



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION OBJECTS



OCTOPUS BAG

Date made

1960s

Object ref.

GRYEH : 2003.63

Credit

Great Yarmouth
Museums

Description

These bags were collected by missionaries who travelled to British Columbia in the 1800s. They bought the bags off Tlingit tribe people who already lived there. The Tlingit still sell many items they make today for money. These bags were made by the women Tlingit who would weave beads together, making it look like an octopus! You can tell that it has been made by the Tlingit tribe because of the distinctive beading patterns and abstract shapes that are characteristics of their people.

Questions

1. Trade was very important to the Tlingit people. Imagine you were an explorer in the 1800s and had met a Tlingit tribe. Which of your possessions would you trade for the octopus bag? What might the Tlingit people need that you own?