In 1827, Turner’s friend, John Nash, commissioned him to paint two pictures of the Cowes Regatta with his summer home in the distance. During his stay at East Cowes Castle, Turner was provided his own painting room to complete the paintings.

- There are nine oil sketches, six of which relate to the two paintings.
- Another sea painting by Turner, The Fighting Temeraire was selected by the British public in 2005 as the “Greatest British Painting.”
- Legend has it that Turner had himself tied to the mast of a ship during a storm so he could experience the power of the sea first-hand.

Compare and Contrast Paintings of East Cowes Castle by Joseph Mallord William Turner

- Commission
- Regatta
- Moorings
- Beating Windward

What’s going on in each painting? What makes you say that?

- Would you rather be on a ship in the first scene or the second?

Compare/Contrast the two paintings

- Describe the weather
- Describe the sea
- Describe the time of day

Would you rather be on a ship in the first scene or the second?

John Nash asked Turner to include his castle in the paintings — do you see it? Do you think Nash approved of these paintings?

Make:
Draw a scene from nature in two different types of weather. Consider how the shapes and colors will change with the weather. Share your creation with Newfields on social media with #DiscoverNewfields.

Write:
Write a story about winning the Regatta—how did you feel before, during, and after the race?

Research:
Visit the Tate’s website to learn more about Turner’s sketches of these scenes. Can you find the sketch that is most like the final painting? (https://bit.ly/39D2k7T)
Top: Joseph Mallord William Turner (English, 1775–1851), *East Cowes Castle, the Seat of J. Nash, Esq., the Regatta Beating to Windward*, 1828, oil on canvas, 35-1/2 × 47-1/2 in. Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Noyes, 71.32