



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum Learning Programme

Information for Teachers



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Welcome to the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

We warmly welcome you and thank you for considering the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) for your educational visit. We're a small museum which has a lot to offer: with three full-size immersive exhibits, a host of dressing up and role play activities, museum trails and a passion for storytelling, we have so much for students as they explore history, STEM and careers.

The Museum is a new take on a classic military museum where everyone can be inspired to learn and share stories of courage, conflict and peace. Launched in 2014, the museum houses the collections of the two county regiments: the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars, and also our own SOFO collection which incorporates wider local and social history objects of conflict. We tell stories of how conflict has affected the county and its people, from soldiers serving on the front lines to ordinary people living on the Home Front. You'll find timelines to guide you at the entrance to the museum. Our main gallery is arranged in displays we call 'pods' – each display is a different story, from Spies and the Special Operations Executive to a pod dealing with the experiences of Prisoners of War.



Workshop Options

This pack includes a brief summary of the content of your workshop and its learning outcomes. All our workshops take a cross-curricular approach, working not only with the National Curriculum's history outcomes but in some instances with STEM, careers and Artsmark outcomes.

Workshop :	Suitable for:
History Detectives: World War I	KS2
History Detectives: World War II	KS2
Saving Cells, Saving Lives: medicine 1898 - 1950	KS2/3
Churchill, Champion of Technology KS2/3	KS2/3
After Anne (focus on The Holocaust) KS 3/4	KS3/4
Ejector Seats KS 2/3 SEND	KS2/3 SEND



Self-guided options

There are several activities for schools who wish to attend using only self-guided activities. Please ensure you book self-guided visits prior to arriving, by contacting the Museum Director at museumdirector@sofo.org.uk, tel: 01993 810210.

Stamp trail passport (30minutes) : Students can complete the stamp trail, following story clues in our Main Gallery to collect stamps. Our stories cover some of the most significant aspects of conflict and county, including the roles of airborne troops and a full-scale section of a Horsa Glider, the life of Winston Churchill, Spying, Prisoners of War and Women and War. (Maximum number of participants: 30)



Explore a Museum loan box £25 (30 minutes per box)

Teachers can explore one of our loan boxes with students on site. Our loan boxes are as follows:

- First World War – A New Kind of Conflict**
- First World War – Trench Life**
- Second World War - Home Front**
- Second World War – Blitz and Blackout**
- Second World War – Evacuation Suitcase**

A visit to our immersive exhibits.

Our three immersive exhibits are suitable for a maximum of 15 young people and a guiding adult at any time. Copies of teachers' notes are available to download from our Learning web pages.

Group Size Self-guided visits

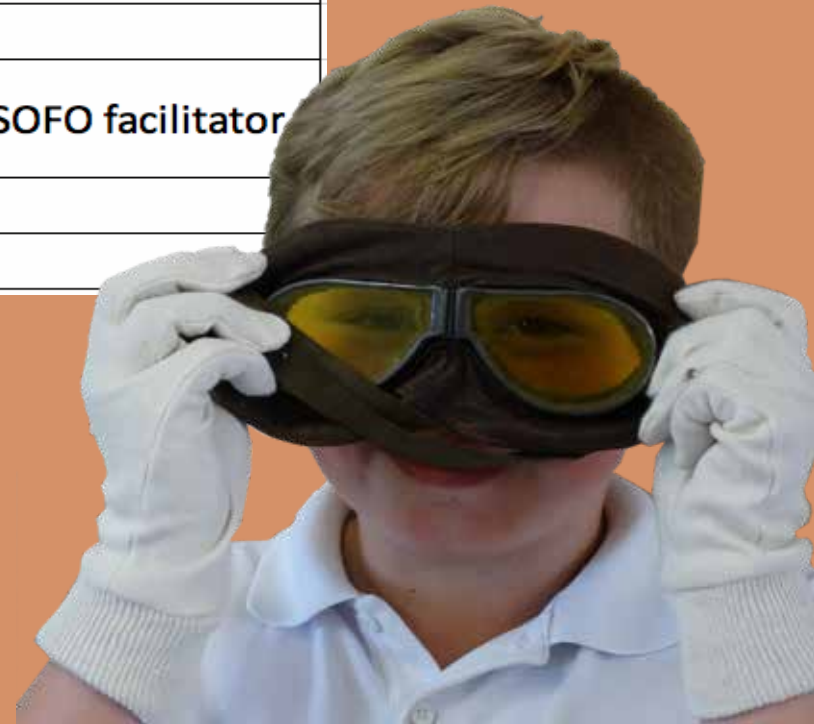
For school visits with 1-59 students, the cost is £4 per child and £5 per adult following our admission charges. For school visits with 60+ students, self-guided visits are charged at £575; to accommodate this group size the museum will be closed to general visitors during the school visit. Example Itineraries For groups of 1-30 students, a typical day at the Museum might run as follows:

10:00	ARRIVE: Housekeeping and welcome
10:20	Activity 1 with our SOFO Facilitator
11:00	BREAK
11:10	Activity 2 with our SOFO facilitator
11:50	Summing up (plenary)
12:10	Close
12:10 - 1:00	Optional: Lunch in the Museum Classroom
1:00 - 2:00	Optional: exploring the Museum: self guided.
2:00:	DEPART



For groups of 30-60 students, a typical day at the museum might run as follows:

	Group 1 (30 students)	Group 2 (30 students)
10:00	ARRIVE, housekeeping and welcome	
10:20	Activity 1 with our SOFO facilitator	Exploring the Museum with optional use of the passport trail
11:00	BREAK - Museum Classroom	
11:10	Activity 2 with out SOFO facilitator	Exploring handling loan boxes in the Cloister Gallery - teacher led
12:20- 1:00	Exploring handling loan boxes in the Cloister Gallery - teacher led	Activity 1 with our SOFO facilitator
1:00 - 1:10	BREAK - Museum Classroom	
1:10 - 1:50	Exploring the Museum with optional use of the passport trail	Activity 2 with our SOFO facilitator
1:50 - 2:00	SUMMING UP (Plenary)	
2:00:	DEPART	



Practical Information

How to find us

Sat Nav: OX20 1SN

By car: via A44 Oxford to Evesham. The Museum does not have its own car park, and so it is recommended that coaches and minibuses leave school groups at the drop-off point outside the Oxfordshire Museum in Park Street. Alternatively, there is a free, long stay public car park located in Hensington Road (a 10 minute walk from the Museum) and limited pay and display (1-5 hours) in front of the Museum.

By bus: S3 and S7 from Oxford city centre. S7 from Witney, which also stops at Long Hanborough train station.

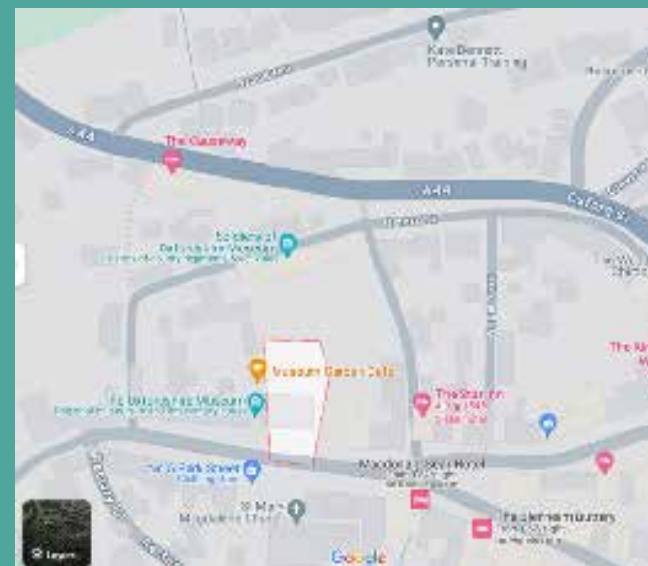
Arrival

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is reached by walking through The Oxfordshire Museum reception and through its garden. A facilitator will meet you outside the Oxfordshire Museum gates and take you down to the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum at the start of the session.

Facilities

Museum Classroom

Attached to this pack you will find a Gallery Map, which shows the layout of the Museum. The Museum classroom is accessible to school groups throughout the day. Please press the green button to unlock the room.



Lunch and Break Times

On days when the weather is fair, your class can use the outside space in the Oxfordshire Museum garden at breaks and lunchtimes. In poor weather, breaks/lunches will be based in the Briefing Room. If you're staying for lunch, please bring packed lunches and enough water for the day. Feel free to bring snacks for the students to have at break times.

Toilets

There are four toilets including an accessible toilet. They are situated to the rear of the main Gallery, next to the Cloister Gallery. Please ensure school groups are supervised by an adult when visiting these.

Accessibility

The Museum is fully accessible. There are two floors, and a lift is available to take visitors to the first floor.

Gift Shop

Our shop stocks a wide range of items themed around the Oxfordshire military, and there are plenty of pocket money toys to appeal to students. We politely request that students attend the shop while supervised by an adult, and in groups of six or fewer. Some of our pocket money toys include:

WW1/2 History Rulers - 30cm wooden ruler with a timeline of key dates from the First or Second World War - £2.50

SOFO Camouflage eraser - souvenir camo pattern eraser with museum logo printed on one side - 60p

Spitfire Pencil Sharpener - a metal model spitfire with a pencil sharpener on the underside £4.95

Jet Fighters Poly Glider - polystyrene toy glider with propellor, modelled after a range of WW2 aircraft - 75p

Pre-visit Preparations

Preparatory visits

We encourage teachers to visit the Museum for planning purposes and can arrange complimentary tickets. Please contact the museum at frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk, or call 01993 810 210 to arrange a visit. Free entry is also available with a Blenheim Annual Pass throughout the year. We are open Tuesday – Saturday, 11am – 5pm and Sunday, 2pm – 5pm.

Ratios

We love working on the SOFO stories with teachers and students. To ensure everyone gets the best of the experience, please make sure you have arranged a ratio of 1 teacher or adult per 10 pupils. Please do not include museum staff when working out your ratios. Due to the nature of our activities, we politely request teachers and helpers to join in activities and their students learning journey during the day. Where possible, we'd appreciate teacher mobile phones being set to silent and stored in a safe place.

Clothing

Some of our activities are messy. We recommend a non-uniform day if possible: in any event, it would be best for students to attend in loose, comfortable clothing which allows students to relax and get hands-on.

Equipment for Photography and Filming

There are lots of exciting opportunities for photographs during the day, from being a WWI soldier in our life-size trench, immersing students in our Horsa Glider exhibit and its oral histories or dressing up in the many hats and costumes available. We also carry out role play activities which are best when filmed by participating school staff and brought back to school for sharing. We therefore encourage schools to bring a camera suitable to record students' presentations, and to ensure suitable photograph permissions are in place.

The Museum staff will occasionally request permission to take photographs for Museum use: however these arrangements will be agreed with school staff prior to school visits.



Health and Safety

Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are attached to your email. If you have any additional queries, please contact the Museum Director, on 01993 8102 10 or email museumdirector@sofo.org.uk.

Fire Procedure

In the event of a fire alarm, please follow the instructions given by staff on morning briefing. Please advise your group to respond to the requests of site staff during the evacuation of the building. Please ensure your group remains calm and that you have a register available for all members of your group. If you discover a fire or have a first aid issue, please tell a member of staff immediately.

First Aid

The museum's First Aider is the Front of House Manager. Please report any First Aid incidents to your session facilitator. A First Aid Box is stored at the Front of House reception.

Safeguarding

All facilitators of Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum team have been DBS checked and received safeguarding training. However, safeguarding responsibility remains with the teachers throughout the visit.

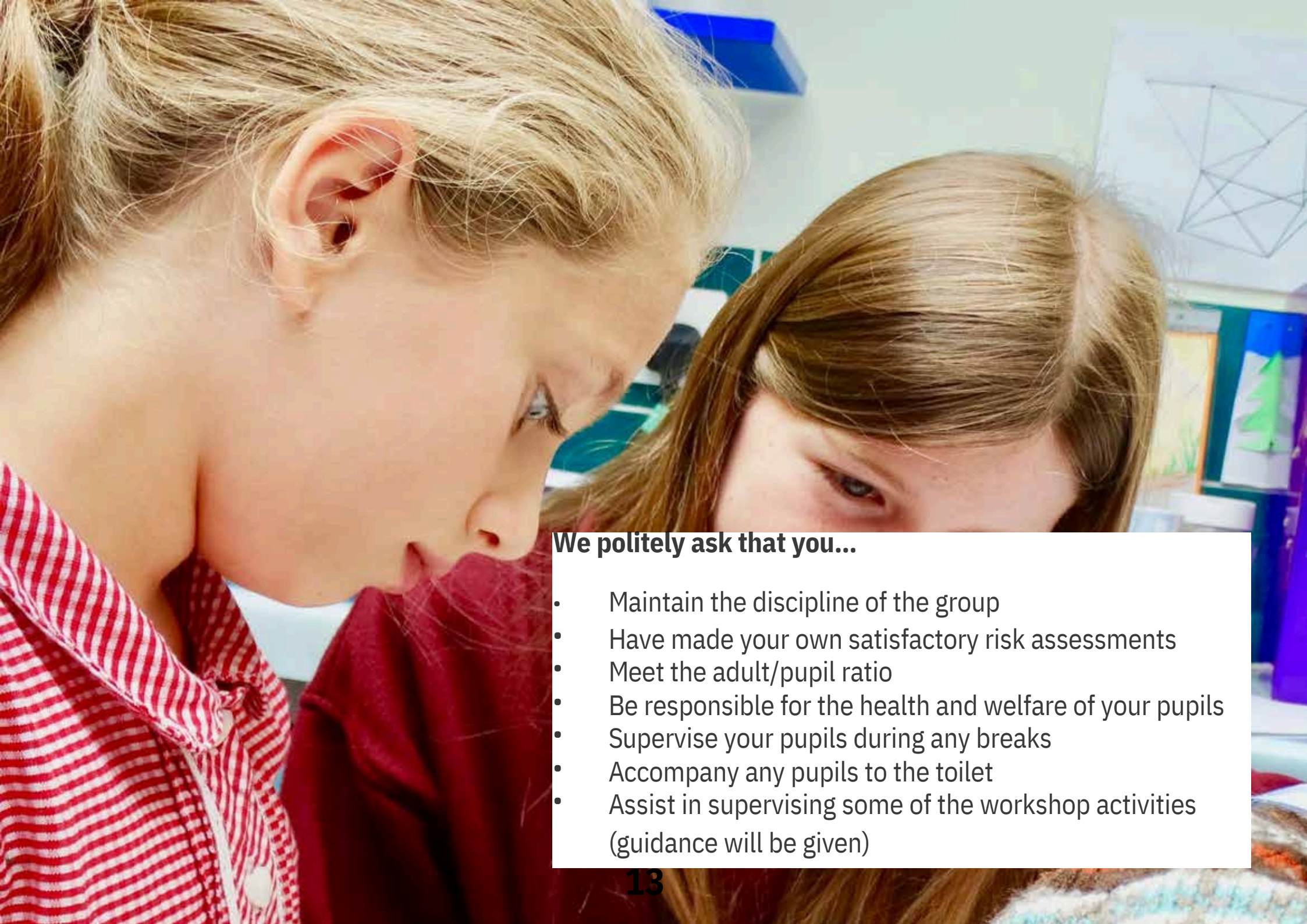


Code of Conduct

We ask that all teachers and accompanying adults bringing school groups to the Museum, whether for a workshop or a self-guided visit, ensure that their learners behave appropriately at all times during their visit. The Museum is a public place, and all groups are asked to show consideration towards our other visitors and to treat our collection and exhibits with care. Learners' behaviour and conduct is the responsibility of school staff. In the event of inappropriate behaviour, the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum reserves the right to take such action as is necessary for the safety and enjoyment of all concerned. This includes the right to refuse admission and/or ask the group to leave.

You can expect us to:

- Meet you at our entrance and guide you while you visit the Museum
- Have our own museum and workshop risk assessments in place
- Provide all materials and guidance needed for the workshops
- Lead the workshops



We politely ask that you...

- Maintain the discipline of the group
- Have made your own satisfactory risk assessments
- Meet the adult/pupil ratio
- Be responsible for the health and welfare of your pupils
- Supervise your pupils during any breaks
- Accompany any pupils to the toilet
- Assist in supervising some of the workshop activities
(guidance will be given)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR WORKSHOPS

Churchill, Champion of Technology (*2 hours*)

Key Stage 2/3

This learning session focuses on Churchill's ability to embrace, as an early adopter, technological problem solving to create advances for British troops in WWI and WWII. It looks at three technological advances which were game changers for those taking part in conflict: the Mark I metal helmet; the Mark I tank; and radar communications/aerial combat. Students will be immersed in key problems which arose in WWI and WWII; safety in the trenches, breaking the stalemate of the trenches, and detecting enemy aircraft during the Battle of Britain.

Learning outcomes

History: your Key Stage 2 pupils will study:

- An aspect theme in British History beyond 1066.
- A significant turning point in British history eg Battle of Britain .

They will have opportunities to:

- Understand how people's lives have shaped this nation.
- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change.
- Learn the methods of historical enquiry, and how evidence is used.
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.
- Show how aspects of national history are reflected in the locality.

Cross curricular links:

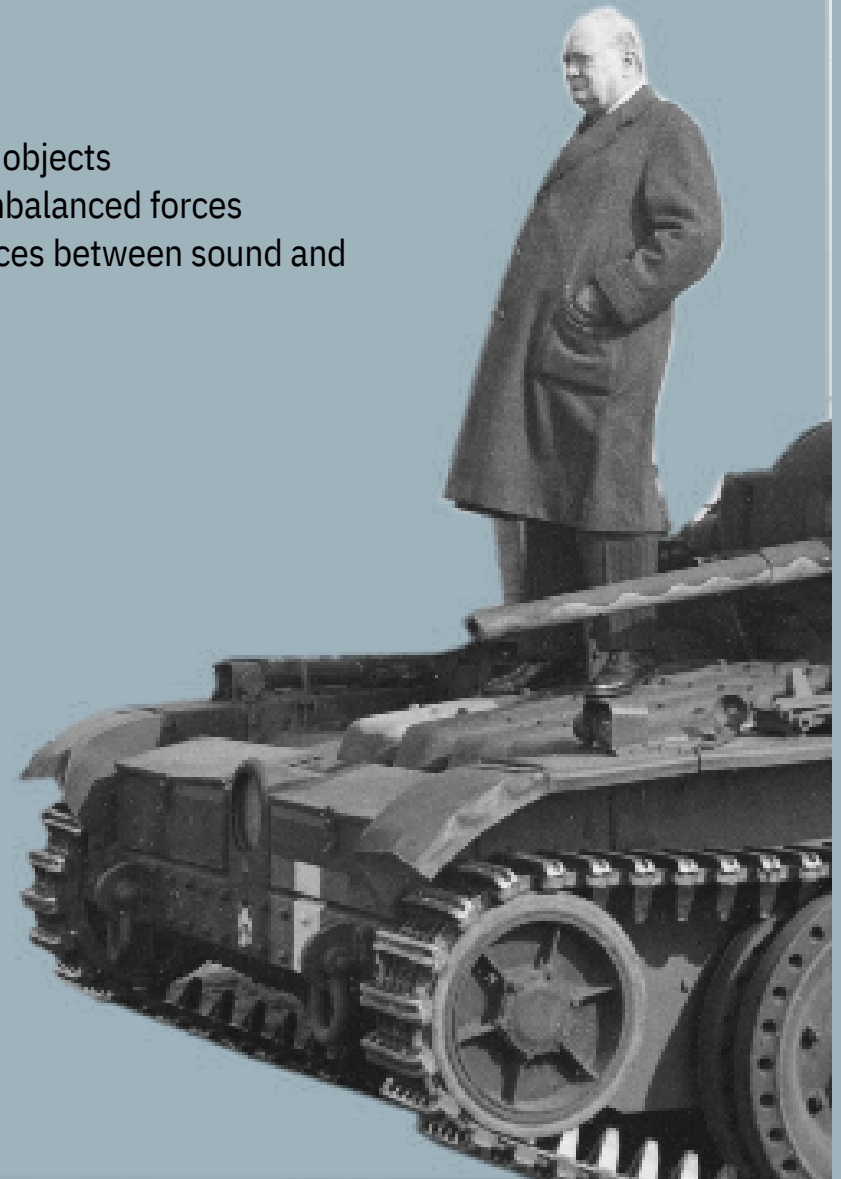
- Pupils might work scientifically by comparing how different things move and grouping them;.
- They might raise questions and carry out tests to find out how far things move on different surfaces.
- They may gather and record data to find answers their questions.
- Identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating.
- Recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear.

Your Key Stage 3 pupils will have opportunities to:

- Identify significant events, make connections, draw contrasts, and analyse trends within periods and over long arcs of time.
- Use historical terms and concepts in increasingly sophisticated ways.

Cross curricular links:

- Investigate forces as pushes or pulls, arising from the interaction between two objects
- Use force arrows in diagrams, adding forces in one dimension, balanced and unbalanced forces
- Understand that sound produced by vibrations of object, and the main differences between sound and radio waves.



Saving Cells, Saving Lives (2 hours)

This learning session uses a partnership with Army Careers, along with hands on activities, handling objects, images, film and primary sources to explore the theme of medical advances and their effect on the life of Oxfordshire soldiers and hospitals. It examines hygiene and water purification in the Boer War and WWI and looks at the tremendous advances in treating head traumas in the 20th Century, highlighting local connections. Finally, it links with today's army medical careers and leaves students with paths to careers in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) which has a role which has a role ranging from provision of immediate first aid emergency care on front line and routine treatment or long-term care at health centres and hospitals, as well as health promotion and disease prevention.

Learning Outcomes

History: your KS2 students will study:

- A study of an aspect or theme in British History...beyond 1066, for example a significant turning point in British history eg Battle of Britain.

They will have opportunities to:

- Understand how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.
- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change.
- Learn the methods of historical enquiry and how evidence is used.

Cross curricular links for Key Stage 2 pupils:

- Describe how microorganisms are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences.
- Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.
- Describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.
- Know that cells are the fundamental unit of living organisms.
- The functions of the cell wall, cell membrane, cytoplasm, nucleus, vacuole, mitochondria and chloroplasts.
- The hierarchical organisation of multicellular organisms: from cells to tissues to organs to systems to organisms.

Learning Outcomes

History: your KS3 students will have opportunities to:

- Extend and deepen their chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, so that it provides a well-informed context for wider learning.
- Identify significant events, make connections, draw contrasts, and analyse trends within periods and over long arcs of time.

Cross curricular links for Key Stage 3 Pupils:

- Know that cells are the fundamental unit of living organisms
- The functions of the cell wall, cell membrane, cytoplasm, nucleus, vacuole, mitochondria and chloroplasts
- The hierarchical organisation of multicellular organisms: from cells to tissues to organs to systems to organisms

Career outcomes: KS3 pupils will have opportunities to:

- Learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes (Gatsby Benchmarks: 5 - encounters with employers and employees).

History Detectives Workshops: Key Stage 2 (2 hours)

WWI and WWII

These learning sessions focuses on immersing young people in the experiences of the past.

History Detectives: World War I

Our First World War offer looks at the experiences of soldiers in WWI, and of their loved ones back in Oxfordshire. Students will acquire the skills to recognise artefacts and draw inferences from them, and use those skills to empathise with the conditions of a soldier in combat on the Western Front. They'll spend time in a trench reconstruction, learning many of the aspects of trench life.

The workshop also touches on what it was like for those left at home, subject to changes in law, propaganda, and changing conditions for women.

After investigation and piecing together a picture of life during WWI, students will try a hands-on activity which may have been a part of playground games for children from 1916 onwards when the tank was first introduced into battle-the cotton reel tank.

History Detectives: World War II

This learning session focuses on learning about young people's experiences during WWII in Britain. Students will learn how to look at historical artefacts critically, drawing inferences to build a picture of life in WWII for a young person in Britain. It is a hands-on, make and do morning where, after learning how to infer from artefacts, young people will have a chance to recreate the experience of a young evacuee; a young person in WW2 during the Blitz; and students have an opportunity to create a small model of an Anderson shelter.

History: your Key Stage 2 pupils will study:

Local History Study: A study of an aspect or theme in British History...beyond 1066, for example, a significant turning point in British history - for example the Battle of Britain

They will have opportunities to:

Understand how people's lives have shaped this nation

- Examine historical concepts such as continuity and change.
- Learn the methods of historical enquiry...how evidence is used.
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.



After Anne: a reflection on the Holocaust. (2 hours)

This learning session focuses on the life of Anne Frank and the events immediately following her death. In tracing the story of her life, we look at the events in her country and those surrounding it, which led to her family's decision to go into hiding; their discovery, transport to a concentration camp, and death in Bergen-Belsen in February 1944. Members of the 63rd Anti-Tank Regiment (Oxfordshire Yeomanry), were the first to liberate the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp around two months later: and we hear eyewitness accounts of members of the regiment.

We finish by looking at one piece of art in particular. The Human Laundry, by Doris Clare, and reflecting on it before producing an artistic response to the things we have learned. The buildings of Bergen-Belsen were burnt, and the nearby displaced persons camp closed, in the Summer of 1950. Students are invited to respond in monochrome with group responses – charcoal on white or chalk on black.

This workshop is designed as an initial reflection and a basis to study the Holocaust, a statutory requirement at Key Stage 3.



A beginner's introduction to ejector seats (*1 hour*)

Suitable for SEND students in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

We recommend a maximum of 6 students - ratio of adults to students 1:2.

This learning session focuses on the engineering behind the ejector seat, but is designed for pupils who require a simpler, more straightforward delivery, for example, students from a Pupil Referral Unit.

Numbers for these sessions should be kept intentionally low – no more than 6 in a session – and should be accompanied by adults in a 1:1 ratio.

The session uses the Museum's own **Martin Baker MK7** to look at the history of the development of ejector seats and the forces which engineers have to take into account to design safe seats. Finally, using a small parachute soldier model, they design a seat for the outside of the rocket which will detach as it is launched.

Learning Outcomes:

Key Stage 2 students will have opportunities to:

- Explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object
- Identify the effects of air resistance.

Key Stage 3 students

- Will identify the forces around the ejector seat as pushes or pulls, arising from the interaction between two objects.

Prices

Workshops

Workshops can accommodate up to 30 students. If it is above this, the school will need to book two sessions, either on the same day (if facilitators are available) or across two days.

The cost per workshop is £260.

Self-guided visits

For self-guided visits, if the schools want 60 students, they need to book out the museum for the visit.

The cost is £575 for 1-59 students (this is based on the admission charge of £4 per child, and £5 per adult, incorporating a group rate discount).

Cancellation

We understand that financial difficulties can cause the cancellation of a trip. Please let us know as soon as possible if the trip needs to be cancelled.

If cancellation occurs up to 4 weeks before the date of the visit, there is no charge.

4 weeks to 2 weeks before the date of the visit, 50% of the total cost will be charged.

Within 2 weeks of the date of the visit – 100% of the total cost will be charged.



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum



CLOISTER GALLERY
Temporary Exhibitions



LANDING GALLERY
(UPSTAIRS)
Temporary Exhibitions



Horsa Glider
Replica Section

Battles
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Prisoners of War
At Home and Abroad

Bloody Battles and Dangerous Diseases: Surviving the Front Line

LIFT TO FIRST FLOOR



Secret Agents, Secret Armies:
Fleming and Bond

The Liberation of Bergen-Belsen
The Oxfordshire Yeomanry

EJECTOR SEAT

Briefing Room
Meetings, Events, Schools and Temporary Exhibitions

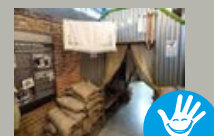


GREAT WAR TRENCH DUGOUT

Global Army
From the Age of Empire to the Modern Day

Winston Churchill and the Queens of Oxfordshire Hussars

A Woman's War
Domestic and Fighting Front



WW2 ANDERSON SHELTER

Our County, Our War

RECEPTION

ENTRANCE



MAIN GALLERY
Permanent Exhibitions

MAIN GALLERY
Permanent Exhibitions

MEDALS DISPLAY

THE OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM GARDEN