

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

STAND-TO, GUNNER!



KS1-2

KS3

Recommended for

KS1-2 and KS3 (History, English, Drama)

Learning objectives

- Understand what life was like for Tudor gunners living at Pendennis and St Mawes.
- Use role-play to explore emotions associated with living under constant alert.

Time to complete

15-20 minutes



Tudor gunners lived in the gun towers at St Mawes (pictured here) and Pendennis.



The Alberghetti gun at St Mawes.

SUMMARY

This activity helps students to understand the highly skilled role of a Tudor Gunner in the 16th century.

During your visit, use the commands to coach your students through a role-play of loading a Tudor gun. Use the hot-seating question prompts on the next page to explore the emotions of a gunner living in the Tudor Gun Tower.

Tudor gunner role-play:

- *Order your piece to load!* Raise the muzzle of the gun.
- *Search your piece!* Clear the barrel of debris, using a long rod with a spiral metal end.
- *Put in your powder!* Place the paper cartridge of gunpowder in the barrel.
- *Put home your powder!* Press the powder down in the barrel using a rammer.
- *Thrust home your wad!* Put wadding (straw or rags) into the gun and use the rammer to push it down against the powder.
- *Put home your shot gently!* Push the shot (cannon ball) gently into the gun.
- *Put back your piece!* Return the gun to position.
- *Gauge your piece!* Look down the gun barrel and take aim. This might involve moving the gun sideways and lowering or raising the barrel.
- *Prime your piece.* Put some fine gunpowder into the touch hole.
- *Apply your linstock!* Put a smouldering piece of cord (called match) onto the gun's touch-hole to ignite the gunpowder...
- *Fire!*



A re-enactor playing the part of a Tudor gunner at Pendennis.

1. What is it like to live in the gun tower with other soldiers?
2. How do you feel when you're waiting for the enemy to attack?
3. How do you feel when your commander orders you to get the gun ready to fire?

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Back in the classroom, students can use the experiences to write a creative writing piece e.g. a diary entry of a Tudor gunner or a job description for the role at Pendennis Castle and St Mawes Castle.