



Chinese junk

## ONE PERSON'S JUNK...

It's all well and good to sail in a straight line, but if you want to turn easily you'll need a rudder. Ancient Chinese junks were the first ships to use rudders and sails reinforced by bamboo. They were easy to sail and were used to transport treasure and armies. They were even a popular choice for pirates!



Dhow ship

# LOST AT SEA

People have crossed the ocean for centuries. They swapped goods, searched for new lands and undertook dangerous adventures just to prove they could.

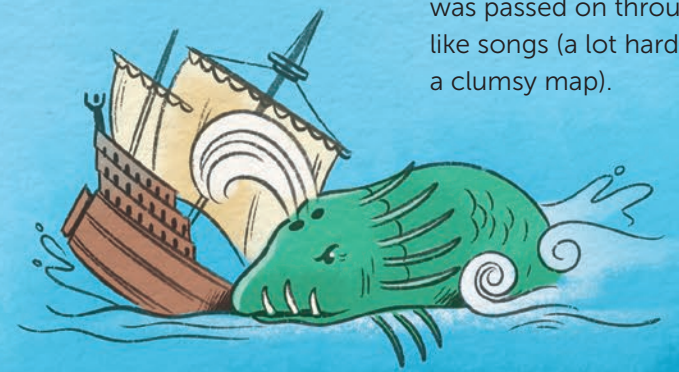
The sea can be an unforgiving place, and you only need to look at the shipwrecks that lie on the sea floor to remember that not all of those voyages came home.



Drua canoe

## SAILING BY STARLIGHT

Polynesian sailors used the position of the Sun and the stars to navigate vast distances between islands, and looked for patterns in the wind, currents and even bird flight. Much of this knowledge was passed on through oral traditions like songs (a lot harder to get wet than a clumsy map).



## INTO THE WAVES

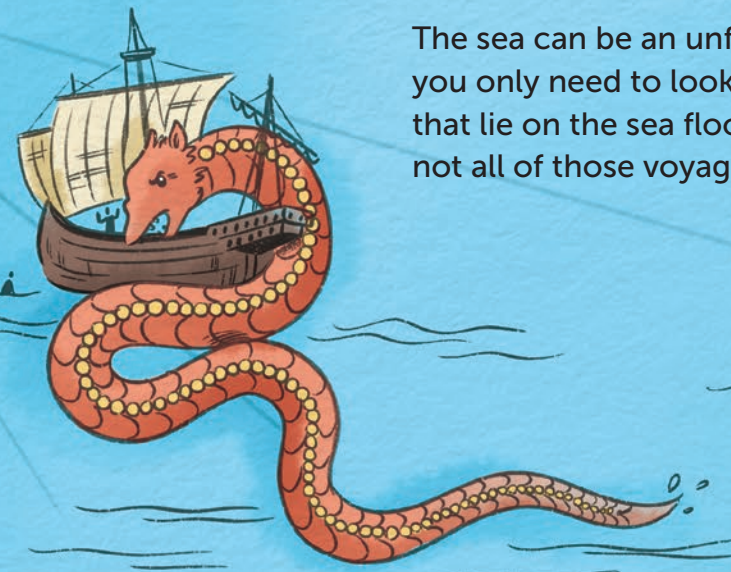
For many ancient cultures, the azure horizon ahead offered much more than the dry land behind. Ancient Egyptians wove rafts from papyrus reeds, Phoenicians constructed wooden round ships and Polynesian navigators carved intricate two-hulled canoes. These different designs all shared the same goal – to sail across seas and safely back again.



Phoenician ship

## HERE BE MONSTERS

Slippery serpents and fang-toothed monsters fill the parchment of medieval sea maps. Many sailors feared what they might find when they left the safety of land, so they drew them as a warning to others. Some were inspired by real-life animals, while others look much more mythical.



## THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

While building ships and navigating the seas meant that some cultures could grow and thrive, it's important to remember that the land they 'found' often already belonged to others. Ships allowed empires to invade and steal lands that were, and still are, somebody else's.

# ALL THAT GLITTERS

When some people think of shipwreck treasure, they imagine wooden chests overflowing with gold doubloons. In fact, hoards of these have been found and many more lie lost to the waves. For others, the real loot isn't jewels or coins – it's the stories. Letters from lost lovers, the music from forgotten melodies or even ancient maps of the sky.

*Letters from the SS Gairsoppa  
Sank 1941*



## SHADOW OF A GIANT

Once thought to be unsinkable, the remains of *Titanic* are slowly disappearing from the Atlantic Ocean sea floor. Among the items recovered from her wreck are a bowler hat, a barnacled clarinet and a pair of brass binoculars – everyday objects with extraordinary stories to tell.



*Objects from the RMS Titanic  
Sank 1912*



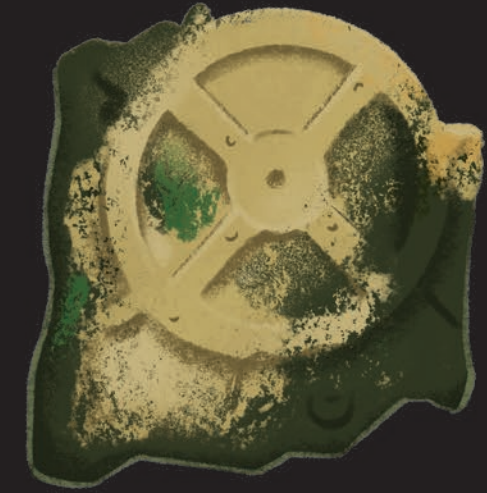
*Gold doubloons  
from the San José  
Sank 1708*

## LOST LETTERS

When salvagers found the wreck of the *SS Gairsoppa*, a ship sunk in World War II, they were hoping to uncover a shipload of silver bars. Instead they found a different type of treasure – lost letters, written but never sent from passengers who didn't come home. One letter was returned to the author's family, 77 years after its postmark.

## ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY

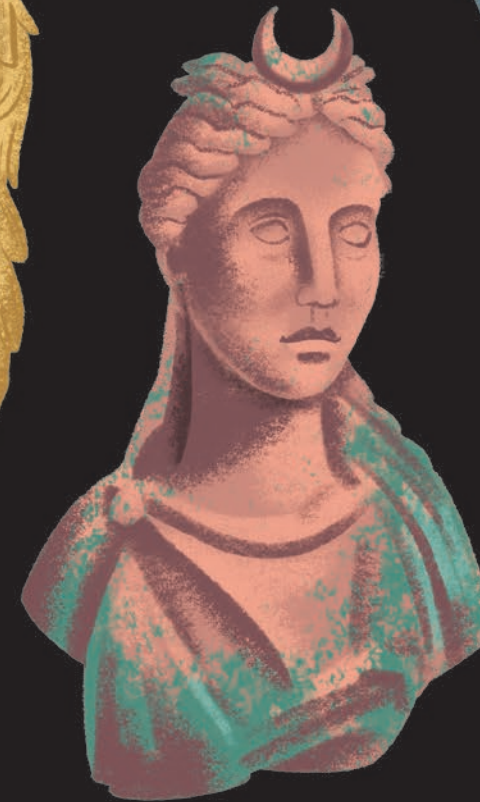
The ancient Greeks invented lots of clever things, including maybe the first computer. Archaeologists think pieces of a bronze device recovered from a Roman shipwreck may have been used to map the Sun and stars across the sky over 2,000 years ago. Unfortunately, it didn't come with an instruction manual.



*The Antikythera  
mechanism*



*Philosopher statue from  
the Antikythera wreck  
Sank 65 BCE*



*Objects from the  
Caesarea wreck  
Sank 400 CE*

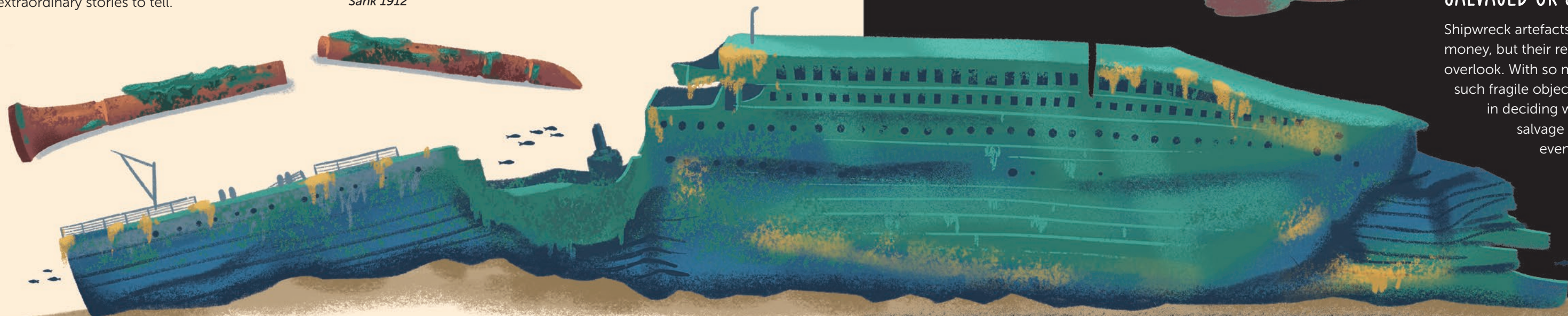


*Ewer from the  
Belitung wreck  
Sank 830 CE*



## SALVAGED OR STOLEN?

Shipwreck artefacts can be worth a lot of money, but their real value can be easy to overlook. With so much culture resting in such fragile objects, we need to be careful in deciding who has the right to salvage them, or if they should even be removed at all.



# A JOURNEY OF ENDURANCE

We humans like to try things that nobody else has done before, especially if it makes a good tale to tell our friends. For some, inventing a new type of sandwich will do (pineapple and peanut butter, anyone?) but for Ernest Shackleton it meant crossing Antarctica on foot for the very first time. Like all great expeditions, it didn't exactly go to plan... but somehow the best stories never do.

## STUCK IN THE ICE

Shackleton and the crew of the *Endurance* set out from England in 1914, bound for Antarctica. They made it as far as the Weddell Sea, a maze of moving sea ice, before the ship became stuck and sank into the freezing water below. The crew were able to escape, but now they had another problem – they were stranded with no way home.

## NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

The 28-strong crew of *Endurance* camped on the creaking ice for months before rowing to the remote Elephant island. From there, Shackleton and a small team embarked on a perilous journey for help. They returned four months later to rescue everyone left behind.

## MOMENTS IN GLASS

Frank Hurley, the expedition's photographer, was able to capture the fated journey in photos and early moving images. Many of the moments captured had to be left behind, but a pocket full of film and a pile of plate glass negatives survived – a record of risk and courage at the edge of the world.

## JOURNEY'S END

The *Endurance* remained lost under the ice for more than a century – until now. In 2022 a team of scientists combed the sea floor using remote submersibles and found an almost perfectly preserved shipwreck, the gilded letters ENDURANCE gleaming back at them from the darkness.

