



## STORIES FROM THE SEA

## SHIPWRECK OBJECTS



## CATCHING A MERMAID

### Date made

1883

### Object ref.

BHC4162

### Credit

National Maritime  
Museum, Greenwich,  
London

### Artist / maker

James Clark Hook

### Description

This Victorian painting shows a girl and two boys hauling a wrecked ship's figurehead ashore using ropes and a boat hook. The title of the painting suggests the children think the wooden figurehead could be a mermaid. Their innocent play contrasts with the wild and dangerous sea crashing against the rocks.

### Questions

1. What do you think might have happened just before the image we see in the painting?
2. What might happen next?
3. Look carefully at the picture: what clues tell you that this happened in the past and not in the present day?

Hook was a well-known seascape painter during the Victorian period and was noted for painting family scenes of fishing communities in Devon and Cornwall.



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

