

## Let's imagine: helmet

Each week the Museum is going to publish a 'Let's Imagine' activity sheet. This activity sheet will include a picture of an object in the Museum. It will tell you about the object and then it will be up to you to imagine a story, poem and/or picture inspired by this object. The sheet will include at least three questions or statements to help get you started and inspired.

This week's object is a Civil War helmet that can be found in the permanent exhibition. Read the information in blue below to find out more about this type of helmet.



**You have to describe this helmet to a friend. What do you say?**

**Draw a cavalry soldier wearing this helmet. You can research (in books or online) about harquebusier or cavalry soldiers in the English Civil War.**

**Write a story or poem about being transported back to 17<sup>th</sup> century England. Imagine you meet a family who are divided on whom they support in the Civil War – half support the King and the other half support Parliament. Which side do you decide to support and why? You can research the start of and reasons for the English Civil War in books or online.**

**This is a helmet from the Civil War period, which is on display in the museum's permanent exhibition. It is often called a 'three-barred pott' or 'lobster pott'; the reason for the latter name is that the back of the helmet looks like a lobster's tail. This helmet was used by both sides (Royalist and Parliamentarian) during the Civil War. It is made from polished steel and the back (lobster's tail), hinged cheek pieces and the tilting visor with three bars all protect the wearer from sword slashes. It was usually worn by a horse or cavalry soldier called a harquebusier.**

**In 1642, Charles I (Royalists) ordered 33 of these helmets along with other cavalry armour, and in 1644 the Parliamentarians ordered 300 of the helmets, probably of basic quality, costing 7 shillings.**