

# Shipwreck



**Recommended year group:** Year 2

**Theme focus:** Geography

**Suggested term:** Summer

## Theme introduction

Shipwreck is a geography-based theme that is centred around the seas and oceans of the world. In this theme, pupils will also cover other subjects including history, PSHE, and design and technology. The theme begins with learning about ships and the role they play in every society. Pupils will progress through the theme by learning about famous sea explorers, compass directions, famous ships from history and key shipwrecks that exist around the UK coastline. The theme concludes with pupils building shelters for Robinson Crusoe and, finally, learning about the importance of the coastguard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI).

### Driving Question

Why is the sea important?

### Switch on Science Unit

Year 2: Materials Monster

### Switch on Computing Unit

Year 2: We are astronauts

### Linked reading texts

*Robinson Crusoe*: Usborne Young Reader

### Writing outcomes

**Character description:** A character description of Robinson Crusoe.

**Poems on a theme:** Write and perform poems based on a shipwreck theme.

### Curriculum coverage

**Geography:** Physical geography, Britain, Location and maps, Wider world, Direction

**History:** Chronology; Similarities; Differences and connections; Cause and consequence; Historical enquiry and sources; Significant individuals; Events and achievements

**PSHE:** Living in the wider world, Relationships

**Design and technology:** Make: Materials, Design criteria, Make: Tools

## Excite

Hold a seafarers day: talk like a pirate, dress like pirates and sailors, play 'Captain's coming' and follow a mysterious treasure map.

Find out about unusual pirates, including females!

## Explore

There are 13 Explore sessions:

Explore 1: Setting sail

Explore 2: The United Kingdom

Explore 3: Continents and oceans

Explore 4: Compass directions

Explore 5: Famous explorers

Explore 6: Christopher Columbus

Explore 7: Life as an explorer

Explore 8: Famous ships

Explore 9: Shipwrecks

Explore 10: Coastlines

Explore 11: Survival

Explore 12: Shelter

Explore 13: SOS

## Theme essential vocabulary

ship, harbour, travel, island, ocean, continent, compass, explorer, equipment, bow, stern, sails, rudder, coastline, erosion, headland, bay, cliff, survive, salvage, lifeboat

## Essential knowledge/concepts

1. The four capital cities in the UK are London, Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh.
2. The seas and oceans that surround the UK are English Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and Atlantic Ocean.
3. The seven continents of the world are Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australia.
4. The five oceans of the world are Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Southern Ocean.
5. The points of the compass are North, South, East and West.
6. Some key explorers are Christopher Columbus, Captain Cook, Marco Polo, Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh and Ellen MacArthur.
7. Christopher Columbus set sail on 3 August 1492 with three ships: the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.
8. Ellen MacArthur circumnavigated the world in 2005 in a record time.
9. A shipwreck is the destruction of a ship at sea by sinking or breaking up.
10. Coastlines are formed through the process of erosion.
11. Morse code is a series of dots and dashes that are used to create a message.
12. Access to the coastguard and the RNLI can be obtained by ringing 999.

## Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

Explore 2 The United Kingdom: labelled map

Explore 4 Compass directions: mystery map

Explore 7 Life as an explorer: equipment review

Explore 10 Coastlines: labelled diagram of the coastline with physical features

Explore 13 SOS: Morse code/scenarios

## Exhibit

To create and run a treasure hunt (with a coordinate map) for another class to follow and give feedback on.

## Possible wider experiences

Visit a local marina (a river cruise) or the seaside.  
Walk along a beach and build sandcastles.

## Flipped learning opportunities

1. Pupils use online tools to learn the four countries and capital cities and the surrounding seas of the UK.
2. Pupils use online tools to learn the continents and oceans.

## Family learning suggestion

Choose a famous shipwreck, like RMS Lusitania or the Costa Concordia, and research it, including where, when and how it happened. Create a short electronic fact file, including images and text.

*Extension: build a model of a famous ship.*

## Cultural awareness

### Key piece of music

'Island in the Sun' by Weezer

### Key piece of art

*The Great Wave off Kanagawa* by Katsushika Hokusai

### Key poem

'I Wish I Was a Pirate' by Tony Bradman