



A Sailor's Life

Unit 1: National Pride

Key Stage 1

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The Full English Extra

The Full English Extra was an initiative to preserve and promote the folk arts, building on the success of EFDSS' flagship project The Full English, which created the world's largest digital archive of folk songs, dances, tunes and customs, and a nationwide learning programme that reached more than 16,000 people. The project was led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Full English Extra saw the collections of Mary Neal, suffragette, radical arts practitioner and founder of the Esperance Girls Club, and folk dance educator Daisy Caroline Daking added to the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library online archive (www.vwml.org), alongside its collection of 19th century broadside ballads and songsters.

The Full English learning programme worked with three national museums – the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading, the National Coal Mining Museum for England near Wakefield in West Yorkshire and the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London – combining folk arts and museum education to provide powerful new learning experiences for schools and music hubs.

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Unit 1: National Pride



National Pride

From 1688 to 1815 Britain needed a Navy to defend itself against foreign invasion from France and Spain and to secure its trading routes. Ship-builders, rope-makers, sail-makers, blacksmiths, woodcarvers and painters all helped to create the world's most impressive war ships.

Many people chose to join the Royal Navy for a life at sea. For some a career in the Navy offered adventure. For others it was simply a way to earn a living or perhaps to even make their fortune.

Sailors were required to serve their country and to defend England's honour. As Nelson famously commanded to his men; "*England expects that every man will do his duty*".

Sailors were well regarded in society and those who had served during wartime were seen as heroes of the nation.

Lion Figurehead

Figureheads are painted wooden figures attached to the front of ships. During the 1700s lions were the most popular figurehead for Royal Navy warships.

Can you think of 3 reasons for this?

- 1) Lions are strong and ferocious like the Royal Navy
- 2) Lions are the national symbol of England
- 3) Lions are part of the Royal Family's coat of arms

Activity: Get into pairs. One person is the sculptor and the other person is a lump of wood. Mould your partner into a figurehead that will guide your ship to victory!

Song 1 - We'll Rant and We'll Roar

This is a traditional sea song, also known as *Spanish Ladies*, and this version comes from the singing of a man called Walter Pardon, from Norfolk. It was originally an old sea shanty, but this version is a much more lyrical song and great fun to sing. The chorus works well to learn and create actions for. The verses can be learnt as an extension.

Lyrics

Chorus:

We'll rant and we'll roar like true British sailors

We'll rant and we'll roar the rest of our lives

We'll sing and be jolly and drown melancholy

Here's a health to old England, our sweethearts and wives

1. We hove our ship to with the wind at south-west, boys
We hove our ship to, to strike soundings clear
We let go our topsail and bore right away, boys
And straight up the Channel of England we'll steer
2. The first land we made was called the Deadland
Ramhead off Plymouth, off Portsmouth and Wight
We sailed by Beachy, by Fairlight and Dover
And then bore away for the South Foreland light

Glossary

- **Melancholy:** sad
- **Hove:** to lift something, past tense of 'heave'
- **Soundings:** Water depths are measured by *soundings*. Today, these are usually acquired by hydrographic surveys. The depths may be in either feet or fathoms.
- **Topsail:** the sail of the tallest mast on the ship
- **Bore:** to move your ship, past tense

Comprehension Questions

Listen to the song.

- What does it sound like? Jolly? Sad?
- How does it make a sailor's life sound?

Activity 1: Singing and performing the song

- **Don't forget your warm ups!** See page 6.
- **TASK** – Learn the chorus and make up your own actions for the words
- Listen to the verses and see if you can tap the beat on your knees.

Additional Resources

This resource features 'listening' songs for you to play to your class, and 'learning' songs which you can all learn to sing and join in with. Free downloads of all the songs presented in this pack are available from the EFDSS Resource Bank at www.efdss.org/a-sailors-life

*Performing roaring pupils from
Invicta Primary School
(Photo credit: EFDSS/Roswitha Cheshier)*



We'll Rant and We'll Roar



We'll rant and we'll roar, like true Brit-ish s-ai-lors_____ We'll



rant and we'll roar, the rest of our lives._____ We'll drink and be



jol-ly and drown mel-an-cho-ly, Here's a



health to old Eng-land our sweet-hearts and wives_____



Explore The Full English digital archive

www.vwml.org/thefullenglishproject

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