

Stop, Look and Listen

A Personal Interaction Activity

We know that most groups are on a schedule when they visit. The children are excited and seem to run through the ship like a giant maze. We would like to encourage teachers to take the time to stop in one or two areas of the ship and ask the children questions which will stimulate their curiosity about the ship and develop their powers to observe, reason and imagine.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Here are some sample questions on general topics. We leave it to you to develop ones which will be suitable for and meet the specific needs of your age group.

1. Have the children think about what the ship is made of - how is it furnished
what colors are used
what are the textures
2. How do you feel about the ships appearance? Is it cheerful? Powerful? Efficient? Ugly?
Cold? Friendly?
3. Would it be hard to design a battleship? If you were designing a ship, which parts would
you try hardest to protect from attack?
4. Compare the sleeping quarters of the enlisted men and the officers. Who had the nicest
bedrooms? Why? Which would you like best?
5. What kinds of clothes do the men wear? Why do they all have the same clothes? Is it
important that they all wear the same clothes? Would you like wearing a uniform?
6. If you were on a ship, which job would you like to do? Which job would you like the
least?
7. What would be the most fun about being on a ship out in the ocean? What would be
the hardest part about being on a ship out in the ocean? What would you miss most
about being away from home?
8. Would you rather fight on land or from a ship? Why?
9. Would you rather be on a small ship like a destroyer or a big ship like a battleship?
Why?

FOCUSED QUESTIONS:

For suggestions on questions which focus on a specific area of the ship, please see the hand-out entitled: Let's play the "I Wonder....What do you think" game.

VISITING MORE THAN ONE MUSEUM:

If your class is visiting more than one museum on the same day such as the Battleship, Fort Fisher, and the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, you may try to find some unifying themes for the children to focus on.

For instance, each place is a particular kind of habitat for either people or animals. You might also have the children talk about each habitat and ask questions such as:

1. How does each habitat meet the basic needs of the people or animals?
2. Which one would you most like to live in? The least?
3. How do the habitats protect animals or people?
4. Are these habitats safe? Long-lasting? Comfortable?
5. Compare what each habitat is made of and who made it.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or success stories on how to use this activity which may be shared with others, please contact Kim Sincox, Museum Services Director, at (910) 251-5797.