STORIES FROM THE SEA

A SMUGGLING LUGGER CHASED BY A NAVAL BRIG

Date made
About 1825

Object ref
BHC1109

Credit
National Maritime Museum

Description
This painting shows a ship, flying the Jolly Roger, trying to smuggle its cargo under cover of darkness. It’s being closely chased by a ship from the Royal Navy.

Questions
1. Which ship is flying the Jolly Roger?
2. Why might night be a good time for smugglers and pirates to cross the seas? Why might it also be dangerous?
3. What is happening in this painting? What do you think is going to happen next?