THE APOTHECARY’S CHEST

Session outline:
Using the apothecary’s chest in the Museum collection, children will learn about historic medicine, Huguenot apothecaries and how to write a recipe.

Activity 1: Object Handling
Children will have the opportunity to touch, feel and try apothecary equipment such as scales, pestles and mortars. They will discover what they were used for.

Activity 2: Medical Recipes
Children will learn about the unusual ingredients used by apothecaries in their medicines and have a go at writing their own marvellous medicine for a gruesome 18th century illness such as quinsy or jaundice!

Activity 3: Review
Review of recipes and comparison with traditional apothecary cures.

Learning Outcomes:
- Develop vocabulary needed for writing a recipe
- Engage with historic artefacts
- Improve speaking and listening skills
- Increase understanding of historic medicine

This session is available all year round Tuesday – Saturday please go to www.huguenotmuseum.org/learning for more information on how to book.
Suggested pre visit activities:
- Read pages 19-22 of ‘George’s Marvellous Medicine’ by Roald Dahl and discuss.
- Think about medicine today. If we are ill where do we buy medicine from? Who do we go and see to get treated?
- Research the Huguenots. Who were they and why did they come to England?

Suggested post visit activities:
- Research Hogarth’s medical cartoons – what elements of 18th century medicine do they show? Can you see any of the artefacts you handled in the cartoons? What are the cartoons trying to tell you about how the public saw apothecaries?
  www.wellcomehistory.wordpress.com/2013/10/16/medical-mirth/
  www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/paintings/marriage-a-la-mode-3-the-inspection-114744
  www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/paintings/an-explosion-in-a-laboratory-125994
- Weighing and measuring ingredients for a recipe. Follow a recipe and have a go.
- Research and learn about other 18th century illnesses and their cures. How has medicine improved since the 1700s?