Ocean Academy Poole
an Aspirations Academy
Self-Worth | Engagement | Purpose

Learning Journey Map

Year: **5** Term: **Spring 2**
Subject: **History** Topic: **Local History - Piracy & Smuggling**

Driving Question: See Science - Forces
Power Skill: Critical Thinking

National Curriculum Learning Objectives

- They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time
- a local history study

Key Vocabulary

Pirate	Ship	Cargo	Robbery	Bucaneer
Corsair	Smuggler	Treasure	Attack	Cjhannel
Hides	Taxes	Privateer	Export	Import

Key Learning



Overview

Piracy is an act of robbery or criminal violence by ship or boat-borne attackers upon another ship or a coastal area, typically with the goal of stealing cargo and other valuable goods. Those who conduct acts of piracy are called pirates, and vessels used for piracy are called pirate ships. The earliest documented instances of piracy were in the 14th century BC, when the Sea Peoples, a group of ocean raiders, attacked the ships of the Aegean and Mediterranean civilisations. Areas often attacked through history include the waters of Gibraltar, the Strait of Malacca, Madagascar, the Gulf of Aden, and the English Channel, as they are all narrow channels which help pirate attacks. Piracy is different from privateering, as explained below. The Golden Age of Piracy is a term for the period between the 1650s and the 1730s, when maritime piracy was a significant factor in the histories of the North Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Smuggling is the illegal transportation of objects, substances, information or people. In England smuggling first became a recognised problem in the 13th century after the creation of laws which meant taxes had to be paid on imported and exported goods. Medieval smuggling tended to focus on the export of highly taxed export goods — notably wool and hides. Merchants also, however, sometimes smuggled other goods to deal with prohibitions (bans) on particular trades. Grain, for instance, was usually prohibited from export, unless prices were low, because of fears that grain exports would raise the price of food in England and thus cause food shortages and civil unrest. Imports of wine were also sometimes banned during wars with France to try to deprive the French of the money that could be earned from their main export. The high rates of tax on tea, alcohol and other luxury goods coming in from mainland Europe in the 17th and 18th Centuries made the smuggling of such goods a highly profitable venture for poor fishermen and seafarers..

Key terms

Pirate - A criminal on a ship or boat who attacks, usually to rob, other ships. They usually use violence to do so.

Privateer - A legal pirate. For example: If England is at war with France, the English government can give individuals and crews permission to attack and rob French ships, even though that individual/crew are not part of the English navy.

Buccaneer - Buccaneers were a kind of privateer particular to the Caribbean Sea during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Corsair - A privateer or pirate, especially:

- Barbary corsair, Ottoman and Berber privateers operating from North Africa.
- French corsairs, privateers operating on behalf of the French crown.

Smuggler - A person involved in the illegal transportation of goods or persons.

Resources: eg. atlases etc

Key Learning



Harry Paye

Henry Paye, also known as Harry, Page or Arripaye (to the Spanish), was a privateer and smuggler from Poole, Dorset in the late 14th and early 15th century, who became a commander of a large fleet of ships.

He intercepted hundreds of French ships for gold, wine and exotic fruits, which he brought it back to the people of Poole.

Paye led naval raids along the coast of France and Spain from Normandy through to the Bay of Biscay and Cape Finisterre. He burnt Gijon and Finisterra to the ground, taking many prisoners and exacting ransoms, and in 1398 he raided the Church of Saint Mary in Finisterra and stole a valuable crucifix. He also helped quell the Welsh revolts against English rule, defeating a French fleet sent to aid the uprising.

In 1405, a combined fleet of French and Spanish ships attacked Paye's native town of Poole in retaliation for Paye's raids. The attackers looted arms and stores and set fire to a warehouse before they were driven back to their ships by the townspeople. Although Paye was not present in Poole during the raid, his brother was among those killed by the attackers. During an expedition in 1406, he captured 120 French ships off the coast of Brittany laden with iron, salt and oil.

Paye died in 1419 and was buried in the parish church at Faversham, Kent

Paye is celebrated in the annual *Harry Paye Charity Fun Day* parade held in Poole every June, while Rosemary Manning wrote a children's novel based on his life, *Arripay* (1963).



Isaac Gulliver

Isaac Gulliver (c. 1745–1822) was an English smuggler based on the South Coast. Gulliver and his gang ran fifteen luggers (small ships) to smuggle gin, silk, lace and tea from the Continent to Poole Bay and came to control the coast from Lymington in Hampshire, through Dorset all the way to Torbay in Devon. He was known as "King of the Dorset Smugglers" and was also referred to as "the gentle smuggler who never killed a man".

An extremely wealthy man, Gulliver owned several farms, including one at Eggardon Hill in Dorset where he planted large clumps of trees to act as navigation aids for his ships. His success meant he was able to build many grand houses, among them 'Howe Lodge', in Kinson, Bournemouth - a purpose-built smuggling stronghold. When the house was demolished in 1958, a number of hiding places were found within, including a secret room only accessible through a door 10 feet up a chimney! It was at Howe Lodge that he allegedly covered his face in white powder and lay in an open coffin. When the customs men arrived to arrest him his wife told them he had died during the night and showed them the 'body'. When they went away, Gulliver got out of the coffin and escaped.Later, a mock funeral was held using a coffin filled with stones.

A 1788 report from the Custom House, Poole, to His Majesty's Commissioners of Customs in London mentioned that:

> "Gulliver was considered one of the greatest and most notorious smugglers in the west of England and particularly in the spirits and tea trades but in the year 1782 he took the benefit of his Majesty's proclamation for pardoning such offences and as we are informed dropped that branch of smuggling and afterwards confined himself chiefly to the wine trade which he carried on to a considerable extent having vaults at various places along the coast and "in remote places".

He retired to Gulliver's House, West Borough, Wimborne and died there on 13 September 1822.



Key Learning

Hawkhurst Gang

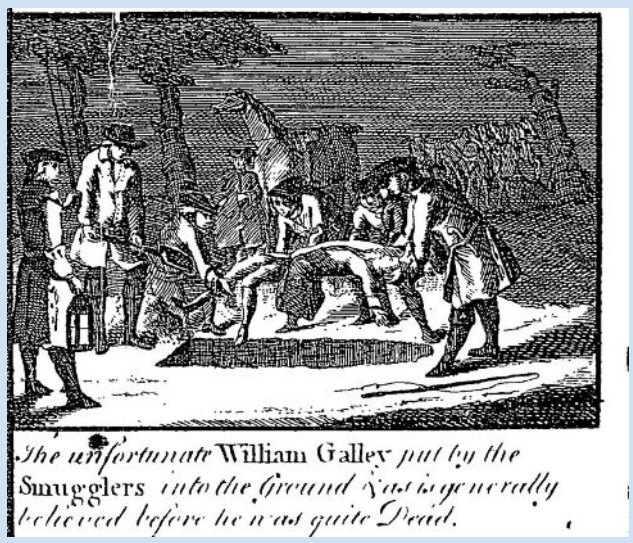
The Hawkhurst Gang was a notorious criminal organisation involved in smuggling throughout south-east England from 1735 until 1749. One of the more infamous gangs of the early 18th century, they extended their influence from Hawkhurst, their base in Kent, along the South coast, where they successfully raided the Custom House, Poole.



In September 1747, the gang had arranged a smuggled shipment of tea, coffee, brandy and rum from Guernsey, worth about £500 (equivalent to £101,472 in 2023), to be landed at Christchurch Bay, but the ship was captured by a government revenue ship. The goods were then taken to Poole by the naval officers and stored in the customs house. The crew had escaped in a small boat.

In the following weeks, a plan was made by the gang to retrieve the goods. On 7th October, Thirty armed men, including their leader Thomas Kingsmill, his lieutenant William Fairall and about seven other Hawkhurst men, rode to Poole. Arriving at about 11 pm, they found that the customs house was under the guns of a naval ship. It was soon realised that as the tide fell the ship's guns would no longer be in sight of the customs house.

The gang broke into the customs house around 2 am on 8 October, escaping on horseback with the tea. They left the brandy, rum and coffee at the customs house, presumably due to insufficient transport. The smugglers were not opposed at any stage of the journey. The Customs Service offered a large reward of £500 for their capture.



Several months after the raid, a member of the gang known as Diamond was captured. He had been recognised by a Fordingbridge resident, a shoemaker named Daniel Chater, who was given a small bag of tea by Diamond. He was later called as a witness by the customs service and was sent to a village in West Sussex to confirm Diamond's identity. He went with a revenue officer, William Galley. The pair became lost on the way and stopped in a nearly pub to seek directions and shelter. Unfortunately, this was a smuggler's pub and the landlady fetched two of the Hawkhurst gang, who waited for the men to fall asleep before kidnapping them. They beat them, tied them to horses and took them to another village. There, they buried William Galley alive, and threw Daniel Chater down a well.

Although smuggling gangs were generally supported by the local population as they provided much-needed and well-paid work, the murderous brutality of the gang had turned the residents against them. In a nearby town, the people formed the a militia to round up the gang. When the gang attacked the town, the militia were well enough trained to shoot dead Kingsmill's brother George. Two more smugglers died before the gang withdrew.

In 1748 the government issued a list of men wanted for *murders, burglaries and robberies* in Sussex as well as the custom house break-in at Poole. Eventually, Thomas Kingsmill, William Fairall, and three others were arrested and tried for their numerous crimes.

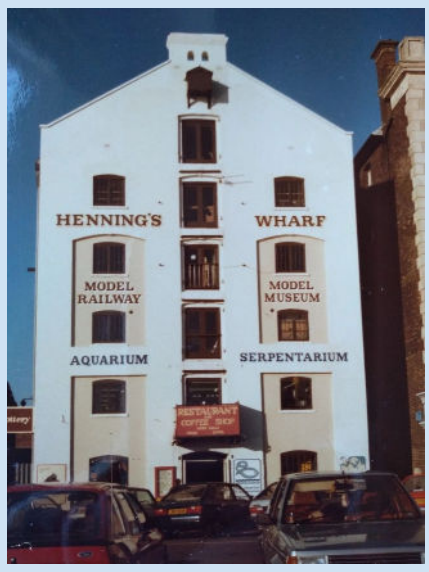
Kingsmill, Fairall were found guilty and sentenced to death and were executed on 26 April 1749. In all, at least 75 of the gang were hanged or transported.

Key Learning



Smuggling sites in the local area

Prior to the remodelling of Scaplen's Court, part of the exciting redevelopment of the Poole Museum complex, archaeologists recently exposed areas in and around what was reputedly the seventeenth century George Inn's kitchen. Of particular interest was what intriguingly looked like the top step of a concealed cellar. Might it lead down into one of the fabled interconnecting smuggler's tunnels, that Poole's Old Town was said to be riddled with in centuries past?





A Bournemouth Echo article, dated 23 February 1985, reported that workmen had discovered underground tunnels below Poole Quay, when digging up the road outside the then Aquarium and Poole Tourist Office. Neville Dear, (Poole's Environmental Department), was quoted as saying it was a well-documented smugglers' route. Potholers, he claimed, had previously entered it, following to the cellar of a former smugglers' pub on the High Street. Could this have been the George Inn?



Bournemouth did not exist in the early days of the smugglers but was a desolate place of heath land and gorse. The area between Middle and Alum Chine, as well as Hengistbury Head, sparsely covered in gorse and heath, presented a perfect landing and hiding place for the smugglers. Often teams of pack-horses would wait on the barren cliff tops for cargoes of illicit goods to arrive and carry them away into the night. One of the most famous smugglers to land his cargo of contraband by the mouth of the River Bourne, near where Bournemouth Pier now stands, was Isaac Gulliver.

Edward Beake was another to smuggle goods on a regular basis at the Chines. He was one of 19 smugglers involved in a violent affray at Bourne Heath in 1770 when smugglers got upset with custom officers from Christchurch seizing a wagon containing 60 tubs of spirits.

The routes smugglers took across the heath land became, over the years, well-trodden paths and eventually became the main routes throughout the town. Glenferness Avenue was a lonely desolate barren heath land and just off the main road was Pug Hole where smugglers hid their wares.



One of the routes the smugglers took was Redhill Common to get to Kinson and St Andrew's Church. The goods would be hidden within the tower of the church or a false tomb where the sides would open to reveal a safe hiding place where officers would not want to be seen to disturb and desecrate a tomb or violate a sacred building.

Another landing place used by smugglers was around the Haven, at the entrance to Christchurch Harbour. Made up of gravel and ironstone, it was an ideal place for smugglers to land. Hannah 'Mother' Sillers, landlady of the Haven Inn, Mudeford, also known as the Angel of the Marsh, would signal to smugglers when it was safe to bring cargo ashore by wearing a red cloak.

Many were killed or injured when smugglers and revenue officers clashed at nearby Avon Beach in the Battle of Mudeford one night in 1784, including officer William Allen.

Ye Olde George Inn, on Christchurch High Street was a favourite smugglers haunt.



Power Skills

	Design maps, diagrams, or visual timelines of local piracy and smuggling activities; create illustrations of key figures and events.
	Analyse historical sources to separate fact from myth about piracy and smuggling; evaluate the impact of pirates and smugglers on Poole.
	Develop curiosity, perseverance, and responsibility when researching historical figures and local history.
	Work in pairs or groups to research people, places, and events; discuss interpretations and share findings.
	Present research, analyses, and timelines clearly using oral explanations, written work, and visual displays