



Royal Engineers Museum

Outreach And Tactile Boxes



PLEASE NOTE:

Before we visit or you receive your Box:

- Read the **Teachers Pack** thoroughly.
This includes some rules and guidelines to be observed while using the boxes. It also includes background information, and notes on what to expect.
- A **Work Sheet** will be provided for each child should they be requested upon booking.
- Read the **Classroom Activities**.
Tactile Boxes of History come with a series of classroom activities based on the topic covered by the box. Additional information on topics covered by our Learning Service is available on our website, please feel free to browse this beforehand.



Introduction

Contents

[Background Information](#) on the Museum, its collection and the Royal Engineers.

[Guidelines](#), the Museum would appreciate your co-operation with these guidelines to ensure that you have an enjoyable and successful experience.

[Charges](#) are listed below and change regularly.

[Outreach Service](#) explained. What you can expect from a visit, and what other topics can be delivered in your classroom.

[Tactile Boxes of History](#) are a unique and cost effective way to experience the hands-on nature of the museum collection.

Introduction

Welcome to the Royal Engineers Museum's **Learning Service!**

At the Royal Engineers Museum we aim to support your teaching of the National Curriculum through **handling sessions**, **activity sheets** and **talks** on a range of themes and topics. Children have the opportunity to handle original and replica objects and material to bring history to life.

This **teacher's pack** is designed to help you plan and prepare for your experience and contains all of the information you will need to make the most of it.

Your pack also includes:

Teachers Notes

They contain useful background information on the Royal Engineers as well as information about other topics covered by our Outreach service.



Background information

Education at the Museum

The museum provides an excellent environment for learning through direct contact with objects and materials. Our service aims to create sessions in line with National Curriculum targets across the board for pupils from primary school to university level. We are keen to offer a service that suits everyone and with enough notice can adapt any session or develop original ones to cover specific items relevant for your groups.

The collection consists of artefacts, archives and books collected by the Royal Engineers from every conflict they have taken part in and every country they have visited. Through these objects we are able to tell the story of every conflict Britain has been involved in from the end of the 18th century until today. As well as the history of military engineering, dating back to its earliest beginnings. We are also in a unique position to reflect on the development of technology and engineering, and how it is used in the modern world.

The museum holds many artefacts relating to National Curriculum topics such as the Key Stage 2 Second World War, Key Stage 3 First World War topics and 'A' Level English topics. We also have items relating to the Crimean War and Boar War, and make an ideal setting to explore science and technology.

We offer special sessions through out the year relating to commemorative events such as Remembrance Day, special exhibitions in the museum, National Armed Forces Day or Christmas. These sessions are limited and allocated on a first come first serve basis. Please check our website for details on these sessions or contact the education officer.

The library is also available for research purposes providing it is booked in advance and only in small groups. It houses a wide collection of books, archives and photographs, relating not only to the Royal Engineers, but many other topics as well: For example it contains a set of first edition Charles Dickens novels as well as transcripts of First and Second World War veterans diaries and interviews.

The Collection

The museum displays tell not only the history of military engineering from medieval period to the present day but also of the social history and background of the age. The interpretation of the collection is varied from static display cases to more interactive elements such as the First World War trench, the 1940's house and the night-vision interactive. We also have interactive kiosks to interpret some of the large vehicles we have on display. Only part of the 1,000,000+ items that make up the museum and libraries collection are on display in the museum, many items are kept in storage for



conservation reasons. However some of these objects can be brought out and used in talks or object handling session.

The Royal Engineers

The Royal Engineers claim their history all the way back to Norman times, when William the Conqueror employed a monk named Gundulph as Engineer to the King. He was responsible for the building of the White Tower (now part of the Tower of London) and strengthening the defences at Rochester Castle.

The Royal Engineers' nickname is 'Sappers'. One of the mottos of the Royal Engineers is 'Ubique' (Latin for 'everywhere') to show that the 'Sappers' have been involved in nearly all of Britain's conflicts and have worked in many countries around the world during peacetime. The Royal Engineers help the Army to live, move and fight, by building accommodation, roads and bridges and by providing equipment and vehicles. They are also involved in survey and map making, mine clearing, railways, Army postal service, bomb disposal and architecture.

The Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) has been at Brompton since 1812. Soldiers from the Royal Engineers now come to the school for training and to complete civil engineering, construction and electrical courses.

The museum itself was founded in 1813 and was originally located in Brompton Barracks on the Regimental Parade Square. It moved to its current location, the Ravelin Building, in 1986.

More information about the Museum and Corps of Royal Engineers can be found on our website at www.remuseum.org.uk



Outreach Service

As the cost of coach hire rises, it becomes more and more difficult to facilitate a visit to any off-site location. With this in mind, the Royal Engineers Museum offers some of its workshops as “Outreach.” This means, we’ll come to you. During an Outreach Session, one of our education staff will come to your school, with some of the Handling Collection and deliver a very similar session to the one you would receive during a visit. It’s a cost effective way to include the museum in your students’ educational experience.

Topics we cover:

We currently offer Outreach Sessions on the following topics:

World War One: Life in the Trenches

World War Two: Home Front

Florence Nightingale

Curious Curators

On occasion, the Museum’s education staff may be happy to create a bespoke workshop for your class. This depends largely on the nature of artefacts required for the workshop, as much of our collection is extremely fragile and cannot be taken out of the Museum.

What happens in an Outreach Session:

An Outreach Session functions in a very similar way to our regular on-site workshops. One of our education staff will arrive in your class with objects from our Handling Collection (objects selected for their durability and educational value). Using these objects as talking points, our staff will deliver the topic while pausing frequently to allow children to pass around the artefacts. Worksheets can also be provided on the given topic at no extra charge, provided that this is requested upon booking.



Tactile Boxes of History

More commonly known as “loans boxes,” our Tactile Boxes of History can help you set the stage of history within your very own classroom. Each box is filled with carefully selected objects from our Handling Collection, along with interesting archive resources, worksheets, lesson plans, and loads of background information to help you bring history to life!

Current Boxes:

At present, the RE Museum offers Tactile Boxes covering the following topics:

World War Two: Home Front
Florence Nightingale

The Tactile Boxes are always growing and new subject areas are being considered for development. If there is a subject you would like to see covered by our Tactile Boxes of History, please let us know. Also, keep an eye on our Schools Bulletin for up to date information on new developments.

*Tactile Boxes of History are ideal for Special Needs Students.

How the Boxes Work:

The Tactile Boxes of History are extremely easy to use. After you have confirmed your booking, we prepare the box for pick-up. It is the responsibility of the school to collect and return the box to the museum. Full terms and conditions can be downloaded on our website.

Contained within the box are a series of artefacts, pictures, archival sources, and classroom activities to help you teach these fascinating topics. Even the box itself is an artefact!

If you would like more information about the Tactile Boxes please feel free to contact our education staff on:

Tel: 01634 822312 or via email: education@re-museum.co.uk

