

Character Quest: Gunpowder Plot Exposed

Teacher notes

During your session:

Your students will be immersed in a narrative experience based on the infamous Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Through drama and role play, questioning and interrogation of evidence, students will develop their historical enquiry skills and uncover the facts behind one of the Tower's most famous stories.

During your visit, you will meet three costumed presenters at allocated times, each of whom will provide your class with clues and information. In the finale, the characters will come together in a concluding performance for all schools involved. Your students will critically examine this information and make judgements to help inform their understanding and opinions.

Learning objectives

Children will:

- Play a part in one of the Tower's most infamous stories
- Interrogate evidence and question the reliability of different sources of information
- Learn about the story of the Gunpowder Plot, and the Tower's role in it.

National Curriculum links

This session supports:

- Extending chronological knowledge of significant events in British history beyond 1066.
- Constructing informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information
- Development of speaking and listening skills and asking perceptive questions.

Duration

Start times are staggered and booked for you in advance depending on your estimated arrival time at the point of booking; the whole event finishes at approximately 13.50.



Available start time slots on each day are:

11:00, 11:20, 11:40, 12:00, 12:20

Capacity

The experience runs 5 times each day, with start times staggered throughout the morning. Each start time holds a maximum of 35 children. If you have more than 35 children your group will be split across more than one start time.

Meeting Point

On arrival, please go to the Welcome Centre, where you will be given a secret envelope containing orders, a map, a letter of introduction and information on how to get to the location of your first character encounter. You will then be sent into the Tower via Middle Drawbridge. The finale will take place in the Salt Tower Courtyard.

Timings

Each group will spend 10 minutes with each character, with slots timetabled between 11.00 and 12.20. The concluding performance will take place at 13.30 and last approximately 20 minutes.

Around your allocated time slots, you are free to explore the Tower. A supporting teacher resource will provide you with further information on the story and ideas for pre and post visit activities in the classroom. Children will also receive a leaflet with suggested activities to do between character encounters, and directions to relevant parts of the Tower, should you wish to visit them. Time for lunch will be timetabled into your day. Upon booking, you will receive more information about your group's specific timings.

Example format of visit:

10.30	Arrive at Welcome Centre to collect instructions
10.45	Enter Tower of London via Groups Entrance, Middle Drawbridge
11.00	Meet your first character
11.20	Meet your second character
11.40	Meet your third character
12.00	Lunch



12.30 free time

13.30 Final performance at Salt Tower Courtyard

Health and Safety Information: Please note that the 1:10 staff to child ratio which we ask for throughout your visit still applies during your learning session. We ask that sufficient adults remain with the group as they will be encouraged to join in with the session activities. For Health & Safety reason, our sessions are for a maximum of 35 children.

For your information, this session will include time outside so please encourage your children to dress accordingly.

