

## MUTINY OF THE BATAVIA

**The VOC ship Batavia was wrecked on the Houtman Abrolhos, off the coast of WA in 1629.**

The Commander, senior officers and some crew left 268 people on the wreck and on two islands while they made their way to Batavia in search of help.

On the Commander's return he discovered that mutiny had taken place. Out of 316 people aboard the Batavia, only 116 survived.

The wreck site of the Batavia was discovered in 1963 by divers and excavated by maritime archaeologists from the Western Australian Museum.

Bronze and iron cannons, coins and hundreds of other objects have been recovered.

Simulated excavation of the Houtman Abrolhos and piecing together of the site objects in conjunction with narrative accounts to formulate what happened.

**Target audience:**

Upper primary school: Years 4-7

**Study area:** Maritime archaeology/ history**Duration:** 2 hours**Numbers:** Maximum of 60 students**Skills developed:**

- Time-sequence and sequential ordering
- Ability to listen to an historical narrative and answer questions about the thoughts of people in the story

**Workshop outcomes:**

- Through the excavation of shipwreck sites and objects in situ, along with contemporary journals from the time, we can piece together a story of the past that needs to be pieced together and preserved.
- How we can learn from this for the future

**Cost:**

- \$300 flat rate
- Over 43 students – add \$7 per head up to a maximum of 60 students