



## STORIES FROM THE SEA

## PIRATE OBJECTS



## CHINESE FLAG

### Date made

About 1849

### Object ref.

AAA0554

### Credit

National Maritime Museum

### Description

This is said to be the captured flag of the Chinese pirate, Shap Ng Tsai. The characters say 'T'ien Hou Sheng Mu' (Empress of Heaven, Holy mother). T'ien Hou was believed to be a calmer of storms and protectress of fishermen and sailors. The flag shows Ziwei Dadi, one of the four Emperors of Heaven who assist the Jade Emperor. The bats at the side of the hanging are a reference to good luck.

### Questions

1. Look carefully at the flag, can you describe one of the creatures or symbols?
2. Can you see anything on the flag that might tell you it's from China?