

## **Sea and Learn – Lesson Plan: A Letter from a Shipmate**

**Key Stage:** Three

**National Curriculum Links:** En3 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e; 2a, 2b, 2c; 3; 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e; 5a, 5b, 5c; 6; 7c, 7d; 9a

**Main Subject Focus:** English

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Children will:

- Know that different things contribute to our identity.
- Be able to use their imagination to consider and write about other people's experiences.
- Know that Nelson's fleet consisted of many ethnic groups.
- Be able to write a letter using the correct conventions.
- Be able to use paragraphs correctly.

### **Resources Required:**

- Selection of sailors' muster records from the British fleet at Trafalgar
- Worksheet 1

### **Lesson Outline:**

1. Begin by looking briefly at the muster records from the British fleet at Trafalgar and discussing the men who took part in the battle.
2. Now ask your children to select two of these men from the muster records and ask them to imagine that they are one of them (Sailor Number One). They should imagine the second man is their friend onboard the ship.
3. Give each child Worksheet 1 as a tool to help them compile some information about each of the two men. Explain that they should give each sailor a job and rank onboard the ship; they should also describe their appearance and give information about their family (location, number, reason why they are at sea). And finally, they should describe the character traits of each sailor. You may wish to model this for less able pupils.
4. Once they have completed Worksheet 1, they can begin to draft a letter from the point of view of sailor number two (your friend) who has witnessed the sad death of sailor number one, in the Battle of Trafalgar. The letter is to be sent to the family of sailor number one. Once again, you may wish to model this to remind children about the correct conventions for letter writing, appropriate paragraphing and style of writing etc.
5. Remind children to use the correct terminology for parts of a ship, e.g. rigging, forecastle (pronounced fo'c'sle), hold etc. (See glossary in Teacher's Notes) and to use non-fiction sources to help with this aspect of the letter.
6. Completed letters should be posted on a display board for others to read.

**Extension/Homework Ideas:**

- Ask children to write a second letter from the family of sailor number one in reply, to sailor number two.
- Ask children to draw a picture to illustrate the battle onboard at the time. Remind children about the use of art as a historical source and how it was used to record periods of history before the use of cameras.

## **Sea and Learn – Teacher’s Notes (1)**

### Glossary of Terms:

Abaft	Toward the rear (stern) of the boat.
Amidships	In or toward the centre of the boat.
‘Avast’	‘Stop!’
Batten Down	Secure hatches and loose objects both within the hull and on deck.
Binnacle	A kind of box to contain the compasses upon the deck.
Bow	The forward part of a boat.
Bowsprit	A spar, extending forward from the stem of a ship, to which the stays of the foremast are fastened.
Broadside	A discharge of all the guns on one side of a ship both above and below.
Cables	Thick heavy rope
Capsize	To turn over.
Capstan	An instrument of great mechanical power, by which the anchor is weighed out of the ground. This would have been turned by a group of men using sea shanties to help them, during the Battle of Trafalgar.
Ensign	The flag worn at the stern of a ship. A national, naval flag.
Forecastle	The upper deck in the fore part of the ship.
Gun-Deck	Containing the guns (cannons) to use on the enemy.
Gun-Room	A division of the lower deck, abaft, enclosed with network, for the use of the gunner and junior lieutenant, and in which their cabins stand.
Halyards	The ropes by which the sails are hoisted, as the topsail halyards, the jib halyards, &c.
Hand-over-hand	The pulling of any rope, by men passing their hands alternately one before the other, or one above another.
Helm	The instrument by which the ship is steered, and includes both the wheel and the tiller, as one general term.
Hold	A compartment below deck in a large vessel, used solely for carrying cargo and stores
Hull of the ship (To hull a ship)	The body of it. To fire cannon-balls into the hull of a ship.
Look-out	A watchful attention to some important object or event that is expected to arise. Thus persons on board of a ship are occasionally stationed to look out for signals, other ships, land.
Magazine	A place where gunpowder is kept.
Monkey-jacket	A short, usually red jacket worn by midshipmen.
Muster	To assemble.
Orlop Deck	The lowest deck on which the cables are stowed and where junior officers quarters are situated. Used by the surgeon during battle to operate on wounded crew members.
Overboard	Over the side or out of the boat.
Port	The left side of a boat looking forward.

## **Sea and Learn – Teacher’s Notes (2)**

### Glossary of Terms continued:

Ports	The holes in the ship's sides from which the guns are fired.
Quarters	The several stations of a ship's crew in time of action.
Rigging	The arrangement of masts, spars and sails on a sailing vessel.
Rudder	A vertical plate or board for steering a boat.
Ship shape	Doing anything in a sailor-like manner.
Starboard	The right side of a boat when looking forward.
Under bare poles	When a ship has no sail set.

### Useful Websites:

[www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk) – and follow links to the Search Station by going to 'Learning', 'Online Resources', 'Search Station' and then click on the Search Station logo. Go to 'Nelson' and 'Life on board'

[www.ageofnelson.org/TrafalgarRoll](http://www.ageofnelson.org/TrafalgarRoll)

[www.psych.su.oz.au/vbb/woronora/maritime/Welcome.html](http://www.psych.su.oz.au/vbb/woronora/maritime/Welcome.html) - some interesting information and a more detailed glossary

### **The Ayshford Complete Trafalgar Roll**

Pam and Derek Ayshford have collected vast amounts of information over many years on the Seamen and Marines on board the British ships at the Battle of Trafalgar. The entire contents of the Roll can be purchased on CD from [www.ageofnelson.org/TrafalgarRoll](http://www.ageofnelson.org/TrafalgarRoll). The CD allows you to explore and analyse this incredible data in much greater detail.

### **The Royal Naval Museum, HM Dockyard, Portsmouth**







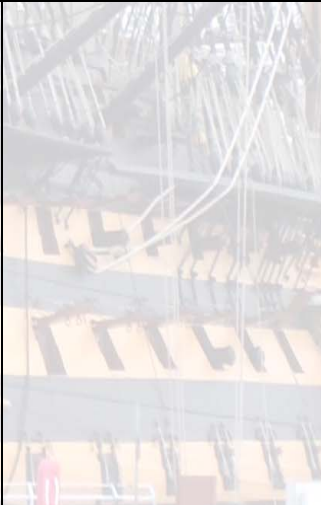

From 5th May 2005 visitors to the Victory Gallery will be able to search our new installation '**Who Was at Trafalgar?**' This brings together two fantastic new databases: the 'Ayshford Complete Trafalgar Roll', and the 'Complete Navy List'.

The Ayshford Roll is an exhaustive database giving names and details of all the men who fought on the British side at Trafalgar. But more than this, the Roll also gives new insights into the fleet as a whole and will answer all the questions above and many more. Completed over 18 years by two private researchers, this is the final word on who was – and who was not – present at the Battle. This will be accompanied by access to 'The Complete Navy List of the Napoleonic Wars' recently published by Patrick Marione. This covers over 11,000 British naval officers who served in the wars with France with details of their service, decorations and family connections.

Go to: [www.royalnavalmuseum.org](http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org) for more information on this.

## Sea and Learn – Worksheet 1

Use the example muster rolls of sailors at the Battle of Trafalgar to choose 2 sailors, then use this table to help build up a picture of each sailor:

<b>Name of Sailor of Number One (you):</b>			
Job & Rank onboard	Appearance	Family details	Character traits
			
<b>Name of Sailor of Number Two (your friend):</b>			
Job & Rank onboard	Appearance	Family details	Character traits
			

Now you have decided on the personality of each sailor, you need to imagine you are sailor number two and that you have to write a letter to the family of sailor number one who has been killed in action during the Battle of Trafalgar.

Try to include:

- Information about sailor number one's involvement in the battle
- How much he meant to you as a friend
- How much of a loss he will be to the ship
- Any information you think will be of comfort to his family

## Sea and Learn – Resource Sheet 1

The following information shows actual historical records of sailors involved in the Battle of Trafalgar from 'The Ayshford Complete Trafalgar Roll'

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Jean MOUCIER
<b>Ship</b>	Defiance
<b>Age On Joining</b>	33
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	23 August 1804 (from Sultan Prison Ship)
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Able Seaman
<b>Birthplace</b>	Sallee, Africa
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Charles PHILLIPS
<b>Ship</b>	Ajax
<b>Age On Joining</b>	29
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	31 August 1804 from Salvador/Plantagenet
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Landsman
<b>Birthplace</b>	Senegal, Africa
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d
<b>Family</b>	Single
<b>Medical</b>	Lost right leg off Dardanelles when ship burnt
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	7 Mar 1808, age 41, 4y service, pension £12

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	DOMINGO
<b>Ship</b>	Leviathan
<b>Age On Joining</b>	21
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	13 March 1804 from Carysfort
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Armourer's Mate
<b>Birthplace</b>	Bengal
<b>Injuries</b>	Wounded at the battle
<b>Lloyd's Patriotic Fund</b>	Received £20 from the fund for wounds sustained at the Battle
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d
<b>Medical</b>	Surgeon's Log: was wounded by a piece of splinter wood lodging between the false ribs on his left side. By enlarging the opening in which it entered and the application (soft dressings?) it came away on the 12 <sup>th</sup> day – and the sore healed on 17 Nov. Discharged 17 Nov 1805 to duty in the dock at Gibraltar as blacksmith.

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	John HAUSLEMAN
<b>Ship</b>	Orion
<b>Age On Joining</b>	25
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	24 July 1805
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Able Seaman
<b>Birthplace</b>	Russia
<b>Recruitment</b>	
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d    Made his mark
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d    Made his mark
<b>Discharged Sick</b>	8 Dec 1806    Haslar Hospital

## Sea and Learn – Resource Sheet 2

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Edward GOODLAD
<b>Ship</b>	Neptune
<b>Age On Joining</b>	13
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	14 Mar 1804 from Prince
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Midshipman promoted to Lieutenant 1814
<b>Birthplace</b>	Calcutta. Baptised 22 Dec 1790, son of Richard & Sophia, at Calcutta
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Medal</b>	Awarded Naval General Service Medal
<b>Additional clasps</b>	Martinique (Neptune); Guadeloupe (Pompee)
<b>Prize Money</b>	£10 14s 2d
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£26 6s 0d
<b>Died</b>	1849

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Meredith MILNEKOFF
<b>Ship</b>	Royal Sovereign
<b>Age On Joining</b>	16
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	13 Jan 1804 from Supp List
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Volunteer 1 <sup>st</sup> Class
<b>Birthplace</b>	Toola, Russia
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	On board "For a passage to join Lord Nelson"

Note: It was claimed, post revolutionary wars, that some 'Russians' were actually Frenchmen, sent into our service by Napoleon as spies.

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Sherry PICCAR
<b>Ship</b>	Bellerophon
<b>Age On Joining</b>	13
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 1804
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Boy, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class
<b>Birthplace</b>	France
<b>Recruitment</b>	Pressed
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Samuel ROBBINS
<b>Ship</b>	Victory
<b>Age On Joining</b>	13
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	2 April 1805 from Royal Sovereign
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Boy 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class
<b>Birthplace</b>	London
<b>Recruitment</b>	
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d Signed
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d
<b>Discharged</b>	14 January 1806 with Gunner

## Sea and Learn – Resource Sheet 3

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Ebenezer OLIPHANT
<b>Ship</b>	Polyphemus
<b>Age On Joining</b>	36
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	2 August 1804 from: Stately
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Able Seaman
<b>Birthplace</b>	Newcastle. Baptised 6 September 1769. Born 29 August 1769 son of James & Margaret at Groat Market Meeting – Non Conformist
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d Not claimed
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d
<b>Died</b>	25 February 1808
<b>Family</b>	Dead Seaman's Effects niece Margaret BELL Will divides estate equally between children of sister Janet BELL of Workington, Cumberland. Executors James BELL, surgeon of Cockermouth & Margaret BELL, 3 Portland Street, Workington
<b>Burial</b>	27 February 1808, buried Ebenezer OLIPHANT, aged 38, Workington

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	William COOPER
<b>Ship</b>	Royal Sovereign
<b>Age on Joining</b>	22
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	18 July 1803 from Salvador del Mundo
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Landsman
<b>Birthplace</b>	New York
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Injuries</b>	Wounded at the battle
<b>Lloyd's Patriotic Fund</b>	Received £40 from the Fund for wounds sustained at the Battle
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d
<b>Bounty</b>	£1 10s 0d
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d Made his Mark
<b>Physical</b>	Height: 5' 8", Complexion: Black
<b>Family</b>	Parents: John & Fanny
<b>Medical</b>	Gibraltar Hospital: 3 November 1805 Amputated arm Lost right arm above the elbow at Trafalgar Discharged 16 November 1805 Royal Sovereign Plymouth Hospital: 1 December 1805 Wounded in action, amputated arm.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	18 March 1806 Pension £8 Died before issue of Parliamentary Award

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	David MCDONNELL
<b>Ship</b>	Ajax
<b>Age On Joining</b>	20
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	12 August 1804 from Royal William/Pluto
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Ordinary Seaman
<b>Birthplace</b>	Dalkeith, Scotland.
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d
<b>Bounty</b>	£2 10s 0d
<b>Died</b>	16 November 1805 on board
<b>Family</b>	Prize money paid to mother Jean

Information from: 'The Ayshford Complete Trafalgar Roll'©  
Compiled by Pam and Derek Ayshford (www.ageofnelson.org/TrafalgarRol)

## Sea and Learn – Resource Sheet 4

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Adam Murray GORDON
<b>Ship</b>	Ajax
<b>Age On Joining</b>	13
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	12 July 1804
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Volunteer 1 <sup>st</sup> Class promoted Lieutenant 1815
<b>Birthplace</b>	Dumfries Born 9 January 1792 son of Hon. Adam & Harriet nee Davies at Drungan Lodge nr Dumfries
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Medal</b>	Awarded Naval General Service Medal
<b>Additional Clasps</b>	Wh Badere Zaffere (Seahorse)
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d
<b>Died</b>	1 September 1847 Kenmure castle, Kirkcudbright
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Viscount Kenmure in 1840

Note: Look at his father

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	John MINUTE
<b>Ship</b>	Victory
<b>Age on Joining</b>	25
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	11 May 1803 from Utrecht
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Able Seaman
<b>Birthplace</b>	Cardiff
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d
<b>Discharged</b>	15 January 1806 Ocean
<b>Died</b>	24 May 1812
<b>Family</b>	Married: 5 November 1810 John MINITT, Seaman m. Catherine FEWINGS, Stoke Damarel Dead Seamen's Effects Widow Catherine MINUTT, 85 James Street, Plymouth Dock

Note: Look at the 3 different spelling of his surname

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	James WALKER
<b>Ship</b>	Victory
<b>Age On Joining</b>	22
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	29 March 1805 from Canopus
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Midshipman
<b>Birthplace</b>	Starnoway, Ross [Stornoway]
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Died</b>	26 October 1858
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Alias James ROBERTSON

## Sea and Learn – Resource Sheet 5

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	James ROBERTSON
<b>Ship</b>	Victory
<b>Age On Joining</b>	22
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	29 March 1805 from Canopus
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Midshipman promoted to Lieutenant 1809
<b>Birthplace</b>	Starnoway, Ross [Stornoway] Born 22 June 1873 son of James, Deputy Lt. Rosshire & Annabelle Mackenzie
<b>Recruitment</b>	Volunteer
<b>Medal</b>	Awarded Naval General Service Medal
<b>Additional clasps</b>	Martinique & Guadeloupe (Hazard)
<b>Prize Money</b>	£10 14s 2d Signed
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£26 6s 0d
<b>Discharged</b>	12 Jan 1806 Thames
<b>Died</b>	26 October 1858 Distington, Cumberland
<b>Family</b>	Married Ann WALKER in 1824 Assumed name James Robertson Walker PPR Will Proved 29 April 1859 late of Gilgarran, Cumberland Captain RN
<b>Additional Information</b>	Holy Spirit Church, Distington, Cumbria, England. Erected by Katherine Robertson Walker.  <i>James Robertson Walker Esquire of Gilgarran – Captain RN Born at Letterewe, Ross-Shire 22 June 1783 Died at Gilgarran 26 October 1858 He was on board the Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar and died during a brilliant career. Served his country faithfully. Beloved and respected, he died in the joyful hope of glorious resurrection.</i>

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Cato MARTIN
<b>Ship</b>	Royal Sovereign
<b>Age on Joining</b>	24
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	18 July 1803 from Salvador del Mundo
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Able Seaman
<b>Birthplace</b>	New York
<b>Recruitment</b>	Pressed
<b>Injuries</b>	Wounded at the battle
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d Not claimed
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d Not claimed
<b>Physical</b>	Height: 5' 5", Complexion: Black
<b>Family</b>	Parents: Richard & Hannah
<b>Medical</b>	Gibraltar Hospital: 3 November 1805 Amputated arm Lost right arm above the elbow at Trafalgar Discharged 16 November 1805 Royal Sovereign Plymouth Hospital: 1 December 1805 Wounded in action, amputated arm.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	18 March 1806 Pension £8 Died before issue of Parliamentary Award

**Sea and Learn – Resource Sheet 6**

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Stephen SABINE
<b>Ship</b>	Victory
<b>Age On Joining</b>	13
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	13 April 1803
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Boy 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class
<b>Birthplace</b>	London
<b>Recruitment</b>	Marine Society
<b>Injuries</b>	Killed in action at the battle
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d Not claimed
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d
<b>Died</b>	21 October 1805 killed in action
<b>Physical</b>	1803 Age: 13y Height: 4' 4"
<b>Family</b>	Father W, Watchman, 3 Revels Row, Kings Bench 13 February 1807 Parliamentary Award for father William Dead Seaman's Effects Father William, 3 Revels Row, St George's Fields, back of the Kings Bench
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Previous employment: Errand Boy Can read

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	William PERRION
<b>Ship</b>	Victory
<b>Age On Joining</b>	13
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	13 April 1805
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Boy 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class
<b>Birthplace</b>	London
<b>Recruitment</b>	Marine Society
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d Not claimed
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d Not claimed
<b>Discharged</b>	15 January 1806 Resolution
<b>Physical</b>	1803 Age: 13y Height: 4' 5"
<b>Family</b>	Father Phillip, smith, 7 Ship Court, York Street, Westminster
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Previous Employment: School. Can Read and Write

<b>Sailor's Name</b>	Maurice MURPHY
<b>Ship</b>	Spartiate
<b>Age in 1805</b>	35
<b>Date Joined Ship</b>	16 September 1803
<b>Rating/Rank</b>	Boy 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class
<b>Birthplace</b>	Kilmede, Kildare, Ireland
<b>Recruitment</b>	Enlisted 22 Jan 1796 Division: Plymouth Company: 63
<b>Prize Money</b>	£1 17s 8d Made his mark
<b>Parliamentary Award</b>	£4 12s 6d Made his mark
<b>Died</b>	11 April 1813 Royal Hospital
<b>Physical</b>	Hair: Brown, Complexion: fresh, Eyes: Grey, Height on enlistment: 5' 6"
<b>Trade on Enlistment</b>	Weaver