

STAR OBJECTS TRAIL

Follow this trail around our galleries and enjoy a close look at some of our favourite objects.

Please stay on the route and leave space between yourself and other visitors. Use the hand cleaning station whenever you pass one.

All the touchable parts of our exhibition are cleaned regularly to ensure your safety.

We hope you enjoy the new activities that are standing in for some old favourites for a while.

The questions in our trail do not all have one right answer. You do not need to write the answers down. We hope these questions help you look, think and talk about the fascinating objects in our collection.

Start at the wheelchair in the foyer.

The huge, dark-haired man who sat in this chair had been wounded in the chest, shoulder, leg, wrist and head fighting for Parliament. He created the first national army, deposed the King, turned the world upside down and paved the way for a republic.

What was his name? How did he move this chair on his own?



Step into the Civil War Gallery (Room 1) and turn left. Look up above your head at the King's flag.

The King raised his standard on 22nd August 1642 and the Civil War began. Both sides claimed to be fighting for the King, but they were fighting over the definition of monarchy. The Royalists fought to defend God's chosen ruler. Parliament said they wanted to rescue the King from his advisers and wanted a greater role in government. Charles I could not allow this because he believed he had a divine right to rule.

Find the Gold Touch Piece in the coin case.

Charles I believed that kings and queens were chosen by God and so were above the law.

The King's divine power even meant he could cure diseases.

From the Middle Ages onwards, people believed that the King's touch could cure a nasty lumpy skin disease called Scrofula. Every year, thousands of people with this disease queued up to be cured by the King with a single touch. They were given a coin like this with an angel on one side. The coin was touched by the king and then hung around the ill person's neck. This ceremony continued until the early 18th Century.

Do you think the King could really cure diseases? Why do you think so many people believed he could?



Look up to your right at the musket.

To fight a civil war you needed weapons, like this matchlock musket. Can you spot the differences between the musket at the top of the case and the old-fashioned Huckbut gun below?

Watch the film to find out how to reload and fire a musket. How long do you think this would have taken?

Find the costume display on your left.

Parliamentarians were nicknamed 'Roundheads' after the short haircuts worn by the London apprentices. They are often presented as wearing plain, dark clothes. Royalists were nicknamed 'Cavaliers' from the Spanish word 'caballeros', horse-riding soldiers with a reputation for drinking. They are often presented with long hair and fancy, bright clothes.

Do you think you could really tell the difference between the two sides so easily?

Turn to the model of the Sconce on your right.

Crouch down and look at the model through the glass to see all four corners. Read the label and find out where the idea for this kind of fort came from.

What made it so effective against cannon fire?

Walk to the end of the gallery and look in the last case. Find this jug.



Solve the mystery of the bearded bottle!

This is a German beer bottle. But these bottles have been found everywhere, hidden in the houses of both rich and poor people. Instead of beer, they often contain bent pins, fingernails, heart-shaped pieces of fabric, human hair and urine. Look at the label and find out how these bottles were used.

Walk across the gallery to the medical case and find this...

Soldiers from both sides ran away. If they were caught, they were branded with the name of the army they were trying to escape from.

Which part of the body was this brand made for? Whose name does it burn into the skin?

Why do you think the spikes are so blunt?



Stay where you are to find out about battlefield surgery.

Civil War weapons inflicted terrible wounds. If these became infected, the wounded arm or leg had to be cut off. This was done in two moves with no pain relief.

Which tool in this case was used to slice through the muscle?

Which tool was used to saw through bone?

Look at the chair next to this case.

This chair was only used by women. What was it for?

How rich or poor was the woman who owned it? What can you see that tells you that?

Look in the next case at the Siege Coin.

This emergency money shows us that the war affected everyday life.

Newark was besieged because it lay on a vital crossing of roads and waterways. When a town was under siege it was surrounded by the enemy army and cut off from the outside world. The people of Newark cut these coins from silver cups and plates. Why do you think they made them this shape?

Find the Plague Doctor Costume.

The Plague came to Newark in 1645. At this time people believed smelly air caused diseases. This mask had a beak filled with sweet smelling herbs.

Find this buff coat.

It belonged to local man, Sir Francis Hacker. He fought for Parliament and was with the King at his execution. His brothers fought for the King. Find out more about this divided family by listening to our podcast at www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/learningfromhome/17thcenturytales/

As well as a sword-proof buff coat, a cavalry officer would need all of the things in this case. Look at the screen to find out more.



Find this breastplate in the case. Why do you think it has a dent in it?



Look at Cromwell's Portrait by the door of the gallery.

This portrait was painted in 1649, the year the King was executed. Why do you think he is wearing shiny armour? Why is there a servant in the picture? What is the stick he is holding showing us?

Look across at the portrait of Charles I on horseback. How are these portraits similar or different?

Continue your journey upstairs to the Conflict Gallery (Room 2).

Find the sword in the centre of the gallery that belonged to Sir Thomas Fairfax.

Look closely at the sword. Can you see the marks that show it has been used in battle?

Find the Scold's Bridle. What was it like to wear this?

In 1656, the Quaker Dorothy Waugh was 'moved of the Lord to go to the market of Carlisle to speak against all deceit and ungodly practices'. She was dragged off the market cross and brought before the Mayor who put her in a scold's bridle. She wrote that it had 'three bars of iron to put over my face and a piece of it was put in my mouth which was so unreasonable big a thing for that place as cannot be well related, which was locked on my head and so I stood there ...with the stone weight of iron upon my head and the bit in my mouth to keep me from speaking; and the Mayor said he would make me an example'

Find the portrait of John Thurloe.

This man was Oliver Cromwell's Spy Master. He would like you to become a spy for Cromwell and crack a secret code. Complete the challenge and then walk through the door.

Walk through the next door and into the Creativity Gallery (Room 3).

Find the wine glass.

Read the panel and find out about Jacobite secret codes.

Listen to the Seventeenth Century Juke Box.

Press a button and listen to the 'Top Of The Pops' in the seventeenth century. Which is your favourite?

Move around the Print Explosion.

Look at the many kinds of print read by people at this time.

Walk out through the door and down the Georgian staircase. Turn left and enter the Newark Museum (Room 4).

Look to your left and find the Newark Smock.

Before T-shirts were invented, shirts were made stretchy with smocking. Farm workers wore these smocks. Most smocks were cream but some places had special colours. Newark's smocks were blue and East Anglia's were green. What do you think the embroidered designs represent? Smocking was done by women as piece work in their homes. When people started working in factories instead of fields, they stopped wearing these smocks. Why do you think that was?

Look to the right in the same case and find the Eel Spears.

In the past, the land around Newark was marshy. Snake-like eels lived in the water. Many people thought eels were delicious! To catch several slippery eels at once, a fisherman used this spear. How many do you think he would catch in one go?

Look at the Roman skeleton.

Find the computer game nearby and become an archaeologist.

Walk to the end of the gallery and look at the amazing Newark Torc.

This Iron Age neck ring was deliberately buried in the ground more than 2000 years ago. It weighs 700g (1.5lbs). Where was it made? How do you think it got here? Why might someone have buried it?

The huge wooden printing press.

This belonged to a Newark printer in the Market Place. Lord Byron's first poems were printed on this press. He was living with his mum in Southwell at the time.

Look at the portrait of Lady Ossington and read the label.

Why did people think it was haunted?

Stay where you are and take a look at what is nearby.

What did girls learn to do at the Jersey school?

Look in the last case by the door.

What prize did Arthur Thorpe win at Lover's Lane school in 1895?

Walk back to the stairwell and keep going into the next gallery (Room 5).

Look at the Second World War object you see in the centre of the gallery.

How could you make a quick getaway after you parachuted in behind enemy lines?

Look at the uniform you can see directly behind this object.

Who wore it? What is special about the gun next to it?

Look at the case at the end of the gallery.

Find the mammoth's tooth. What does this tooth tell you about a mammoth's diet?

Find the Stone Age hand axes in this case.

Can you see one which is smooth and has never been used for cutting? What is it made of and where did it come from?

Find the piece of a Roman helmet by the gallery door. Which part of the helmet is this?

Look closely at the figure on the helmet. This is either Castor or Pollux, the Gemini twins. They had the power to save soldiers in trouble. They were famous horsemen. Can you see their horse?

Look to the right of this case to the giant coin.

This is a 'Death Penny'. These were issued to the relatives of soldiers who died in the First World War. Can you read the writing on the plaque? Who do you think the figure represents? Why does she have a lion with her? How do you think this plaque made the relatives feel?

Step through the door and you will be back where you started.

We hope you enjoyed your trail!

Which memorable object will you be thinking about on the way home?

Share your favourite or most memorable object with us



/nationalcivilwarcentre



@civilwarcentre



@nationalcivilwarcentre