Development of Hong Kong Harbour (C4)

This gallery shows development of Hong Kong as a port from 1841 until just after the ending of the Japanese occupation in 1945.

1 Creating Victoria Harbour

According to the sketch, which part of Hong Kong Island did the British concentrate on developing and why?

Names of important landmarks were added at the top of this sketch. Write down 2 of them.

This print shows the view of Victoria Harbour in the 1920s. Can you describe 3 differences compared with the sketch above?

2 Naval Docks

a) This battleship sailed to Hong Kong. Which nation did this battleship belong to?

b) This US destroyer was repair in one of the docks, where was the dock located?

Based on you answers provided in (a) and (b), Describe one of the functions of Victoria Harbour.
Trade in Hong Kong in the 19th century

This print shows workers working in the field. Where were they working and what are the crop?

Where did the workers come from? Find hints from what they are wearing.

They may have sailed to there from Hong Kong. Where had they come from and why?

To what extent does this print reflects the economic development of Hong Kong in the 19th century?
The central theme of these galleries is the port’s working life and how it developed from 1841. Model ships are the major collections in this gallery. Those model ships help us to learn more about ship construction. Handling methods also changed in the 1970s, manpower gave way to containers and cranes.

1. Ships in the Victoria Harbour

Although the names of the ships are not given, you can tell the type of cargo the ships carried from their appearance. What cargo do the ships carry? Write down 3 types of them.

Find the model of this ship, it has a blue funnel. It was mainly a cargo ship but why do you think it had so many life boats?

Look at what is on the deck of the Mundogas West to find out what kind of cargo it carried? Did it also carry passengers?

The ships mentioned above were built in different periods in the 20th century, Mundogas West was built in 1946 and Hector was built in 1924. Does the difference between them reflect the developments in shipping (E.g. division of labour, specialization)
Dockyards in the past

Can you find the names of 4 Hong Kong dockyards by looking at the models?

Which 2 were relocated and combined in the 1980s?

Where is the combined dockyard now?

Why they were relocated? Find out the answer using your own analysis. (E.g. land price, views, Sino-British Joint Declaration in 1984, development of ship building)

Do you think the combined dockyard will be relocated in the future?
3 Changes in shipping method

Watch the film on this touch screen to find out how cargo was loaded in the 1950s. Can you describe how it was done?

Go back to the dockyard gallery to find the case with a container with wooden sticks, called tally sticks. What were the people who used them called?

Why were the sticks important for them?

You can also see tools used by these workers in this case. These workers also used tools to help them in their work. What were they called and what were they used for?

Such tools are the property of the shipping company. What did they do in order to keep their tools from being stolen away?

Find the container in the next gallery, go inside to play the game on the screen. What are the advantages of using containers and cranes compare with massive labourers.
This gallery helps you to find out more about Victoria Harbour and its changing shape. Although the government wants to have more change, Victoria Harbour has been protected by a group of volunteers in the 1990s.

**1 The changing shape of the harbour**

Look carefully at the carpet; do you know what the red dot represents?

What does the pale area represent?

Look for a landmark which are located on the white area of the carpet. New wing of this landmark built in 1997 and is using as exhibition venue for rent. You can see it out of the Museum’s window. What is its name?

Find a panel in the gallery that relates to land reclamation, will the reclamation continue? Give a reason for your answer.

Look at Victoria Harbour and the panel mentioned above, can you find any building that is not built on the reclaimed land?

Is reclamation a good thing? Explain your answer with reference to the location of the Central Ferry pier.