



Explorer Classroom Event Guide: Grades 3-8 Searching for Sunken Slave Ships | Tara Roberts

Explorer Classroom is for everyone! This guide is designed for your students or family to get the most out of Explorer Classroom. After the event, please share your thoughts, activities, and learnings with us on Twitter [@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) using **#ExplorerClassroom**.

February 25, 2021, 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM Eastern Time

BEFORE YOU TUNE IN

SIGN UP

Register [here!](#)

BEFORE THE EVENT

If you plan to share this event with students virtually or encourage their participation independently, check out our tips for kids working Independently (p.7) in the [Family Guide to Using National Geographic Education Resources](#) and our virtual tips throughout this guide.

This event is recommended for learners in grades 3-8. As a group, build your background knowledge prior to the event with one of these activities or any combination of the linked resources that best fits your needs:

- ❑ **Read** the biography of Storyteller and National Geographic Explorer [Tara Roberts](#) to familiarize yourself and your students with their work.
- ❑ **Watch** [Diving with a Purpose](#) (5:47) to learn about Tara's journey following Black scuba divers, historians, and archaeologists who are searching for slave shipwrecks around the world.
- ❑ **Watch** [The Power of Stories](#) to hear National Geographic storytellers talk about the impact storytelling can have, and why communicating complex topics with creativity is invaluable. What stories do you think are important to tell? Use the [Elements of Storytelling](#) as a guide to get started.
- ❑ **Brainstorm** questions for the Explorer that either focus on the person themselves or their work. Help your learner revise their questions making sure they 1) only ask one thing; 2) have a clear purpose; and 3) are specific. You may need to work together through a few drafts to arrive at a solid final question. Review questions together and select two favorites to ask on-air (if you [registered](#)), in the YouTube chat bar, or via **Twitter** [@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) using **#ExplorerClassroom**.

DURING THE EVENT

As you listen, have students take notes using one of the graphic organizers listed below.

- ❑ [Two-Column Chart](#): Print copies or ask your students to draw their own two-column chart. Have your students write things they are learning in one column and in the other, write questions about that information, or draw something related to it.
- ❑ [Cause-and-Effect Diagram](#): Have your students use this organizer to identify what happened (effect) and why it happened (cause).

AFTER THE EVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Debriefing as a class or a family is an important part of the learning journey. Discussion helps learners process ideas, reflect, and make new connections. Use these questions to help provide context to the event. The questions are open-ended and designed to facilitate a discussion about the event you just participated in together. You know your students best! Modify these questions as necessary to spark conversation.

1. What was your favorite part of Tara's talk? Why?
2. What was one new thing you learned during the Explorer Classroom event you didn't know before? What is one question you still have?
3. Why do you think telling stories from the past is important? What impact do Tara's stories about the sunken slave ships have for people today?
4. What is something you would like to explore? Why?
5. What skills, tools, or knowledge would you need to explore?

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

We encourage students to reflect on what they've learned from the Explorer during the event by completing one of the following tasks and sharing their work with the class, a friend, or family member. Share their great work with us on Twitter—[@NatGeoEducation](#) [#ExplorerClassroom](#)—so the Explorer can see how much they've learned!

- Write a short news article to tell others what the Explorer is working on and why that work is important.
- Produce a short video or social media post explaining one thing you learned today and one thing you're curious to learn more about.
- Interview a family member or elder in your community to learn more about events from the past. Practice telling the stories you learn about, like Tara does. What details are important to share?

Virtual Tip: During class video time (e.g. Zoom or Google Hangouts) students can share their drawings or their acting or article in a virtual show-and-tell.

EXTENSION RESOURCES

Try one of these resources and keep your students exploring with National Geographic Education.

- *Join in the Explorer's Mission:* What are you passionate about? Take some time to talk to your friends about your passion and help spread the word, like Tara does!
- **Visit** [Diving with a Purpose](#), the organization that Tara works closely with, to learn more about their mission to protect, document, and interpret African slave trade shipwrecks and the maritime history and culture of African Americans.
- **Read** [Diving into the unfolding history of wrecked slave ships](#) to further explore Tara's work.
- **Visit** [this collection of resources](#) and celebrate the achievements of African Americans past and present during Black History Month.
- To watch past Explorer Classroom events, check out this [YouTube playlist](#).

Looking for more ways to engage your students online, in-person, or at home? Find more on our [Learn Anywhere](#) page or in our [Resource Library](#).