



Narrative plan

HMS Warrior

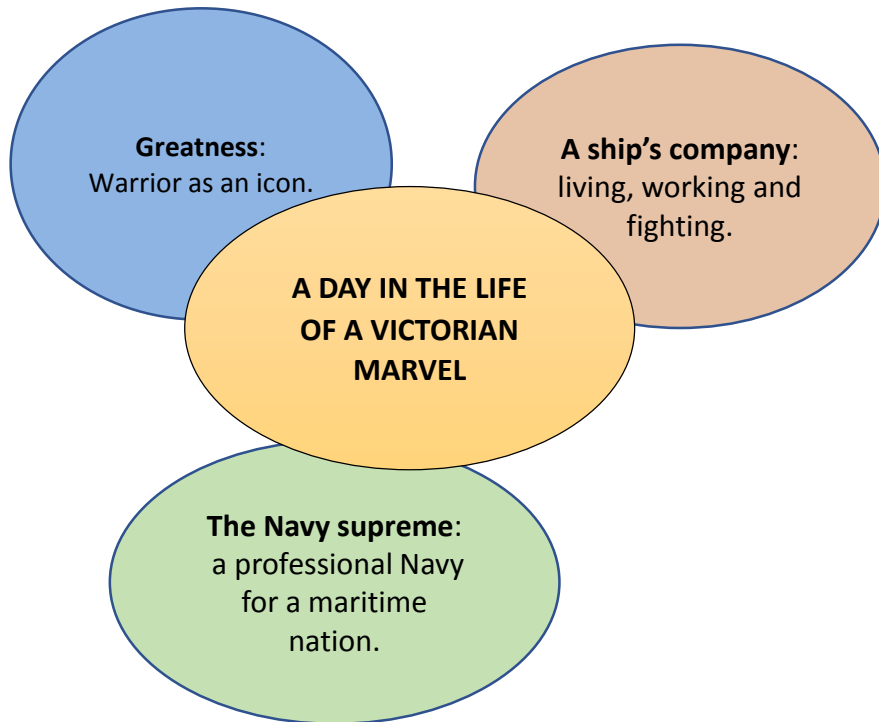
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Narrative thread



- Warrior was a Victorian marvel, a symbol of national and naval pride and a great technological innovation.
- The ship was lived in and worked on by its crew during a transition in both the operation of the navy and in the design of fighting ships.

Narrative structure

Each area of the ship will focus on one of the sub-themes of Warrior's story:

JETTY – Building the excitement

UPPER DECK – Warrior the Victorian icon

GUN DECK – Living, working, fighting

LOWER DECK - A professional Navy

BOILER & ENGINE ROOM - A technological marvel

Jetty

Theme – Building the excitement

- A series of signs, possibly four or five. They carry a sentence each, the first reading something like, *'Welcome to Warrior. Experience a day in the life of a Victorian marvel!'*
- The others, draw visitors on with the promise of the fastest, the most powerful, the biggest, a chance to see a Victorian icon. It is summer 1863.
- A cross section of the hull, making use of an existing armour plate, sits on the jetty for visitors to view on their way out.
- Visitors enter via the aft brow.
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Upper Deck

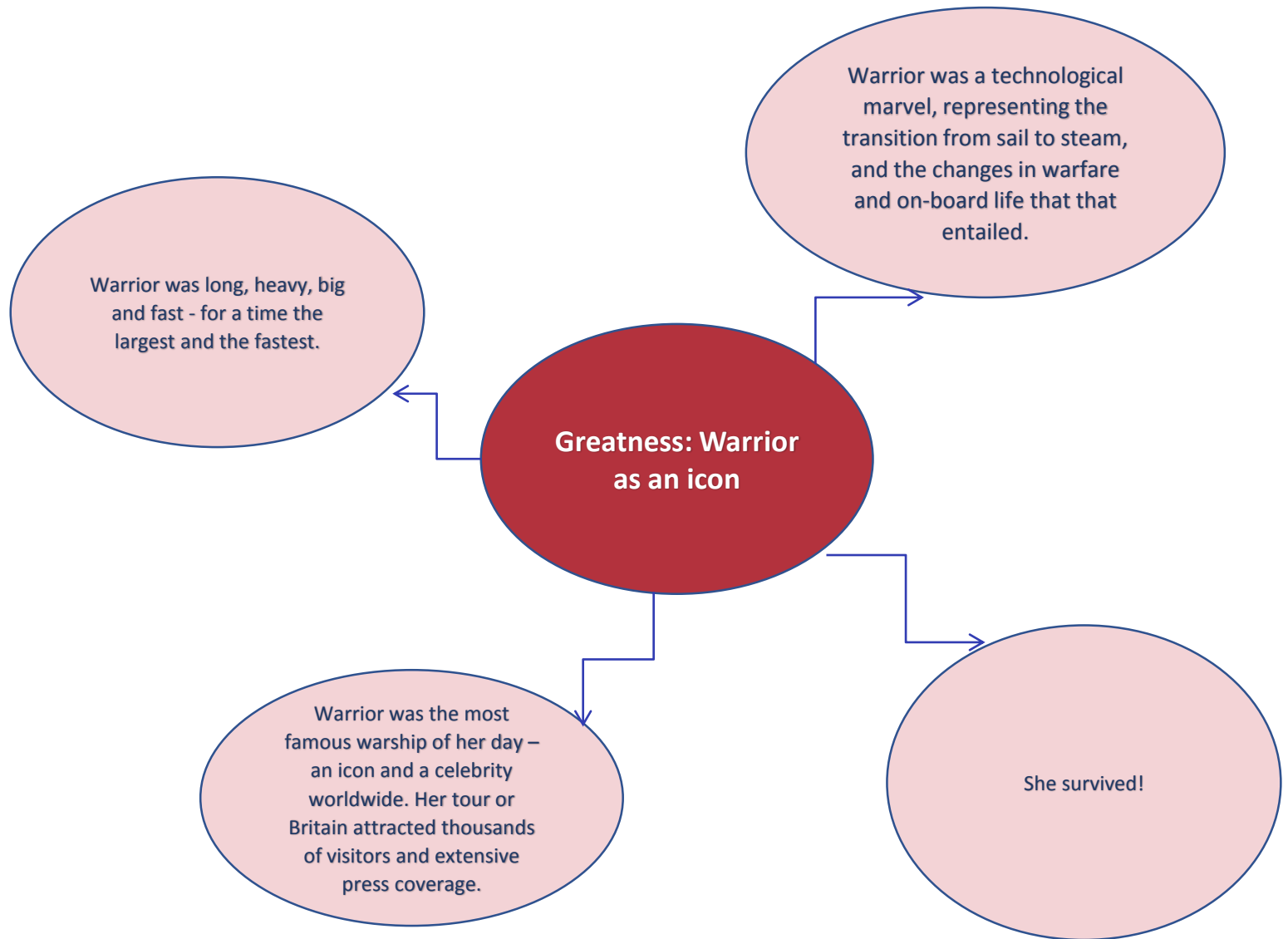
Theme – A Victorian icon

- Visitors are welcomed on board by a volunteer.
- The existing leaflet will be redesigned to incorporate an explanation of the narrative thread and structure. And what to expect on board.
- Dressing of the Upper Deck will be considered in the research stage.
- Talks from costumed interpreters will take place on the Upper Deck.

Possible costumed interpreter roles for the Upper Deck:

- An officer of the watch (Jackie Fisher)
- A man and a woman visiting the ship during the tour of Britain.

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Gun Deck

Theme – Living, working, fighting

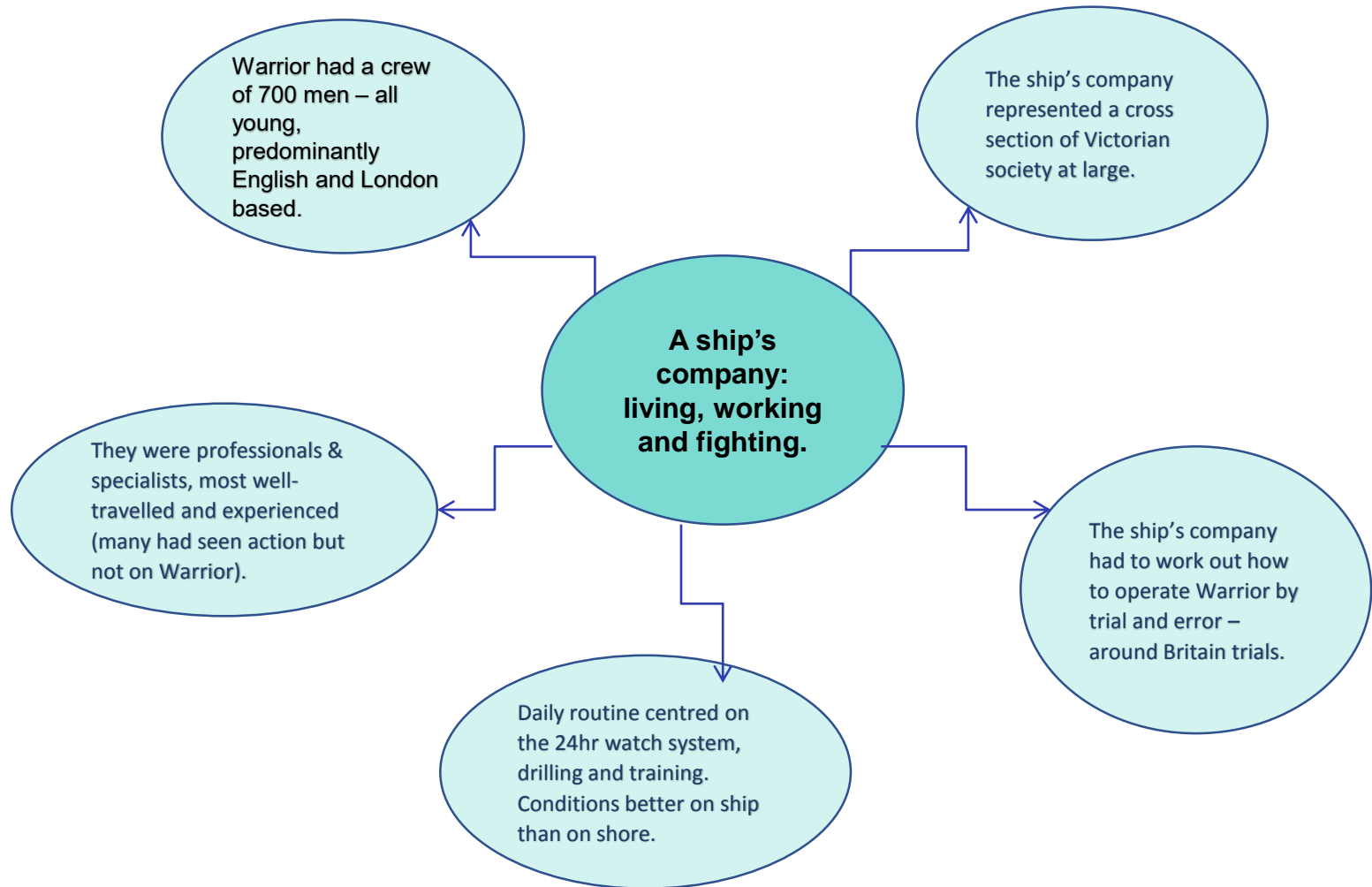
- The following new spaces will be opened up to visitors:
 - a) Captain's Cabin
 - b) Galley
 - c) Freeflow access from the Cable Deck to the Warrant' Officers Flat and Sick Bay will be created
 - d) The officers' toilet will be reinstalled.
- 'Set dressing' will recreate the appearance of these spaces as they might have appeared during the Tour of Britain. The proposed objects and items will be authentic to the ship and the period but will not all be original. Nothing will be introduced that is too precious to be touched or which must be kept in a case. Objects will not look as if they are 150 years old, but they will not look brand new either. They can look battered and used.
- Volunteers will be present throughout the ship to provide context, information and to answer questions. On the Gun Deck they will demonstrate and talk about gun drill in particular.

- Talks from costumed interpreters will take place on the Gun Deck

Possible costumed interpreter roles for the Gun Deck:

- a) An off-duty crew member
- b) The gunner
- c) A Royal Marine sentry on duty
- d) The captain's steward
- e) Surgeon

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Lower Deck

Theme – A professional navy

- The Lower Deck is the least intuitively understandable area on the ship. It will require a great deal of set dressing. We will also open up spaces to help communicate the theme of the deck: that this was a time when men were adjusting to the requirements and conditions of a professional navy.
- Kit bags – they will be turned around, names and decorations applied and hat racks added above.
- Issuing Room – to be redisplayed to focus on how technology was improving life for sailors e.g. dried potato.
- Ward Room - will be opened up and visitors can sit down. It will continue to be dressed for dinner. Paperwork will be the focus of the dressing of the cabins off the Ward Room to demonstrate the increasing beaurocracy of the navy.
- Gun Room – will be opened and fitted out as a training room for lessons.
- The Slop Room - will be fitted out to focus on the equipment and clothing of sailors of the period.
- Library – book shelves with books will be reinstated on the Lower Steering Flat. Some books might be accessible to visitors to open.
- Chronometers and band instruments – will be fitted out with equipment
- Cable Locker Flat – a diving suit will be introduced.
- Bathrooms – will be dressed as bathrooms with soap etc. Potential for use of smell here too.
- Cell Flat – will be dressed with a focus on how discipline has changed.

- Talks from and activities led by volunteers will take place on the Lower Deck. For example:

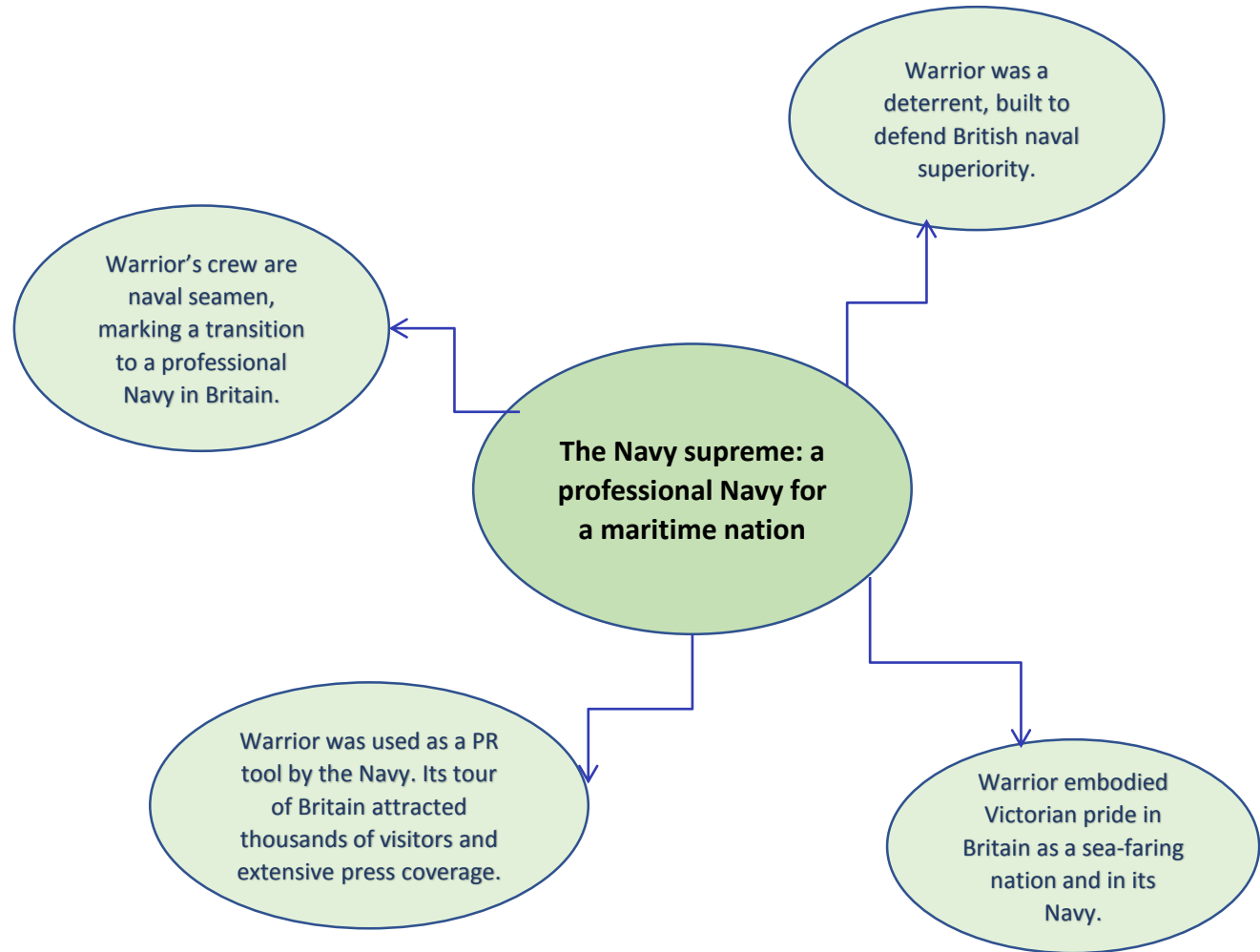
- a) How to plot a course or use a sextant
- b) Trying on clothes in the slops
- c) Trying on a diving helmet
- d) How the crew washed themselves and their clothes

- Talks from costumed interpreters will take place on the Lower Deck.

Possible costumed interpreter roles for the Lower Deck:

- a) Sub-Lieutenant
- b) Naval Instructor
- c) Midshipman Duffy

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Boiler and Engine Room

Theme – A technological marvel

- This will become a more sensory experience with heat and smell and steam. There will be piles of coal and ash in buckets.
- The magazine will be fitted out.
- Orlop Deck – this will be dressed with a ' wall of bread'
- The technological innovations of the engine will be explained by the volunteers who will also be able to answer questions.
- Talks from costumed interpreters will take place in the Boiler Room.

Possible costumed interpreter roles for the Boiler Room:

- a) Stoker Lewis Asasa