

Key Stage 2: The Danny: history & design

Key facts

- Suitable for: Key Stage 2
- Subjects: History, Art and Design, Science
- Session type: Facilitated Workshop
- Duration: 90 minutes – from 10.15 to 11.45 am
- Dates: Tues 4th , Weds 5th , Mon 10th , Tues 11th , Weds 12th October 2016
- Class size: 30
- Venue: On board the Danny, Canning Half Tide Dock (opposite the Maritime Museum)

Workshop outline

In this interactive workshop, children are divided into three groups, each actively exploring ways in which The Danny's story intersects with local history, her operation demonstrates scientific principles, and her design illustrates the key features of Art Deco. Workshops are facilitated by The Danny's team, and have been devised in partnership with teachers and children and in line with the national curriculum.

The first group of children explores the changing roles of the Danny as a tug, from its early days on the Mersey towing strings of barges from Ellesmere Port to Liverpool to the work it carried out towing huge vessels on the Manchester Ship Canal. They then work with their group to use our model tugboats to manoeuvre a large ship into dock. Discussions of the work carried out by the Danny at different times, and her ultimate demise as an operational vessel, allow a way in for children to think about continuity and change, cause and consequence.

The second group, based in the Art Deco saloon, responds to their surroundings, and to other examples of Art Deco design, to create their own designs, using stickyback 'wooden' veneers. They will also listen to the barman who appears behind the bar – he is from the 1950s and has worked on The Danny since the 20s and describes the visits and events he has seen in his time. The barman's talk follows the trends of the Danny over time, and allows children an insight into the connections between local history and what was happening on the international stage.

The third group explores the vessel with a clipboard and sketchbook, and makes three sketches of aspects of the vessel or their surroundings that interest them, that place the Danny in a certain time, or that give a clue as to the function of the vessel. They then re-group, share their thoughts, and discuss with the Danny learning team what they have noticed, taking the opportunity to devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity difference and significance.

Children do each activity for 20 minutes and then swap over.

Curriculum links

Key Stage 2 – History

A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

Pupils build understanding of historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance and use them to make connections and frame historically valid questions.

Key Stage 2 – Science

Pupils experience forces that make things begin to move, get faster or slow down.

Pupils explore, talk about, test and develop ideas

Key Stage 2 – Art and Design

Pupils produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences

Pupils know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Pupils will:

- Know that tugboats like the Daniel Adamson played a significant role in connecting the canals at Ellesmere Port and the city of Liverpool at the beginning of the 20th century.
- Understand the significance of the Port of Liverpool and the Manchester Ship Canal for the region
- Understand the negotiation of forces – pulling and pushing – needed to move large ships using small tugs.
- Understand the key features of the Art Deco style and the areas where it had influence – fashion, architecture, graphic design.

Skills

Pupils will:

- Develop team working, communication and analysis skills during the ‘towing into the dock’ activity.
- Learn a new design style in exploring Art Deco design
- Learn to make ask historically valid questions based on their experience and observations of the vessel.

Concepts

Pupils will:

- Grasp the key design features of Art Deco.
- Appreciate the historic importance of the port of Liverpool and the Manchester Ship Canal
- Understand the general principles of how a tugboat operates, mechanical forces of pushing and pulling
- Build on their understanding of historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance

Attitudes

Pupils will:

- See the history of the regions rivers and canals as interesting and relevant to them.
- Enjoy the experience of exploring a unique historical vessel
- Respect and want to preserve our local history and heritage