



**STORIES
FROM
THE SEA**

SHIPWRECK OBJECTS



THE TRACK OF THE ARMADA

AROUND BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Date made

1590

Object ref.

PBD8529(2); [D3301]

Credit

National Maritime
Museum, Greenwich,
London

Artist/maker

Robert Adams and,
Augustine Ryther

Description

This chart shows the route that the Spanish Armada took, including its retreat after its failed attempt to invade England in 1588. The westerly winds and the English fleet in the Channel gave the Duke of Medina-Sidonia, commander of the Armada, no choice but to take his ships back to Spain around the north of the British Isles.

As many as forty Spanish ships may have been wrecked off the shores of Scotland and western Ireland during this treacherous

journey. Some of these wrecks have been discovered and excavated. The items salvaged from the wrecks have helped historians find out more about life in 16th-century Europe.

Questions

1. Why were charts like this so important to sailors?
2. Compare this chart to a modern map of Great Britain. How are they different? Why do you think this is?
3. Do you think sailors still use charts like this today?



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