Welcome to the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre!

The Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre is about a trip to the Arctic aboard a 1950s coal-fired steam trawler called the Grimsby Town GY81. This was built in Middlesborough in 1934 and ran aground off Iceland with the loss of three crewmen in 1943 whilst on Admiralty Service during the Second World War.

During your time in the centre you will discover what it was like to work in the most dangerous job in 1950’s Britain as a deep sea trawlerman!

Here are some questions and activities for you to do during your visit. You’ll be an expert by the time you leave!

Before you start …

Here is a question for everyone. Underline the words you think best describe a fisherman’s work.

- FUN
- COLD
- DANGEROUS
- TIRING
- EXCITING
- FRIGHTENING
- HARD
- SMELLY
- EASY

At the end of your visit …

Look at these words again and see if you have changed your mind. Can you think of any other words to add to the list?

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Choose a job card for each member of the group from the Signing-On Desk. These cards are then yours to keep and have a lot of information about the crewmen on the back.

**Walk up the stairs ...**

Name three types of fish

1. ................................................
2. ................................................
3. ................................................

**At the top of the stairs, find the map of the fish dock ...**

Write two reasons why you think Grimsby is a good place to have a fishing industry

1. ........................................................................................................
2. ........................................................................................................

**Go to the Navigation Room ...**

What does the word navigation mean?

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**Go through the red door to the Fisherman’s Yard ...**
How is this house different to the one you live in?

Sketch one of the items you can see

Go to the Quayside ...

Who is the man on the bridge of the trawler?

Go to the Radio Room ...

Write your name in Morse Code

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Go to the Bridge ...

Name four objects on the bridge

1. ........................................................................................................
2. ........................................................................................................
3. ........................................................................................................
4. ........................................................................................................

Go to the Skipper's Table ...

Explain the job of the Skipper and the job of the Mate

The Skipper

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The Mate

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Go through the corridor above the trawler at night and into the room with the video wall ...

This film is about a young boy leaving his family for the first time for three weeks on a dangerous trawler.

How would this make you feel?
Choose two words.

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Go to the Icy Deck …

The trawler is sailing through Black Frost in the Arctic. The mist in the air is freezing on the cold metal of the ship.

What could happen to the ship covered in heavy ice?

What is the crewman doing?

Go to the Boiler Room …

Choose from this list of words to complete the sentences below.

- TRAWLER
- FUEL
- STEAM
- WATER
- BOILER
- COAL

Was loaded onto the …

Coal was used as … in the …

Coal was used to heat … to make … to make the trawler move.

The trimmer worked long hours in the heat, bending to shovel coal and breathing in the coal dust.

Go to the Moving Deck …

How does it make you feel?

Look for the men on deck that are:

- Gutting
- Mending (braiding)
- Icing the fish
Go to the Galley ...

Why was the cook so important on a trawler?

List some of the food eaten on board

Why isn’t there much fresh fruit or vegetables?

Go to the Focslle ...

Space was very tight in the Focslle.

Draw and label two of the space saving ideas
Go to the Lumpers’ Yard …

What did the Lumpers do?

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Go to the Settling Office …

Explain what happened there?

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Look at your job cards and see who amongst you was paid the most. Remember that you were paid depending on how much fish you caught. Sometimes you barely had enough money to pay the bills at home.

Do you think that was fair?

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Go to the Living Room and listen to Mrs Mogg’s wireless …

What is the name of the lost trawler?

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What is the Skipper’s name?

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How many crew were lost?

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Go to the Fish and Chip Shop …

What was the price of haddock and chips?

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Is there anything that a modern fish and chip shop sells that this one doesn’t?

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Go to the Pub …

How much was a pint of beer?

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Name the two games that are being played

1. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

2. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Why do you think the fishermen look so smart?

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Go outside to the Perseverance, our 100 year old fishing smack ...

Your trip has shown you what a steam-powered trawler was like. The Perseverence was a different sort of fishing boat, built in 1914.

Compare the two boats, then look at this list of words. Put them against the boat you think they fit with.

- STEAM
- LARGE CREW
- SAIL
- FISH
- WOOD
- SHRIMPS
- NO LIVING QUARTERS
- METAL
- SMALL CREW
- LIVE ON-BOARD

Many objects were designed differently in the 1950s to those we use today. From the following, draw and label one object that looks different today.

- PUB
- NEWSAGENT
- DRESS SHOP
THE ROSS TIGER

You have the opportunity of visiting an ex-working trawler and may even meet a former trawlerman.

These are some of the questions you might like to ask on your visit. Get the most from your guide. They like questions!

- Where did the Ross Tiger fish?
- How many days was she at sea on a fishing trip?
- What were the jobs done by the crew members?
- What type of training did they have for the job they did?
- What were the dangers and the hardships of the job?
- What was life like, living, sleeping and working on board the Ross Tiger?
- What was the trawlerman’s attitude towards:
  - Life at sea?
  - Living in confined spaces?
  - Coming home to port?
- Since fishing was so dangerous, why did so many men still go to sea?
- What did trawlermen like / dislike about life at sea?
- Why were trawlermen so superstitious?

Before you board the Ross Tiger, think of at least two questions you would like to ask the trawler guide about life at sea.

1. ........................................................................................................................................
2. ........................................................................................................................................
3. ........................................................................................................................................

After your visit aboard the trawler, think about working on board. Below, say what you would like and dislike about being a fisherman and living on board a trawler.

Things I would like on board ship:

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Things I would hate about being a fisherman:

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Having been on a real trawler, I have decided that I would / would not like to be a fisherman because:

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We hope you’ve had a brilliant experience at the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre.