



STORIES FROM THE SEA

SHIPWRECKS CLASSROOM ACTIVITY 2

FREEZE FRAME

Key learning outcomes

Using empathy and 'stepping into a painting' to write from a character's point of view.

Creating speech and thought bubbles for characters in a painting.



Activity

As a class, look at the painting 'The Wreck of the East Indiaman *Dutton* in Plymouth Sound, 26 January 1796'. Discuss what's happening in the painting using the questions provided with the image of the painting, and your own questions. In small groups, ask children to choose a group of people standing on the shore in the painting and create a freeze-frame with their bodies to show their stances and gestures. Take a digital photograph of the children in each group. Ask selected children in each group to 'bring to life' their characters by voicing what they are thinking or saying. Children then write thought and speech bubbles for their characters and add them to their own print-out of the painting or their freeze-frame photograph.



Resources

'The Wreck of the East Indiaman *Dutton* in Plymouth Sound, 26 January 1796' in the **Shipwreck Objects** gallery- displayed on the whiteboard and printed out

Pre-cut thought and speech bubbles

A digital camera



More ideas

This activity could be used as a starting point for creating a more sustained piece of writing on the scene depicted in the painting. The freeze frame could become one scene in a story-board that recounts the sinking of the *Dutton* from the point of view of their character on the shore. Alternatively, children could also use their thought and speech bubbles as the basis for writing a short letter from their character to a friend, telling them of their response to the disaster.