



STORIES FROM THE SEA

SHIPWRECK OBJECTS



A STRANDED VESSEL.

THE *SNIPE* GUN-BRIG GROUNDED AT GREAT YARMOUTH

IN 1807 WITH THE LOSS OF 67 LIVES

Date made

1807

Object ref.

NWHCM : 2003.12.15

Credit

Norwich Museums

Artist

Francis Sartorius

Description

In 1807 Captain Manby saw the HM gun-brig *Snipe* run aground off the beach at Great Yarmouth. The ship was less than 30 metres from the shore but the waves were so fierce that nobody could get to the ship and 67 sailors died. Manby invented a mortar which could fire a rope to a ship, so that the crew could escape, and had artists paint pictures of it in action.

This painting by Francis Sartorius is very strange: it is a painting of what would have happened to the *Snipe* if Manby's mortar had already been invented.

Questions

1. Have a look at the dark and light areas of the painting: where is the light shining? Why do you think that is?
2. What do you think the people on the shore are doing?



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