



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION OBJECTS



FRANKLIN EXPEDITION MEDICINE CHEST

Date made

Before 1845

Object ref.

AAA2224

Credit

National Maritime
Museum, Greenwich,
London

Artist / maker

Unknown

Description

This medicine chest is from Sir John Franklin's Arctic expedition of 1845. It is made of a strong wood, mahogany, and it was found on King William Island, on 2 June 1859 by an expedition searching for Franklin and his men. Franklin landed just to the south of where the chest was found after abandoning his two ships. He left a message here before he and his men, weak, hungry and suffering from scurvy, began their final doomed trek to find food.

Questions

What would you put in a medicine chest if you were going on a long journey?

Look carefully at this chest and describe it.

What do you think might be in the bottles?



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