

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 History

HOW IMPORTANT WAS WOOD TO THE TUDOR NAVY?

TASK 1: TEACHERS NOTES

The Use of Wood on a Tudor Ship.

Students will be asked to investigate the use of wood and therefore the importance of trees to the Tudor Navy.

Firstly, they should look at the Mary Rose website www.maryrose.org/lcity/index.htm and scroll through the different categories looking at the artefacts. Then look at the Mary Rose website www.maryrose.org/ and also the National Maritime Museum website www.nmm.ac.uk/TudorExploration/NMMFLASH/ Press on the 'evidence' button and look at navigational instruments

Alternatively, teachers can contact The Mary Rose Trust and request someone to come and talk to the students about the ship or make a visit to the ship itself. (All details can be obtained from the Mary Rose website)

Using the table on task sheet – *The use of wood on the Mary Rose*, students should record their findings using the following headings and list the different artefacts they can find on the website, saying what they are made of.

Heading 1: **Artefact**

Heading 2: **What it is used for**

Heading 3: **What it is made from**

Attention should also be drawn to the fact that there is a carpenter on board ship.

Drawing conclusions about the Mary Rose.

1. What tells you that this was a warship?
2. What tells you that wood was important to Henry VIII's navy?

Curriculum links:

Key Concepts

- 1.1 Chronological Understanding
- 1.6 Interpretation

Key Processes

- 2.1 Historical Enquiry
- 2.2 Using evidence
- 2.3 Communicating about the past

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TASK 2: TEACHERS NOTES The Armada

As part of the investigation of the reasons for the failure of the Spanish Armada, attention should be drawn to the incident where Drake is reported to have 'singd the King of Spain's Beard' in April, 1587.

The point that needs to be made is that barrels of unseasoned wood were used to replace the barrels destroyed by Drake and, as the wood was unseasoned (not dry) the food rotted in the barrels and this meant that there were insufficient supplies for the sailors and troops in the Armada.

In order for the students to arrive at this conclusion, they should read the section on barrel making at

www.witheridge-historical-archive.com/cooper.htm

Students should look at the flow chart about barrel making on the task sheet and, using the information from the website, put the captions in order.

From this, they should be asked what are their conclusions about the state of wood needed for barrels.

Then, returning to the episode with Sir Francis Drake and the events of April 1587, the students should be able to answer the following question.

Question

Why was the episode in 1587 in Cadiz harbour such a disaster for the Spanish?

Curriculum links:

Key Concepts

- 1.1 Chronological Understanding
- 1.4 Cause and consequence.
- 1.5 Significance
- 1.6 Interpretation

Key Processes

- 2.1 Historical Enquiry
- 2.2 Using evidence
- 2.3 Communicating about the past

Reference

References to this incident where Drake raided Cadiz harbour and destroyed ships and supplies, putting back the Armada by 12 months, can be found in textbooks or at the following web pages.

www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/conWebDoc.140

www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/conWebDoc.6204

www.britainexpress.com/History/tudor/armada.htm



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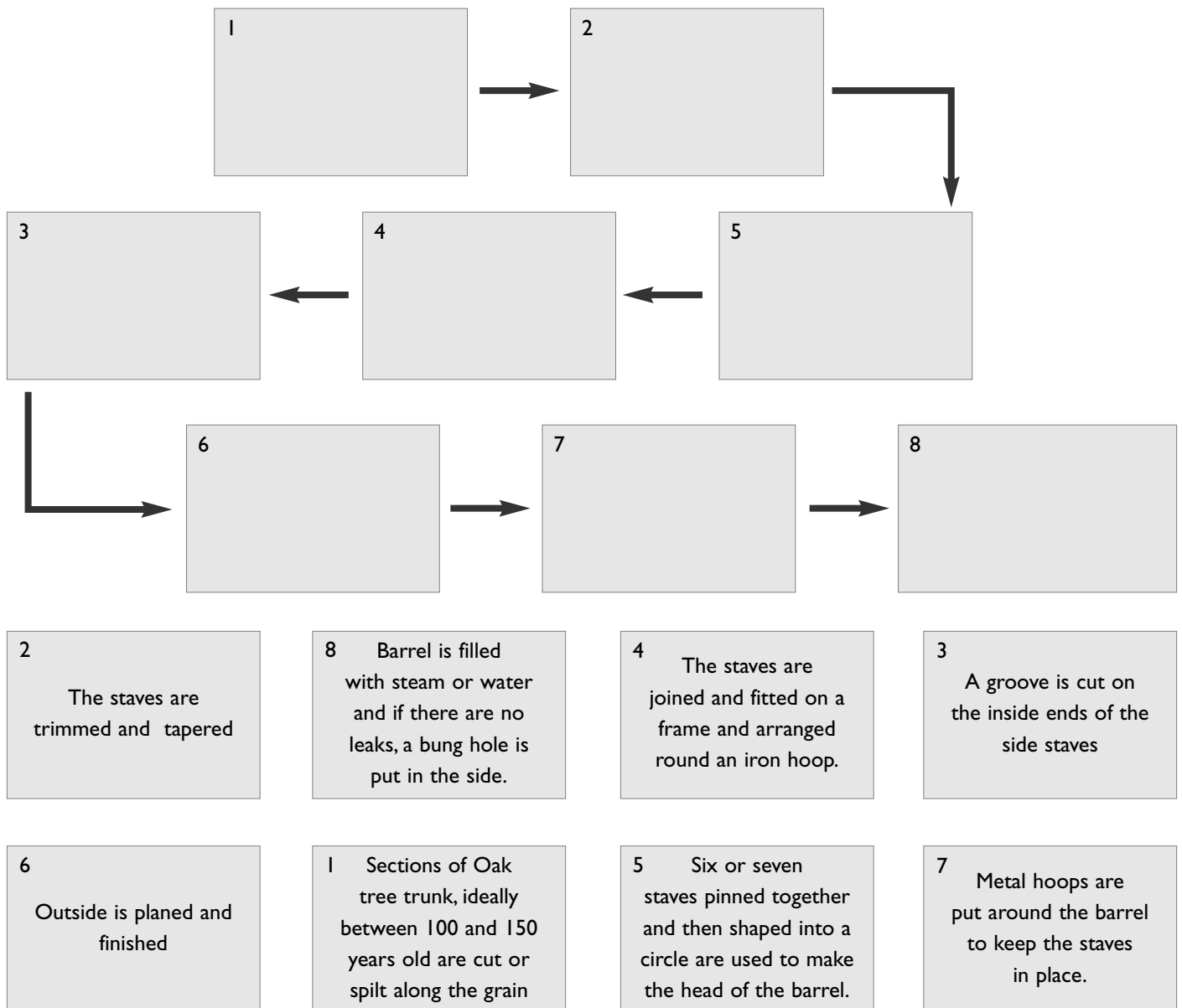
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TASK 2: TEACHERS ANSWERS

Barrel making – the art of cooperage

Cut out explanation and stick in the right order on the flow chart



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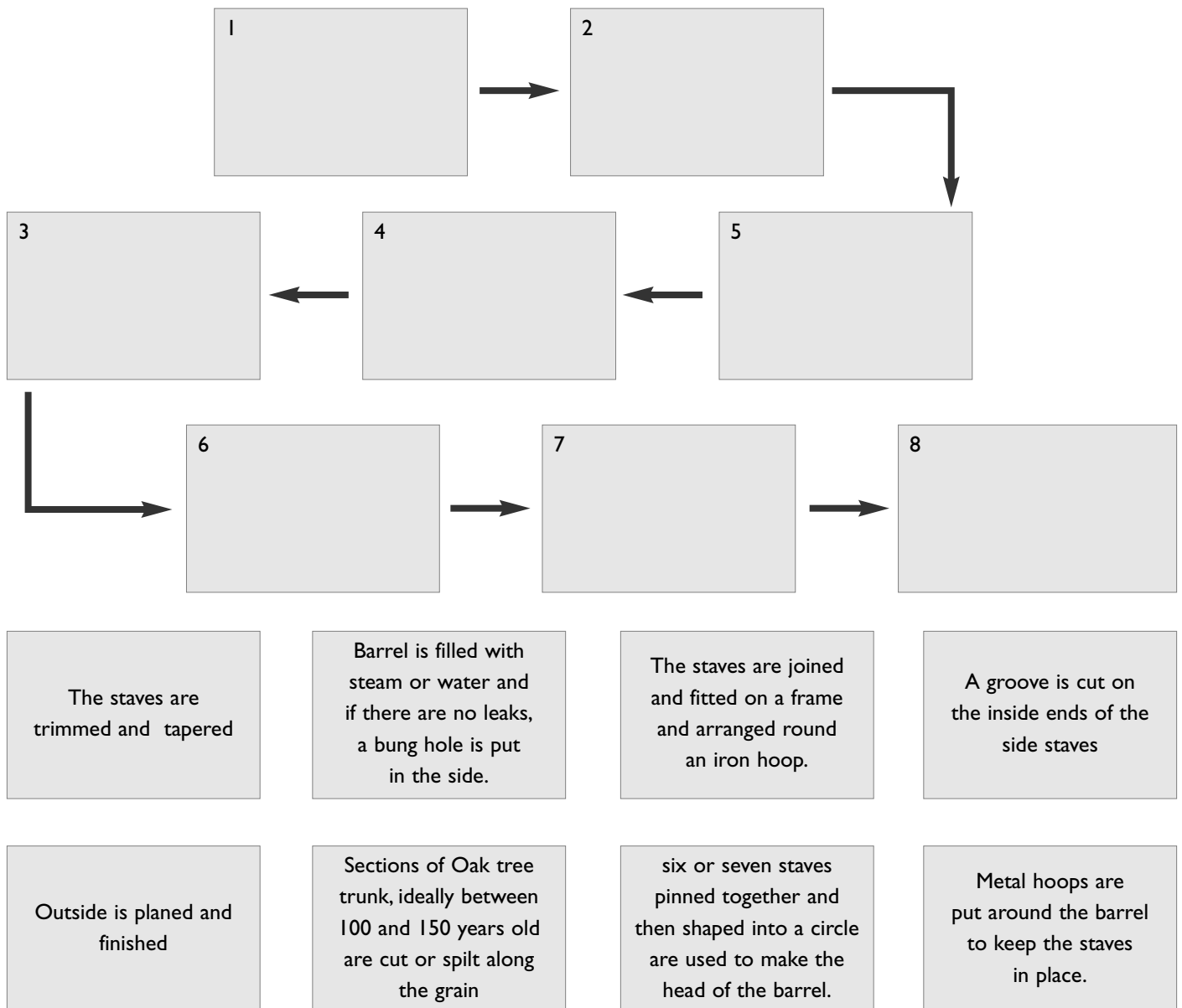
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HOW IMPORTANT WAS WOOD TO THE TUDOR NAVY?

TASK 2: STUDENT SHEET

Barrel making – the art of cooperage

Cut out explanation and stick in the right order on the flow chart



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HISTORICAL ENQUIRY AND QUESTIONING EVIDENCE

TASK 3: TEACHERS NOTES

The Armada Chestnuts at Croft Castle, Herefordshire

Task sheet 3, the *Armada Chestnuts at Croft Castle*, tells the story about the Spanish chestnut trees and asks the students to question the story, albeit briefly. Students need to decide whether they believe the story or whether they think it is just a legend.

They are also asked to suggest what the story tells us about the way in which people viewed the Armada.

Curriculum links:

Key Concepts

- 1.1 Chronological Understanding
- 1.5 Significance
- 1.6 Interpretation

Key Processes

- 2.1 Historical Enquiry
- 2.2 Using evidence
- 2.3 Communicating about the past

TASK 4: TEACHERS NOTES

Conclusion

Question

How Important was wood to the Tudor Navy?

Using the information gained from the unit, the students should discuss or write about the importance of wood to the Tudor navy and also think about the reasons for the decline in the importance of wood in our present navy.

Curriculum links:

Key Concepts

- 1.3 Change and continuity
- 1.4 Cause and consequence
- 1.5 Significance

Key Processes

- 2.2 Using evidence
- 2.3 Communicating about the past

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HISTORICAL ENQUIRY AND QUESTIONING EVIDENCE

TASK 3: STUDENT SHEET

Armada chestnuts at Croft Castle, Herefordshire

The trees in the picture are called the Armada Chestnuts. They are found at Croft Castle, Herefordshire and are supposed to have been planted after the Armada. The story says that the seeds were taken from the wreckage of some of the Spanish Armada and they were planted in 1592.

1. What questions must we ask of this story?
2. Can we believe this story?
3. What does this story tell us about people's views of the Armada and the English victory?

The avenue stretches for a kilometre and were supposed to have been planted by Herbert Croft, Bishop of Hereford who wanted to improve his house's grounds.



The Armada chestnuts in the grounds of Croft Castle, Herefordshire.