

## Knowledge Organiser

Year: 6    Subject: History    Unit: Why is the Port of King's Lynn significant to its maritime history?

### Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will look at why King's Lynn was such an important port during the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and the relevance of the Hanseatic League. They will also study the buildings of King's Lynn and what these tell us about the town's maritime history as well as the importance of Captain George Vancouver.

### What should I already know?

- The location of King's Lynn is on the east coast within the UK.
- King's Lynn is connected to the Wash (a huge area of shallow water that connects to the North Sea) via the River Great Ouse. King's Lynn is now approximately 3 miles from the sea.
- The names of some of the key historic buildings in the town.
- King's Lynn is still an operational port today using the Docks.
- Fishing is still an industry associated with King's Lynn and that Fisher Fleet is still used by fishermen today.

### Historical skills:

- Accurately use dates and terms to describe historical events.
- Order an increasing number of significant events and dates on a timeline.
- Use a wide range of evidence to find out about the past e.g. buildings and statues.

### What will I know by the end of the unit?

- From as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, King's Lynn was one of England's most important ports due to its location on the Wash. King's Lynn and its sister port Boston were second only to London.
- The Hanseatic league was founded by Northern German trading towns to protect their mutual economic interests. King's Lynn was part of this and it allowed them to travel and trade in groups which was far safer due to the threat from pirates and robbers. The Hanseatic League also received privileges which meant they could make more money because they were not taxed on anything they imported or exported.
- By the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, trade with the Hanseatic League was very important for the town and a warehouse was built to accommodate this. Furs, wool, beeswax and cloth were all exported.



### Vocabulary:

Economic	Relating to trade, industry and money.
Merchants	A person or company involved in trade, especially one dealing with foreign countries or supplying goods to a particular trade.
Traders	A person who buys and sells goods.
Hanseatic League	Also called Hanse, was an organisation founded by German towns and merchants to protect their mutual trading interests.
Maritime	Connected with the sea. Especially in relation to seaborne trade or naval matters.
Trading privileges	Receiving better treatment. Those in the Hanseatic League had trading privileges such as not having to pay taxes for goods they exported or imported.



- There are many buildings still standing in King's Lynn today which tell us important stories about the town's maritime past. Hanse House was used as a warehouse by the Hanseatic League merchants. The Saturday Market Place was a space used for markets. Other buildings of significance are: Custom House, St George's Guildhall and King's Lynn Minster.
- By the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, King's Lynn was no longer a major international port. This was partly because of the export of wool declining and also the use of the London Port bringing in more trade. By this time the America's had been discovered which meant that towns such as Liverpool on the West coast were used to take imported goods.
- Captain George Vancouver was born in King's Lynn in 1757. In 1790 he began his voyage to the North-West Pacific with his crew. They sailed along the north-west coast of America and created detailed maps of what they saw. Vancouver discovered many places including being part of the expedition that discovered Hawaii.
- King's Lynn is still a smaller successful port. The port infrastructure developed in the 19th century following the formation of a docks and railway company in 1865. This built the Alexandra Dock which was completed in 1869 and linked by rail in 1870. The larger Bentinck Dock was opened in 1883.

