



The sailortown murder

*The Museum in Docklands
KS2 story making activity pack*

Name: _____

Class; _____

Year group _____

Date of visit _____

The sailortown murder

Streets like Sailor town were often dangerous places in Victorian times. Your job today is to imagine that you are a reporter and you must tell the story of *The Sailortown Murder*.

Your job

1. First you must read the Horrid Murders panel outside Sailortown and look at the drawings you have been given. These will tell you about a murder in Ratcliffe Highway.....a place not unlike Sailortown. Once you have read the stories, go to number 2.
2. You have now heard a rumour that there was a murder in Sailortown.. You must go and visit the area and use all your senses (looking, listening and smelling) to gather **as much information** about the place as possible. When you have been through Sailortown, go to number 3.
3. Now you must report on your murder. Before you write your article, you must gather all your **facts**. All your facts must be based on what you have seen or sensed in Sailortown. Make sure you complete the table below before you go to number 4.

Where did the murder take place?	
Who was killed?	
What was the weapon?	
What time did it take place?	
What did the place feel like?	
What people live or work in Sailortown?	
Who is the suspect and why?	
What other important information have you found out?	

4. Now you must carefully draw the murder weapon and the scene of the murder below. You might use these drawings back at school to make your own poster and story.

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Follow-up activities

1. During the literacy hour, re-read the Horrid Murder information sheet with the group.

Discuss how and why we know that this type of writing is documentary, rather than fictional. Then compare the text to the illustrations. Ask the children to think about how “facts” have been illustrated and which one they think is the most accurate.

Then ask the children to describe and discuss their impressions of Sailortown, including the atmosphere of the place and their emotions and feelings when they were there.

2. For art and/or literacy, ask the children to write up their Sailortown murder story.

They could choose to either;

- a) Illustrate their story in the style of one of the drawings or posters about the Ratcliffe Highway murders, copying the drawing or calligraphy styles and including their pictures made in Sailortown.
- b) Write the murder story in a fictional style or a letter to a friend describing the event through their own eyes.
- c) Write a factual report for a newspaper, police report.