Reflection Form: Visit to a Museum

Student Name ____ J. R. Sample ____  Historical Era ____ Tudor ____

Museum ____ Portsmouth Historic Dockyard ____ Date of Visit ____ 14/1/04 ____

Exhibit Visited ____ Mary Rose ____  Time Spent at Actual Exhibit ____ 1.5 ____ hours

1. What did you actually see in this exhibit that reflected life in this era?
   A number of items from the ship are on display. The hull itself is about half intact, with lots of additional timbers also having been salvaged. Numerous weapons, including bows and arrows, cannon, and shot were on exhibit. Tools for mending, making cloth, navigating and sailing, and barbering were displayed. Different kinds of clothing and personal items such as games were also present.

2. What was the nature of important institutions (parts of society) based on what you saw?
   The navy was developing as an important institution in Britain at this time, based on what I saw. A large ship like the Mary Rose would require considerable resources to build, arm and man; Tudor England and specifically Henry VII and Henry VIII were willing to devote these resources.

3. What did you learn about the nature of society during this era in visiting this exhibit?
   The nation itself was surrounded by water and therefore the navy was a means of defense and ships provided transportation to explore and settle new territories. The Mary Rose sank less than fifty years before England defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588, which was about the same time Sir Walter Raleigh and other settled Roanoke Jamestown (1607) and Plymouth Colony (1620) came in this same era. The navy, and the Tudor/Stuart society that developed it, made possible the defense, exploration and settlement that ultimately led to the British Empire.

4. What did you learn about the lives of individuals during this era in visiting this exhibit?
   Everyday life must have been hard for individuals. The quarters on the ship were cramped, and the food must have been limited in quantity and quality. The tools of the barber surgeon indicate the primitive state of health care at the time. Clothing was simple and limited. The games, musical instruments and writing equipment demonstrate the variety of activities for spare time.

5. How were specific groups of people affected differently and/or unequally in this institution or society? (e.g. Were males and females treated differently? Were class differences evident?)
   All of the people on the ship when it went down were men--many of them "pressed" into service, which meant that they were basically kidnapped and sent to sea. I wonder what happened to the women who were left behind. A social hierarchy on ship reflected that on shore, with the crew generally coming from the lower classes and the officers from higher classes.

6. Share any other reflections you may have based on visiting this exhibit (use the back of this sheet if necessary).
This exhibit was impressive. I came to realize how important the navy was to Britain; if the nation could rule the seas it could explore, conquer, settle, defend itself, bring in raw materials, and export finished products.