



Pupil Notes

The *Mary Rose*

King Henry VIII's Great Warship

THE BEGINNING

In 1509 King Henry VIII ordered new purpose-built warships for his navy. One of the first of these warships was the *Mary Rose*.

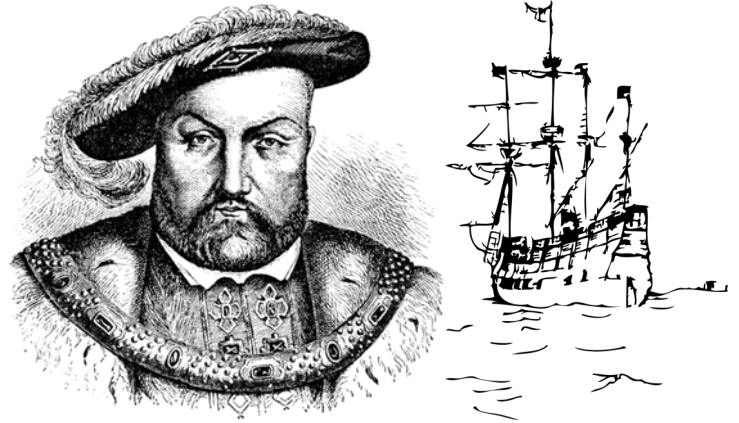
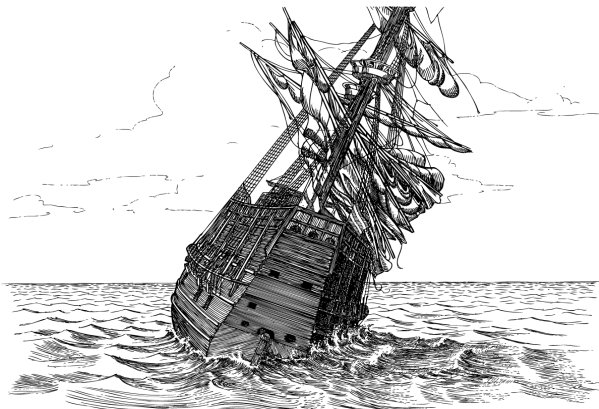
She was built in the Royal Dockyard in Portsmouth, very close to where she resides today!



HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE *MARY ROSE*?

The *Mary Rose* was a very important ship in the English Navy. She was strong and fast.

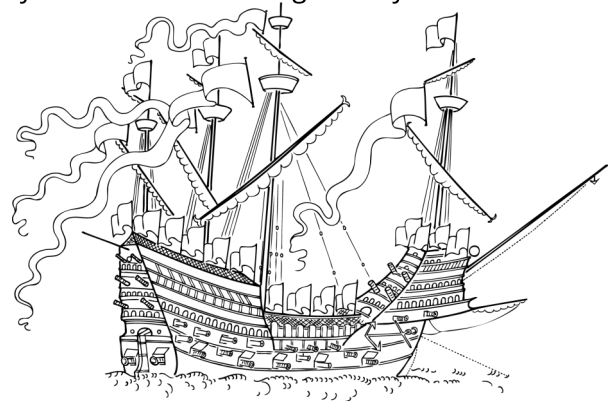
The *Mary Rose* sailed for 34 years and played important roles in all three of Henry VIII's wars with France!



WHY WAS SHE CALLED THE *MARY ROSE*?

Some people believe that Henry's favourite ship, the *Mary Rose*, was named after his sister MARY and the Tudor ROSE, the symbol of Henry's family.

Other people believe that because people in Tudor times were very religious the *Mary Rose* was more likely named after the Virgin Mary.



WHEN DID SHE SINK?

On 19 July 1545, the *Mary Rose* sailed from Portsmouth with the rest of the English fleet to engage with the French navy, which was trying to invade England!

During the battle the *Mary Rose* sank in the Solent.

Legend tells us that King Henry VIII actually watched his favourite ship sink from his castle at Southsea.

Learn more at [www.maryrose.org/meet the crew](http://www.maryrose.org/meet-the-crew)

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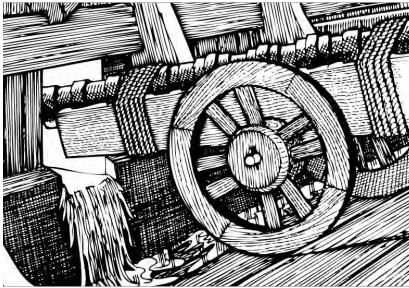
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WHY DID THE *MARY ROSE* SINK?

There are many different theories about why *Mary Rose* sank in 1545:

- The *Mary Rose* was overloaded with soldiers and heavy guns
- The crew of the ship were unruly and the officers were incompetent
- The ship took on too much water through the open gun ports
- French gunfire sank the ship
- A freak wind caught the sails as she turned causing her to capsize

We will probably never know for sure how the *Mary Rose* sank.

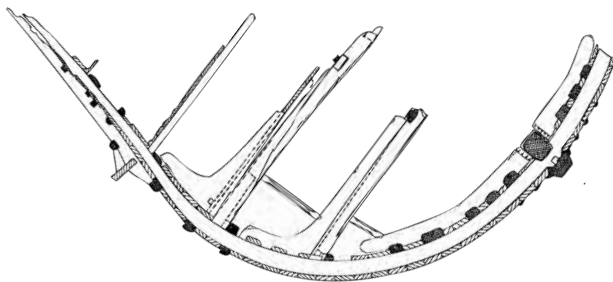
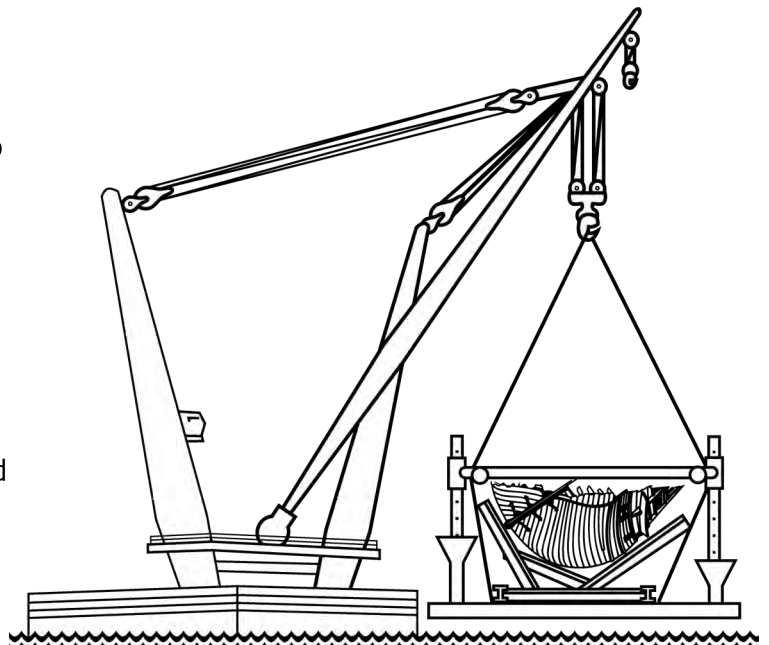


HOW WAS THE *MARY ROSE* DISCOVERED?

Immediately after the battle, attempts were made to recover the *Mary Rose* but she could not be saved. For nearly 300 years she lay at the bottom of the Solent, just off the coast at Portsmouth.

In the 1960s divers found the remains of a ship buried underneath the silt off the coast from Southsea Castle. They had re-discovered the *Mary Rose*! Very carefully and over a long period of time, the archaeologists and divers excavated the ship and found 19,000 artefacts!

Finally in 1982 people all over the world watched on television as the *Mary Rose* was lifted out of the water and brought back to Portsmouth Dockyard.



WHAT ELSE WAS FOUND?

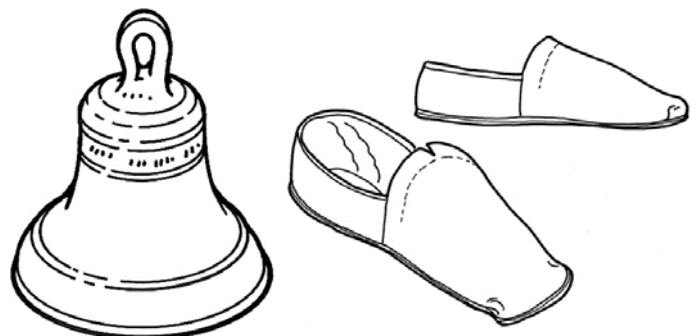
Much of the ship's equipment as well as the crew's personal possessions have been found.

Bronze guns, hand weapons, navigation and carpentry tools as well as food supplies were found.

Wooden tankards, combs, gold coins, musical instruments, clothing and shoes belonged to the officers and men.

WHAT IS LEFT?

As the *Mary Rose* lay underwater for so many years only about half of the ship remains. The other half was gradually washed away with the tides, collapsed or was eaten away by shipworm and other sea creatures!



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