



STORIES FROM THE SEA

PIRATE OBJECTS



CANNON

Date made

1790s

Object ref.

NWHCM : 1946.97

Credit

Norwich Castle Museum

Description

Most cannons were lined up along the sides of a ship. They were big and heavy and could only fire in one direction. You had to turn the whole ship to shoot at something else! This small cannon is different because it can turn round on its stand to point in any direction. This cannon is good for shooting at pirates trying to get on board the ship. Just make sure you have plenty of cannon balls and gun powder!

Questions

1. How many people do you think you would you need to fire this cannon?
2. Cannons are made from very thick metal. What would happen if you made one out of thin metal?
3. Which do you think is better- a big cannon that points in one direction, or a little cannon that can point in any direction? Why do you think this?