

Mary Rose

Underwater | Off Portsmouth, England | built 1510, sank 1545 | Grades 3-5

Name _____ Date _____

The Mary Rose was raised in 1982 with about 19,000 objects, including the skeleton of the ship's dog.

Read the story

The Mary Rose was built in 1510 for King Henry VIII. It was one of the first English ships able to fire big guns through ports in its side, and it served in the navy for 34 years.

In July 1545, a French fleet attacked near Portsmouth. As the Mary Rose turned, it heeled over, water rushed into its open gunports, and it sank fast. Of about 500 men aboard, fewer than 35 survived. Henry VIII watched from shore.

The wreck settled into soft mud, which preserved one side of the ship and everything on it. In 1982, after years of work, the hull was lifted from the sea, watched live on TV by millions of people.

How it ended

The Mary Rose sank in battle in 1545. Some salvage was attempted soon after, but it failed. The ship was forgotten in the mud, and much of the exposed part wore away until it was found again.

Key words

- hull: the main body of a ship
- longbow: a tall, powerful bow used by English archers
- Tudor: the royal family that ruled England from 1485 to 1603

Wow facts

- The ship's dog, a terrier nicknamed Hatch, was found near the carpenter's cabin.
- More than 170 longbows and thousands of arrows were recovered.
- The raising in 1982 was watched on TV by about 60 million people.

Talk about it

1. What can everyday objects like combs and dice tell us about sailors' lives?

2. Why do you think millions of people watched the raising?

Try this

Draw a map of Mary Rose as it looked at its busiest. Label three things people did there.

Quick quiz

Circle the best answer.

1. Which king's ship was the Mary Rose?

- A. Henry VIII
- B. William the Conqueror
- C. Charles I
- D. Richard III

2. What animal was found aboard?

- A. A dog
- B. A parrot
- C. A monkey
- D. A horse

3. When was the Mary Rose raised?

- A. 1982
- B. 1545
- C. 1900
- D. 2015

Go further

Open ruinscape.live/mary-rose/ for photos, the Then and Now picture where there is one, and links to museum collections and research. On the globe, Lyra Kael can fly the class there and answer questions.

Answer key (for teachers)

1. A. It was built for Henry VIII in 1510.
2. A. The skeleton of the ship's dog, nicknamed Hatch, was found.
3. A. The hull was lifted in 1982.