



# Santa Anna

This model was created by a man called Frank Smith in 1958.

It is a copy of a real ship called the Santa Anna, a huge grand ship which sailed the Mediterranean sea in the 1500s, five hundred years ago!

Sailing the seas on the Santa Anna would have been a very exciting adventure.

The ocean is full of amazing fish and wonderful sea creatures, imagine what would happen if you came across a huge whale or a shark!



Can you imagine what life would have been like for a sailor on board this ship?

Where would you travel to?

What sights and sounds would you discover?

The Santa Anna is very different to the boats that we see today!

What would your dream boat look like?

What features would it have?



# The 100 year old biscuit

Believe it or not, this is a real biscuit that has survived over one hundred years since the First World War!

A soldier, named Henry Charles Barefield, had the unusual idea to turn a biscuit into a postcard and send it all the way back to England from France. He even wrote a note on one side and put his address and a stamp on the front!

It is amazing that the biscuit survived in one piece, but it probably doesn't taste very nice now!

Imagine you received this biscuit with a note from Henry, what would you write in a letter back to him?



Henry Charles Barefield



Henry Charles Barefield spent a long time away from home while he served in the First World War. Posting messages home would have helped him to stay connected with his friends and family at home in England.

How do you think Henry felt while he was far away from his home?

Can you imagine any other unlikely items that you might send in the post?



# Armour fit for a child

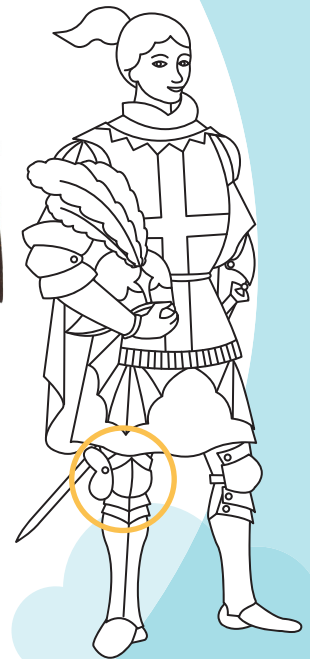
Did you know that in the past children like you could train to become knights?

This mysterious metal object is a piece of armour, just the right size for a young boy to wear on his leg as protection.

Children would be trained to use swords, and bows and arrows to practice their skills and become great fighters.

Would you like to become a knight?

Can you think of a famous tale about a knight which might inspire your story?



How would you feel about wearing heavy metal armour all day long?

Could you run, skip, or dance while wearing metal armour?

Knights were celebrated for their strength, power and bravery. What special skills would you like a knight to have? Maybe they could have superpowers!





# Portraits from the past

Here are two portraits of women that are on display in the Museum.

We know that they were both nurses and they would have provided care for sick and injured people.

We don't know how these women felt about being nurses and what their daily lives were like, or why they became nurses in the first place.

Can you imagine what life would be like as a nurse in a busy hospital?

Who are some of the characters you might find there?



Sitting for a portrait takes a lot longer than taking a photograph!

It might take hours to draw and paint the subject of a portrait. What would the artist and nurse talk about in that time?

What questions might the artist ask a nurse about their life?

Imagine that the two nurses meet for the first time in your story.

How would they meet and what might they say to each other?



# Lion Head Handle

This is a handle in the shape of a lion head, and it is around two thousand years old.

It is an object from the Roman times.  
What do you know about the Romans?

Imagine the lion could see and hear and talk! Think of all the people he met and the places he lived over two thousand years!

What would the lion tell you about his life? Does he have a name?



For a long time the lion head handle was a mystery object for historians, and they did not know what it was or where it came from.

Imagine that you found this unusual object hidden in a box inside the storeroom of a museum, what do you think it could have been used for?

Historians once thought the lion head might have been used as a door knocker.

Imagine the lion head would open a door into the past! Where would you go? Into the Roman times?



Choose an object to feature in your story, you can write about it in any way you like! Use the space below to plan or start writing. Here are some things to think about to help get you started:

**An event:** What is going to happen in your story? Why?

Three light blue, stylized clouds are scattered across the page. One cloud is in the upper left, another is in the middle right, and a smaller one is in the lower left. They are all composed of soft, rounded shapes.

We have picked some intriguing objects from our Museum collection to help ignite the imagination and spark ideas for writing a wonderful story. There is a short introduction to each object alongside creative writing prompts to get students thinking about how the objects and things around us can inspire imaginative and playful thinking to develop their writing and storytelling skills.

The object inspiration sheets can be used in lots of different ways. Children might look at one object in detail and use it to start planning and writing a short story using the attached worksheet. We have also included some other suggestions for creative writing activities and prompts for the classroom or at home:

## Activity prompts

- Think of as many adjectives as you can to describe an object. How do the words compare with the words to describe one of the other objects?
- Create a cartoon strip which includes every object. What imaginative ways can you find to use each object or character in the cartoon strip?
- Instead of a story, write a letter or newspaper article which features one of the objects.
- Become time travellers! Each student might find themselves in the time the object was created. What happens to them there? What do they already know about the period from history lessons?
- Ask students to imagine what each object would feel like if they could hold it in their hands. Is it heavy or light? Hard or soft? Fragile or strong?

## Visit us

You can explore the Museum of the Order of St John **website** as a class to discover more amazing objects from all over the world.

You can also visit us in our specially designed school sessions and see real objects up close. Find out more and book your session **here**.

## Feedback

We would love to know how teachers used our resources, so please take a moment to fill out our quick feedback form on our **website**.

We would love to see your work! Send us your finished stories and activities and we will share them in an online exhibition on our website for everyone to see and enjoy!

Please send your classroom creations to: [museum@sja.org.uk](mailto:museum@sja.org.uk)