



STORIES FROM THE SEA

PIRATE OBJECTS



GUNPOWDER TIN

Date made

About .1821

Object ref.

GRYEH : 1966.12

Credit

Great Yarmouth Museums

Description

This tin was filled with something very useful and very explosive- gunpowder! Without gunpowder pirates couldn't fire their guns. If gunpowder gets wet it won't explode so it has to be kept dry in special tins. Every pirate with a gun would carry a tin or flask of gunpowder. Cannons needed lots of gunpowder and this was kept in a special room on the ship called the powder store or 'magazine'. Young boys would run up and down the ship delivering gunpowder, they were called 'powder monkeys'.

Questions

1. Would you like to be a powder monkey? Why do you feel this way?
2. You have to keep the magazine very safe. What might happen if you don't? Write down all the ways you could keep it safe.
3. Why is there a date on the gunpowder tin?