

MUSEUMS AND SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Dazzle Camouflage activity

Dazzle camouflage was a family of camouflage developed under British Marine artist **Norman Wilkinson** for the UK and US admiralty during WWI.

Over 2000 ships were painted with Dazzle camouflage, which featured boldly contrasting and interrupting patterns of geometric shapes, unique to each vessel.

'Dazzle' did not make ships disappear from sight. Instead, it made it more difficult for attackers to accurately identify, estimate speed and target ships, with the patterns 'dazzling' enemies into taking up poor firing positions.

Many artists and designers have been inspired by 'Dazzle' including Jeff Koons and Sir Peter Blake producing contemporary dazzle designs for private and public ships.

The accompanying video explores patterns and colour schemes drawn from design Norman Wilkinson and his teams came up with.

We've included a naval warship template to draw and colorise. The template is of **HMS Cavalier**, built by shipbuilders J S White on the Isle of Wight. She served during WWII and is now on display as a museum ship at Chatham Historic Dockyard.

What might HMS *Cavalier* have looked like with dazzle camouflage?

To find out more about **Dazzle** visit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dazzle_camouflage

Supported using public funding by



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