ARTS AWARD

The Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum

LIFT THE LID ON ISLAND CULTURE

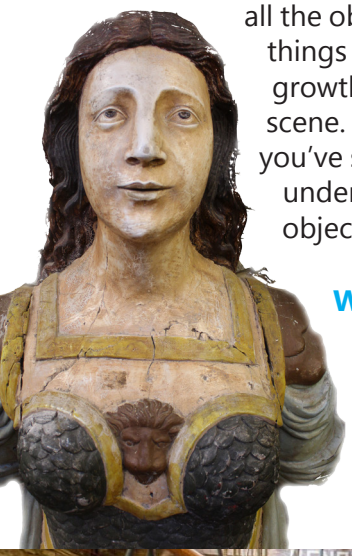
MYTHS, MERMEN AND MAKE BELIEVE

While visiting the museum did you find 'Marmaduke the Merman'? He was also known as Ringo the Man-Fish, a strange monkey fishy clawed creature said to have been found a hundred years ago, off the coast of China. Is he real do you think? Throughout history there has been folklore, stories and tales about the mysteries of the sea. Use your imagination to create your own version about what lies or lives in the depths of the ocean.

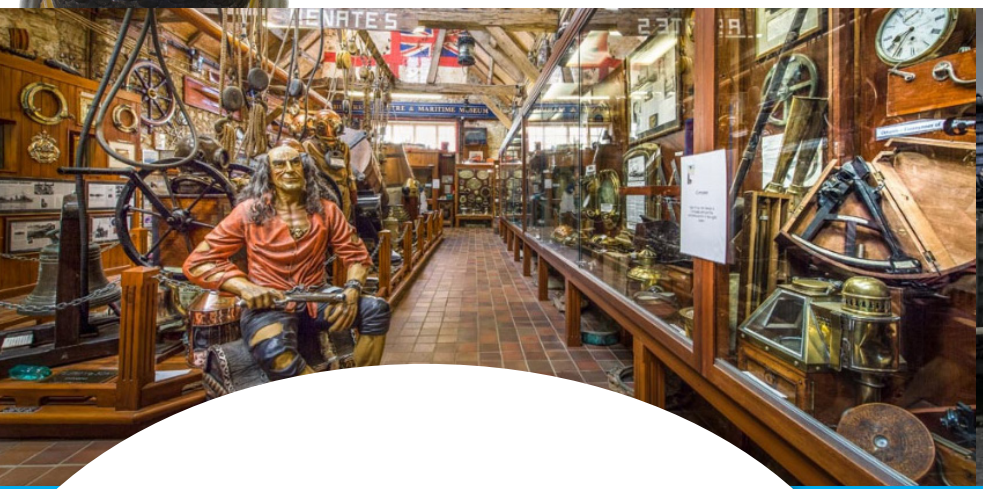
Activities

MODEL Create a model of a made up creature. You can sculpt it using airdrying clay, or use junk modelling by collecting discarded packaging . If you have old or broken toys you can fuse two together using glue or tape. Remember to give him/her/it a name and a back story explaining what it is, where it comes from, what it eats etc.

DRAW AND PAINT Not many people get to see the magical world at the bottom of the ocean. The 'Seabed Scene' display in the corner under the stairs depicts a seabed showing hundreds of items recovered from shipwrecks. The unusual thing about this display is that all the objects have been left in their "found" condition and not cleaned. We can see how things really look on a wreck-site when they are discovered, encrusted with marine growth and covered in barnacles. **Draw, paint or collage** an imagined underwater scene. It can be as realistic or imaginary as you like. Include some of the objects that you've seen in the museum. Unlike other materials, gold is virtually unaffected by being under seawater a long time so with a gold pen or paint maybe include some shiney objects in your scene.



WRITE Can you think of stories and songs that have been inspired by shipwrecks or include wrecks in the plot? For example Shakespeare's play 'The Tempest' or 'The Little Mermaid' by Hans Christian Anderson. Write your own story or song inspired by the magnificent objects in the museum, maybe the marvellous Narwhal tusk (Narwhal Sea Unicorn) for example and use some of the interesting words and names of objects eg. Astrolobe, sextant, binnacle .



REMEMBER
show everything you have done: take photos, write notes, keep flyers and anything else to share your activity and what you feel about it.

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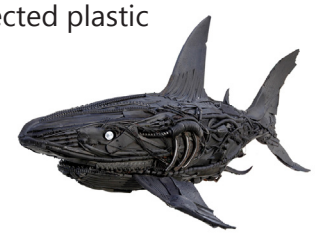
FOUND OBJECTS AND COLLECTIONS

Lots of artists are concerned about marine debris and **plastic pollution** in the sea and on our coasts and they are making artwork inspired by what they find.

In a series of photos called 'Flotsam and Jetsam' artist **Peter Tonningsen** collects odd things that wash up on beaches near his home in California. He scans them and makes artistic grids of the quirky things he finds, trying to create order in the chaos of rubbish. (www.lensculture.com/articles/peter-tonningsen-flotsam-and-jetsam). Artist **Aurora Robson** set up Project Vortex which is an international collective of artists, designers and architects gathering plastic debris to to help us rethink our plastic waste **www.projectvortex.org**, and artists at **www.washedashore.org** create art to "Save the Sea!". Isle of Wight based artist **Mary Flynn** collected plastic from Island beaches over 5 years and created 'The Plastic Shore Archive' (www.isleofwightarts.com/artist-profile/maryflynn)

Left: Mary Flynn, 'Sea Banners'



Right: Xandi Kreuzeder 'Tiger Shark'
Marine debris plastics, wood, resin

Activities:

FOUND OBJECT ART

Start collecting your own marine themed found objects and transform them into an artwork. It might take you a while to collect enough items so maybe do it with someone else or your class. Is there a theme or message you want to convey? Think about how and where you might show your artwork when it's finished.

NB: If you are collecting items from the beach wear suitable clothing and gloves, go with an adult and only pick up items that are safe.

'A found object is a natural or man-made object, or fragment of an object, that is found (or sometimes bought) by an artist and kept because of some intrinsic interest the artist sees in it' (from www.tate.org.uk)

COLLECTIONS

The wonderful assortment of items at the museum have been collected by Martin Woodward who has a passion for maritime history and for exploring shipwrecks. Have you got a collection of your own? What's your passion? Do you collect badges, pokemon figures, souvenirs, fossils, rubbers or objects you've made?

Create a mini **Pop-Up Museum** to share your collection. How will you present it? Will you group different items into different categories? Think about creative ways you can display your items - maybe it's by colour, or by size or theme, or by where you collected them. Find out about other artists and collectors. What do they collect? How do they dsplay their collections? Which of the displays at the Museum do you like and why?

Team up with other classmates and create a Pop-Up Museum at school, you can offer guided tours to teachers! Share photos with us and 'Lift the Lid' to show what you did.

Martin Woodward

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