Chapter 7

*History lesson in the Floating Naval Museum*

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***Summary***

A group of 30 students from classes A and B visited the Floating Naval Museum in P. Faliro, where two important ships are the exhibits : the battleship “Georgios Averof” and the trireme “Olympias”. The first one is a battleship that served as the Greek flagship during the first half of the 20th century. The second one was built between 1985-7 and it is a reconstruction of an ancient Athenian trireme and an important example of experimental archaeology.

**Name of the activity**

History lesson in the Floating Naval Museum

**Introduction**

The floating museum is a unique experience for the students as they can see and compare the two warships of different eras in Greek history, ancient and modern.

**Learning objectives**

* To learn about the ancient trireme.
* To learn the history of the battleship “Georgios Averof”.
* To learn about the important wars of the 20th century.
* To learn about the living conditions of the sailors.
* To compare the technology of ancient and modern warships.

**Resources**

The battleship “Georgios Averof” and the trireme “Olympias”.

**Activity**

Step 1:

View the trireme “Olympias” and listen to important information about the way these ships were constructed and functioned in the ancient times.

Step 2:

Students visited the battleship “Georgios Averof” and watched a video about its history.

Step 3:

Students walked around the decks inside the battleship “Georgios Averof”, and saw uniforms, weapons, utensils and they also visited the crew and the captain’s cabins and were given many information from a guide.

Step 4:

Students were encouraged to ask questions and express their impressions about the exhibited ships. They were also asked to find similarities and differences between them.

**Comments from the learners’ surveys**

The students were impressed by the two warships and realised how difficult it must have been for sailors to live there during war time.

 **Final remarks**

Visiting the Floating Naval Museum has been a great opportunity for both teachers and students to see and understand how an ancient and a modern warship is and works. Students were interested in listening the information presented to them and had many interesting remarks after we left.