**Deptford Ragged School Heritage Trail**

**RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THE TRAIL**

Each student needs a clipboard, the 1800s and Modern trail maps - printed back-to-back on A4 paper, plain paper and a pencil. The trail should take about an hour. You will need laminated prints of the relevant photographs from the PowerPoint.

Lizzie is the kind of child who might have attended the Deptford Ragged School in the 1800s. She has been discovering stories of the people who lived here in the 1800s. In turn she asks the students to show her present-day Deptford, creating their own map.

**GENERAL INTRODUCTION FROM LIZZIE:**

“Hello, I'm Lizzie. I lived in Deptford in the 1800s and went to the Deptford Ragged School. I lived with my mum, sister, and brother, plus our cat and her kittens. We lived in one room, our kitchen, washhouse, dining room, and bedroom were all in the same tiny back room. And we had one bed which we all had to share. Sometimes the cats tried to sleep on it too. It wasn't very cheerful!

When she could get work, our mother was out all day. We had to wait until she came home with food before we could eat. Quite often, we only had one meal a day. If Mum couldn't find work, we didn't eat at all. We were often hungry.

Mum couldn't afford to pay for school, so us children went to the Deptford Ragged School. We were lucky because they gave us bread and soup before we started our lessons. I enjoyed going to school because I learned to read and write. The teachers also taught me the skills I needed to work as a maid when I was older.”

**Deptford 1800s Trail Map**

Let me show you around. Use your imagination and this map to travel through time. You'll learn about the history of Deptford and hear stories of people who lived here in the 1800s.

**Use this map to explore the 10 points of interest with the information provided below.**

**Deptford Modern Trail Map**

I would love to see what Deptford is like in the future. We can't imagine how much it has changed. Can you make a map for us to explore how Deptford has changed and what it looks like in the 21st Century?

**Use this map or plain paper to draw pictures and/or add notes about the Deptford today.**

These Teachers’ Notes are part of the Teaching Activity: [Deptford Ragged School Heritage Trail](https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/teaching-activities/deptford-heritage-trail/)

1. **OLD DEPTFORD RAILWAY STATION**

Deptford station was built in 1836 and is London’s oldest railway station

It was on the London & Greenwich Railway. The railway was a great success, carrying over two million passengers a year by the 1840s.

The station you can see today isn’t the original station building. The railway line is higher than the ground on which you’re standing, you must climb stairs to get to the platforms. The railway line is on a railway viaduct, a type of bridge that consists of a series of arches which support the line.



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| **Activity**  |
| * **What can you draw or write about to show Lizzie how the station has changed since she lived in Deptford?**
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| **Answer** |
| Pupils might draw or describe the glass ticket hall and/or the modern signage. They might mention that the trains are different. |

1. **RAILWAY ARCHES IN DEPTFORD MARKET YARD**

Around the corner in Deptford Market Yard, you can see a ramp with arches leading up to the station. This ramp (Listed Grade II 1079947 <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1079947>) was not part of the actual railway line itself. Railway carriages used the ramp to get from ground level to the railway line. The arches here today are the original arches that Lizzie would have seen but are now used very differently.

In 1844, the year the Deptford Ragged School started, there were said to be 30,000 homeless children in Victorian London. Many of these children used the railway arches as somewhere to sleep at night. Children would crowd in and sleep below the railway line.



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| **Activity** |
| * **Can you try to describe to Lizzie how the arches are used today?**
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| **Answer** |
| Many of the arches are now cafes and bars, with areas for people to sit outside. There are small businesses such as a hairdresser and florist. |

1. **MARY LACY’S STORY: 104-108 and 116-118 DEPTFORD HIGH STREET**

Walk south to the end of the ramp, stop at the corner, the exit back to Deptford High Street. Look across to the houses above the shops at the other side of the High Street (opposite the exit to Deptford market Yard). These were said to be built by Mary Lacy.

Mary Lacy was born in 1740 and grew up in a poor family in Kent. When she was 19, she ran away and joined the Royal Navy, disguised as a man, William Chandler. She spent 5 years at sea, learning carpentry skills. Mary became an apprenticed shipwright (shipbuilder) and lived on board a ship in Chatham Dockyard for seven years.

Around a year later, suffering from rheumatism, Mary left the Royal Navy and made her real identity known. The Royal Navy gave her a pension at Deptford Dockyard. It was here that she met a sailor, married him and moved to Deptford.

Mary is said to have bought land and built 10 houses on Deptford High Street and 5 of them remain (between the railway line and the end of the terrace with the Deptford Pearls mural). The remaining ones are 104, 106, 108, 116 & 118.



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| **Activity** |
| * **Look and see - are these shops selling anything that Lizzie may have been able to buy if she had the money in the 1890s?**
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| **Answer** |
| These High Street shops (104-108 and 116-118) include a hardware store so she might have been able to buy household items (but not plastic). Lizzie might have been able to buy fresh fish and take away food from a ‘fried fish’ shop but not frozen goods. |

1. **SITE OF THE FIRST DEPTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL**

Walk along Giffin Street to a footway on the right-hand side linking Giffin Street and Frankham Street, the corner of where Cross Street would have been (opposite Tidemill Way). This is the corner where the first purpose-built Deptford Ragged School stood. The Deptford Ragged School existed in other buildings before this, but they were rented. This new building was built specially with money raised from the local community. There is now a small electricity substation where the school once stood.

The Deptford Ragged School was founded in 1844. It was one of the first twenty ragged schools exclusively run for ‘ragged children’, so called because they were ‘dressed in rags’ with bare feet in all weathers. Children were between ages 5-13.

In 1855 the Deptford Ragged School settled in a disused chapel on Giffin Street.

By 1862 attendance averaged 160 at the day school, 64 at the night school and 140 each Sunday. In 1886 the Deptford Ragged School raised money to build their first purpose-built school in Giffin Street on the corner of Cross Street. They had 170 children attending each day. *Number 4 on the map.*

By 1914 H.R.H. Princess Louise had become a patron and, as part of the opening of a building on Hales Street, The Deptford Ragged School was renamed *The Princess Louise Institute*. Following her death in 1939 Princess Louise bequeathed £1000 towards another building: the new hall, which was to be built next door, facing Frankham Street. This hall was completed in 1953 and is now being replaced.



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| **Activity** |
| * **We think that Lizzie might have gone to this school in Giffin Street, what can you explain to her about the site where her school used to be?**
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| **Answer** |
| The site looks very different and Lizzie might struggle to recognise it. It is being redeveloped for new housing and is near Tidemill Academy, the local library and leisure centre.  |

**DEPTFORD HIGH STREET BUILDINGS FROM 1800s**

Walk down Deptford High Street and look for buildings built in the 1800s.

Deptford High Street was once called Butt Lane. In 1825 it was changed to Deptford High Street. Lizzie would have known it by the same name, but it looks very different to when Lizzie lived here.

1. **91 DEPTFORD HIGH STREET**



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| **Activity** |
| * **Look up to find the date plaque. What can you tell Lizzie about how this building is used today**
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| **Answer** |
| The building is dated 1898 and is currently a Greggs bakery. This shop wasn’t a bakery in Lizzie’s time, but she would know what one was. |

1. **70-72 DEPTFORD HIGH STREET**

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| **Activity** |
| * **Consider what can you tell Lizzie about how these buildings have changed or stayed the same?**
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| **Answer** |
| Dated 1882, the shopfronts are more colourful and brighter. There would not have been a gaming shop in Victorian times. However, there would have been a pawnbroker with the symbol of 3 golden balls. The (sash) windows and brickwork on the upper floors look unchanged. Pawning household goods or personal effects in return for a loan was common among the Victorian poor. |

1. **20-32 DEPTFORD HIGH STREET**



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| **Activity** |
| * **Can you examine the date stone to work out when they were built and what they were known as in Lizzie's time?**
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| **Answer** |
| Dated 1811 (Georgian – note the large sash windows compared to later Victorian ones), these buildings formed Elizabeth Place in the 1800s. |

1. **8-12 DEPTFORD HIGH STREET**



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| **Activity** |
| * **Investigate to find out the name of the family that ran this shop when it was first opened?**
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| **Answer** |
| Trickett & Co opened this grocery store in 1889. The family opened their first shop in Deptford in the 1850s. |

1. **Duncan Yard**

Before the first purpose-built Deptford Ragged School in 1886 it was run in rented buildings and rooms. In 1849, five years after the start of the Deptford Ragged School, they rented a room in Duncan Yard. The school had 100 children attending and had many voluntary and paid teachers. Duncan Yard does not exist today, but it was most likely behind Asda on Deptford High Street. It would also have been behind the Admiral Duncan pub on New Cross Road, which was probably how Duncan Yard got its name. Have a look at the picture of Duncan Yard, with the caption (teacher could show the illustration)



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| **Activity** |
| * **What can you tell Lizzie about a supermarket like Asda? Do you think she would recognise the food that supermarkets sell today?**
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| **Answer** |
| The Asda store on Deptford High Street sells some food that Lizzie would recognise such as bread, meat and dairy products. Pre-packaged food and ready meals would not be familiar, nor would many of the different foods from around the world. |

1. **Deptford Anchor**

This is a real old ship’s anchor, brought to Deptford in 1988, a monument and landmark to remind people that Deptford was a centre for ship building since Henry VIII. Chatham Dockyard gave Deptford the anchor. The anchor was not here when Lizzie lived in Deptford, but the dockyard was. A dockyard is an area next to a water, like a river or the sea, which has docks where ships are built and repaired. Ships set sail across the world from Deptford. However, there are no dockyards on the river Thames anymore.



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| **Activity** |
| * **Discuss what monument or sculpture could be put here to remind people of Deptford’s history instead of an anchor?**
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| **Answer** |
| Pupils might want to recognise an important local figure such as Mary Lacy, choose a different type of monument to Deptford’s shipbuilding and maritime history or even something to reflect the hardships of children like Lizzie. |

**Extension:**

If you wish you could extend your visit with a trip to **St Nicholas’ Church** (Listed Grade II\* 1358943 <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1358943>) and Churchyard, London SE8 3DQ. St Nicholas’ Church was the church for the dockyard area of Deptford. It still operates as a church today.

**QUESTION: Take a look at the gateposts. What do you see on the top?**

These gates were built in 1697, so Lizzie would have perhaps walked past them. You can see skull & crossbones on top of each gate post. Legend has it that these inspired a flag.

**QUESTION: Can you name the flag?**

**QUESTION:** **Who are the people who are thought have flown these flags on their ships?**

The Jolly Roger pirate flag was said to have sent shivers down the spine of mariners whenever they came across it. However, the sculpted skulls on the St Nicholas’ Church gateposts are an ancient symbol of everlasting life. The skulls didn't have anything to do with pirates when they were first built. They are probably linked to the Charnel House (Listed Grade II\* 1289734 <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1289734>) that contained human bones located just beyond the gates. There is a plaque to the Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe who died in Deptford in 1593 on the wall in the churchyard. Mary Lacy is also buried here.