Meet the Huguenots
The Huguenot story

- Courage
- Danger
- Excitement
- Terror
- Optimism
- Persecution

With a happy ending...
Who were the Huguenots?

- Christians
- French Protestants
- Persecuted
- Emigrated
- Immigrated
- Settled

The Huguenots transformed England
Our Story begins in France

- Catholic country
- Arrival of a new version of Christianity – Protestantism
- The Huguenots were Protestants
- They were bullied, persecuted and discriminated against
- They were forbidden to leave France
The Huguenots

- A name meant as an insult and given to French Protestants by Catholics in France in the 16\textsuperscript{th} Century

- They were Britain’s first refugees

- Their skills transformed Britain
St Bartholomew’s Day Massacre, 1572: thousands of Catholics and Protestants died
What did the Huguenots do?

- Some Huguenots converted to Catholicism

- Dragonards were tough soldiers who bullied the Huguenots into changing their faith

- Some were imprisoned and tortured

- Some escaped to England (in the 16th to 18th centuries)
The World
France
A Huguenot Journey
The Portal Brothers

- Henri and Guillaume escaped France
- They hid from the Drahannades in bread ovens in their home
- They escaped by cart under blankets and made it to Bordeaux
- They hid in barrels on a boat
- They survived soldiers trying to smoke them out
- The brothers arrived in Southampton – Henri was 12 years old.
Henri Portal and Paper Money

- Accepted by the local people
- Linked up with Huguenot settlers
- Educated in England
- Knew secret process of watermarking paper
- Nearly 300 years producing paper for the Bank of England bank notes (1724)
Huguenots: Our First Refugees
Why did the Huguenots leave France?

- 1572: St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre
- 1598: The Edict of Nantes
Fleeing a country

- Do you know someone who has had to move or even flee a country?
- What would you take?
- How would you feel?
Where did the Huguenots settle?

Can you find the following towns...
London
Dover
Southampton
Canterbury
Sandwich
Norwich
Bristol
Taunton

Why did they settle there?

On your map, can you chart the journey a Huguenot may have taken
Skills of the Huguenots
Most famous for weaving
THE SILK TRADE

- Industry founded 4,000 years ago
- Supplies from the Levant & Italy
- Industry relocated to Spitalfields
- Wool, leather, linen and silk
  - 3x stronger than Flax
  - almost waterproof
  - Not easily soiled or burned
SPITALFIELDS SILK

- Silk Importers and Merchants
- Throwsters and Winders
- Pattern makers
- Dyers
- Journeymen Weavers
- Master Weavers
- Mercers
Mrs Fanshawe’s dress
NEW DRAPERIES

- Unknown techniques
- Taffeta, satin, serge, grosgrain, velour
- Dress – an heirloom
- Drawboy – six weeks
- 4+ months to weave, 1 week to make
- Limited number of dresses
- Fabric the fashion - not style
Rich and poor Huguenots:
A journeyman’s house in Spitalfields (poor)
A Master Weaver’s house in Spitalfields (rich)
What differences are there between the houses?
Many journeymen’s houses have been under threat

- Almost 3/5 have now been saved
- Community groups worked to make sure they were saved
- Why do you think people tried to save these houses?
Summing Up

- Huguenots were England’s first refugees
- They came from France and brought new skills
- They transformed skills like weaving and silverwork, in England
- Many lived and worked in Spitalfields, London.
- Many were entrepreneurs and became wealthy, many more worked hard but were poor
- We can still see traces of the Huguenots in Spitalfields - buildings and objects