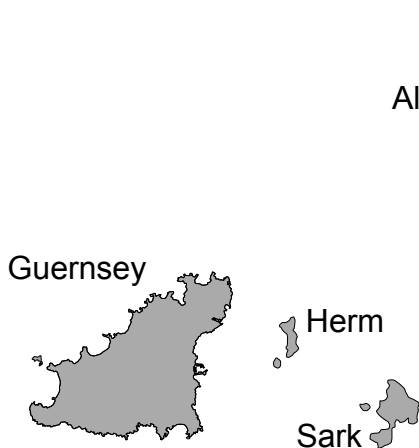
Officers need to know how to find the way when at sea. They used instruments like these:



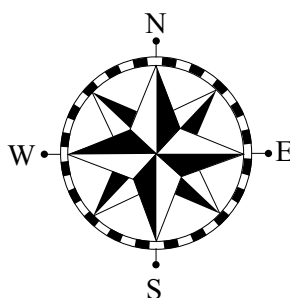
① Place the instrument numbers alongside their correct names:
octant telescope chart chart ruler

② Can you find out how they work?

③ What "M" is the scientific thing a telescope does?

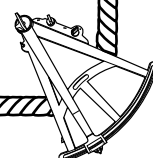
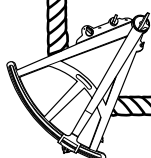


Alderney



Use this map and the compass below to work out which direction you would travel in to get from:

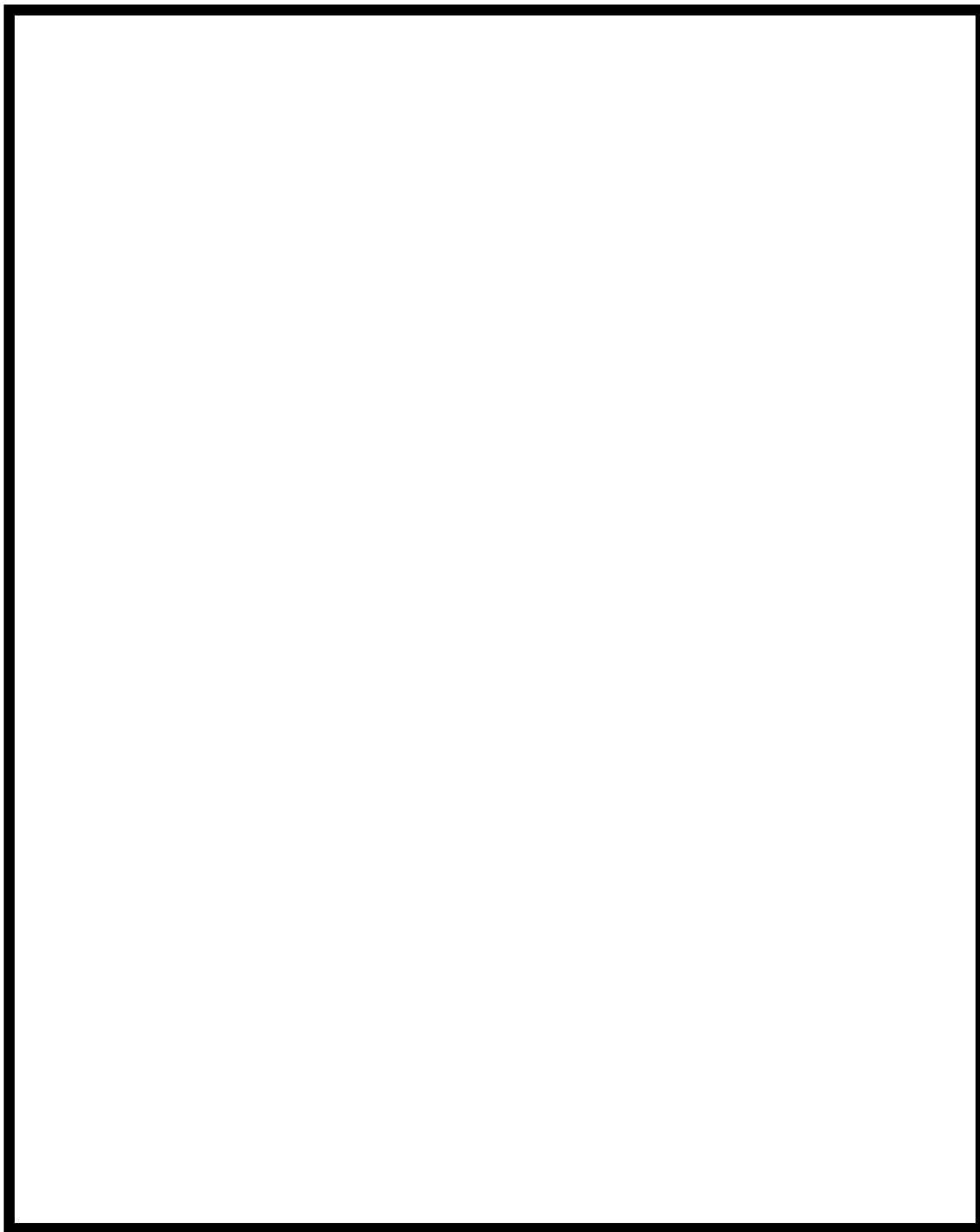
Guernsey to Alderney
Guernsey to Sark
Herm to Sark
Alderney to Herm



Design a poster

Saumarez and Nelson were at the Battle of the Nile in 1798

Imagine that you have made a film of 'The Battle of the Nile'
Design a poster for your film below:



Flag signals.....

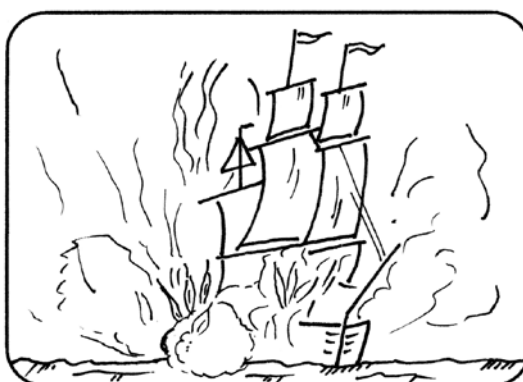
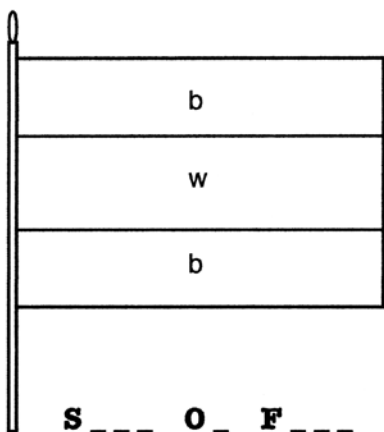
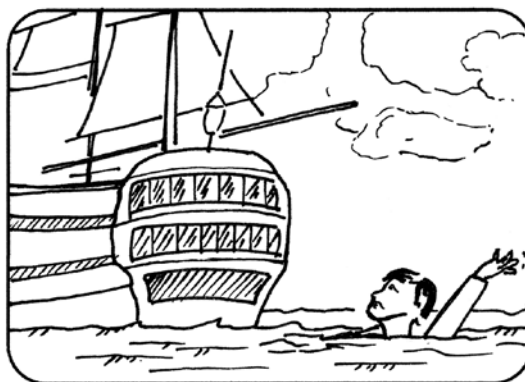
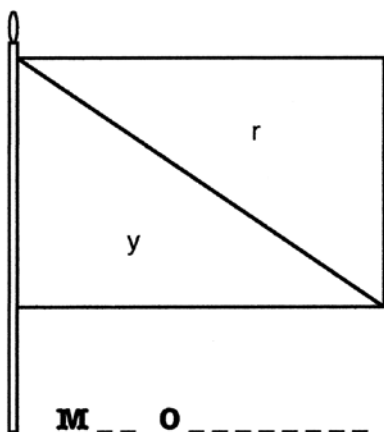
Ships in battle used flags to signal messages to each other.

Nelson used these flags to spell out the message
'England expects that every man will do his duty' at Trafalgar in 1805.

Some Flags had a special meaning.

Colour in the flags and add in the missing letters to find the message.

Use the pictures alongside to help you



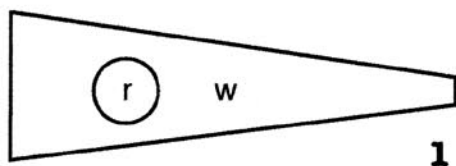
key: y = yellow r = red b = blue



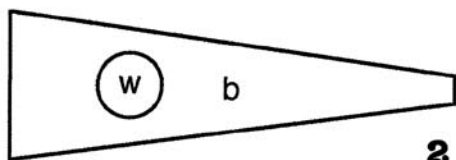
Flag signals.....

Flags were used for numbers too.

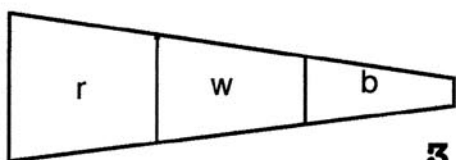
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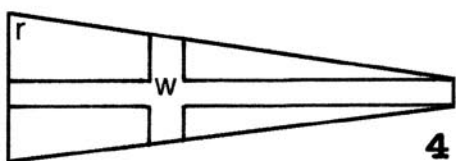
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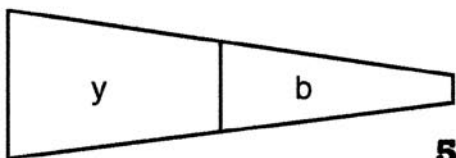
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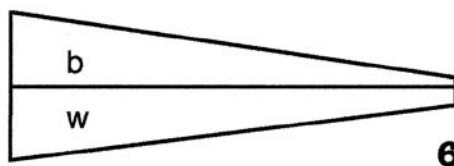
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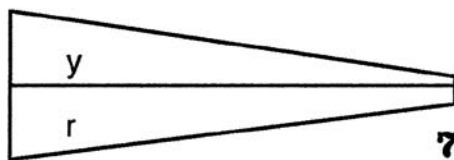
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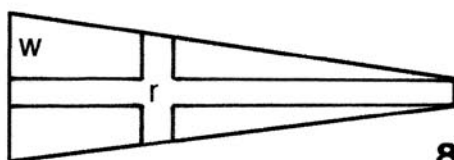
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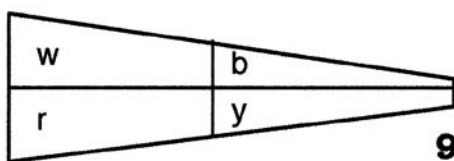
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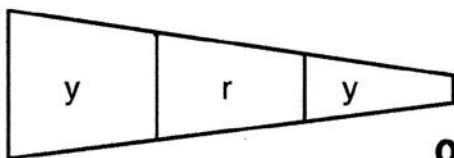
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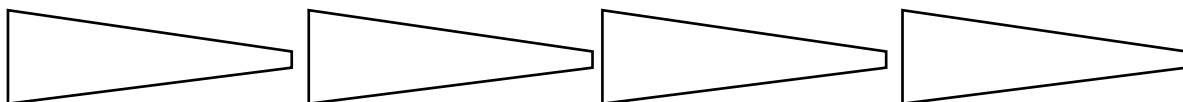


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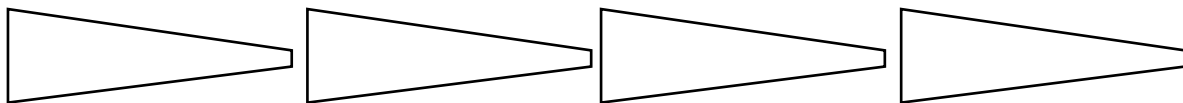


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Colour flags in the right order to show :
The year of the Battle of Trafalgar.



The year that you were born.



Women at sea.....

The Naval Muster Books which recorded the information on the men who served on each ship didn't mention many women. We know that a few did serve on ships, sometimes with their husbands but sometimes disguised as men.

Cut out and dress this Lady Tar as a seaman—does she look the part?





Saumarez and Nelson

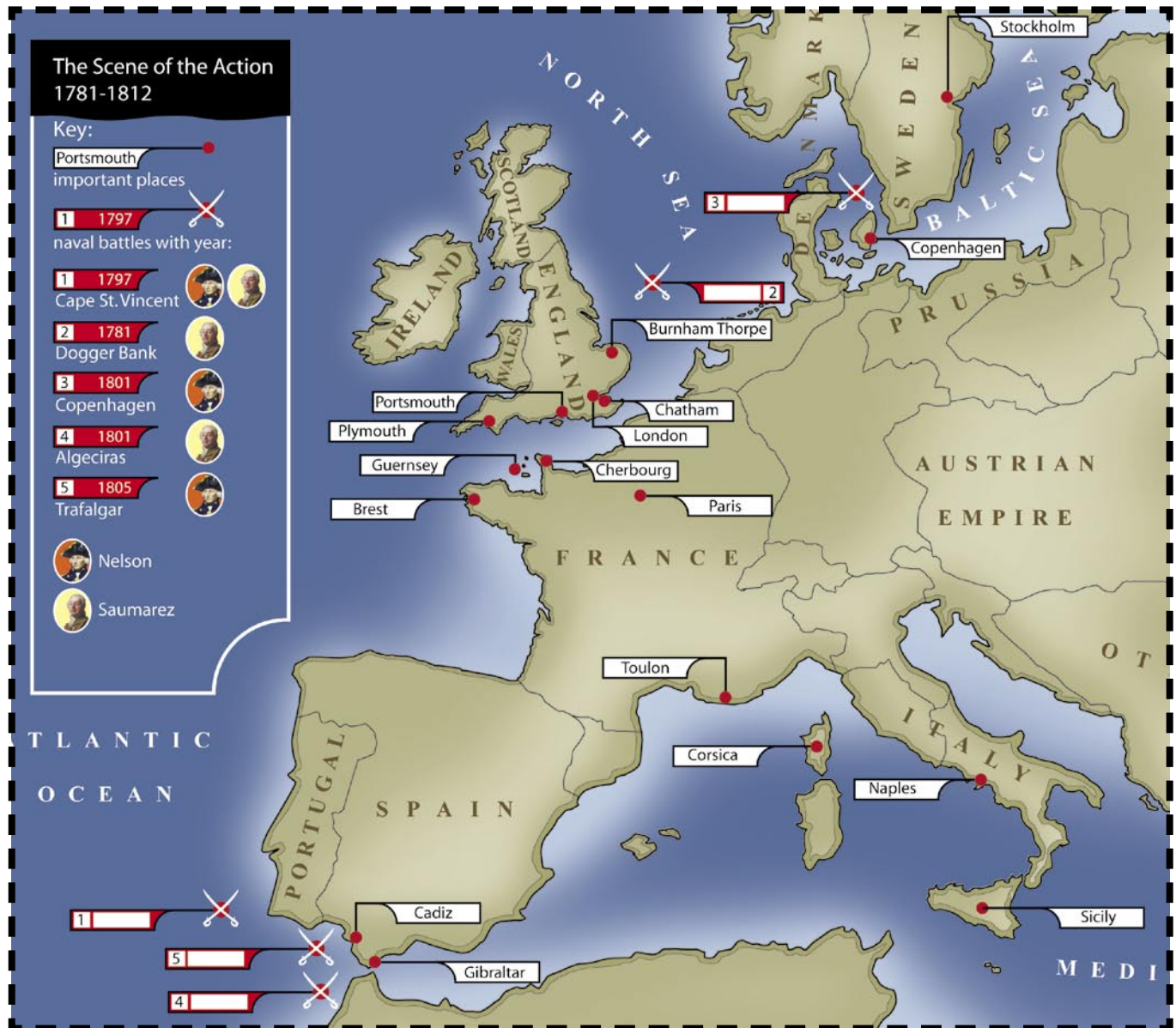
battles across the seas

Use the key to find the missing years for each of the battles marked by crossed swords.



Who was involved in the battles?

Colour the swords: Blue for Nelson, Red for Saumarez and Blue and Red for both of them.



The Battle of Trafalgar took place near which country?

England



Denmark



Spain



Egypt



Wordsearch

Can you find the following words amongst all of these jumbled letters

Nelson
Saumarez
Midshipman
Algeciras
Nile
Baltic
Flagship
Admiral

Commander
Figurehead
Sails
Sextant
Map
Trafalgar
Blockade
Orion

Caesar
Victory
Guernsey
Martha
Ship
Weevil
Prow

E	N	O	I	R	O	M	R	S	D	S	Y	Z	D
T	D	A	D	M	I	R	A	L	A	A	C	M	A
C	R	A	M	B	D	R	S	P	E	U	R	Q	P
C	W	A	K	P	I	K	E	L	H	M	V	F	I
T	I	E	F	C	I	N	A	S	E	A	Y	N	H
S	C	T	E	A	O	H	C	B	R	R	E	U	S
N	E	G	L	V	L	L	S	M	U	E	S	P	Y
Z	L	X	Y	A	I	G	B	D	G	Z	N	V	D
A	W	J	T	S	B	L	A	Y	I	O	R	I	Y
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	R	F	M	E	C	S
P	R	O	W	N	N	B	Q	L	S	H	U	T	A
N	O	S	L	E	N	T	U	P	I	L	G	O	I
O	A	H	Q	M	A	R	T	H	A	N	O	R	L
P	I	H	S	G	A	L	F	L	V	X	J	Y	S



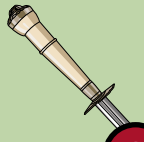
An Admirable career.....

Use a dice and some markers to see who will become an Admiral first.

START

'entered
on the books'
place your
counter
here

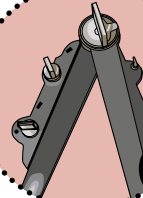
1



2

Promoted
to Midshipman
—
move on one
square

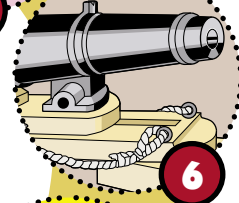
3



4

Promoted
to Lieutenant
—
move on one
square

5



6

Promoted
to Captain
—
move on one
square

11



10

Escape
the French off
Guernsey
—
move on one
square

9



8

Wounded
in action
—
miss a turn

7



12

At home
in Guernsey
—
go back one
square

13

Command
a line —of—
battle ship
—
Take an extra
turn

14

Win the
Battle of the
Nile with Nelson
—
move on one
square

15



16

Blockading
the French
—
miss a turn

17



18

Honoured
for protecting
trade in the
Baltic
—
take an extra
turn.

23



24

Becalmed
—
miss a turn

25

Promoted
to Rear Admiral
—
move on two
squares

22

Order
a punishment
—
go back one
square

19

FINISH

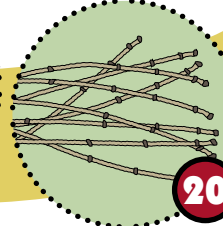
Promoted to
Admiral
—
you must get the exact
number to land here!

26

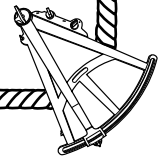


Death of
Lord Nelson at
Trafalgar
—
miss a turn

21



20



Answers

Page 8. Ladder of Promotion

10	Admiral
9	Vice-Admiral
8	Rear-Admiral
7	Commodore
6	Captain
5	Master & Commander
4	Lieutenant
3	Acting Lieutenant
2	Midshipman
1	'Entered on the Books'

Page 14. Cannon Balls

Total weight 1730lbs
 786 kgs (to the nearest 10)
 518 needed to man all the guns
 Only 475 crew on the 'Orion' so unlikely!!

Page 16. Weapons and punishment

Sailor- Boarding axe, Naval cutlass, Pistol
 Bosun- Starter
 Admiral Saumarez- Dress Sword

Page 19. Training to be an Officer

octant 1 chart ruler 2 telescope 3 chart 4
 "M" is for magnify
 directions:
 G to A is North East
 G to S is East
 H to S is South East
 A to H is South West

Page 21. Flag Signal

Man Overboard
 Ship on Fire

Page 25. Battles

Spain

Lynne Ashton (Heritage Services Education Department)
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