



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION OBJECTS



SEARCH BALLOON

Date made

1852-3

Object ref.

AAA4347

Credit

National Maritime
Museum, Greenwich,
London

Artist / maker

George Shepherd

Description

This is a balloon from an expedition to search for Sir John Franklin and his men after they failed to come back from their Arctic journey. It was used to distribute messages in the Arctic. It is made of red and white paper enclosed in silk net. Rescue ships used hydrogen-filled balloons like this carrying bundles of messages stitched to lengths of fast and slow burning fuses. As the fuses burned, they released the messages, scattering them over a wide area.

Questions

What would you write in a message to the lost expedition?



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