

Dunwich Museum Teachers Plans



During your visit

Museum Visit Approximately 1 hour

In the museum we tell the story of the great storms that destroyed the busy harbour, and explain the coastal processes that wiped out a thriving town. The museum can accommodate parties of 30 or so, split into 2 groups. For independent activities download our Museum I spy sheets to encourage children to look in more detail, our Museum Seal Trail or Dunwich Bingo (allow more time for these)

Downstairs Museum led 25- 30 minute

This includes a talk from the curator bringing the tale of prosperity and decline to life with the impressive model of the medieval town, our collection of artifacts and History boards from over the centuries, and a small shop for the children to buy pocket money items.

Upstairs Independent / volunteer led 25- 30 minutes

Activities include a short DVD dramatizing the tale of the town and animating the forces of the sea, photographs and natural history exhibits, our collection of 'medieval hats' and interactive displays. On request, let the children 'Touch the Past,' with our handling collection under the guidance of an experienced volunteer. Can they guess what it is? How old is it?

The Beach Teacher led 30-45 minutes

Dunwich offers crumbling cliffs and a steep and changeable beach. Enjoy the sensory experience of the beach, looking for signs of the action of the sea and man made attempts to protect the coastline. Use our Scavenger activity, from the website or simply sketch or photograph signs of erosion, and man made interventions to protect the coastline. Try the long shore drift experiment, throwing an orange into the water and seeing what happens to it over the course of a minute. Do a survey of beach stone sizes measuring down from the cliff to the water's edge. How does the pebble size vary? Why is this? Imagine the cliffs stretching above a mile out to sea. Ask to borrow our banner of the view the children would have had 800 years ago of the medieval harbour. Download the Gingerbread Man sheet for children to record the impressions of their senses.

The Trail Teacher or Museum volunteer led 40 minutes - 1 hour

Explore the ruins perched on the fragile cliffs. Use our download maps to plot the remains of medieval Dunwich. Use our Trail Map to explain the fragments of the past you encounter on your walk or ask for Sister Luke to accompany you telling the children tales from the medieval town. Borrow our collection of hats and artifacts and bring medieval characters to life. Download our Medieval Role Play sheet and Character Scrolls to look at characters in more detail.

For more information email schools@dunwichmuseum.org.uk