



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION OBJECTS



TRANSFORMATION MASK

Date made

c. 1830s

Object ref.

GRYEH : 2003.73

Credit

Great Yarmouth
Museums

Description

This transformation mask was collected by missionaries from Great Yarmouth who travelled all the way to British Columbia in the 1800s to record the indigenous Tlingit people's way of life. The transformation mask was very important to the Tlingit people. The transformation mask depicts an unknown creature such as a bear or a character called Hammer Child. They believed it would warn off bad spirits when worn during a ritual winter ceremony. The large toothy mouth indicated that the creature may eat people who broke taboos and rules. That is why it looks so scary!

Questions

1. Do you find the mask to be scary? Try designing your own transformation mask and make it as scary as possible!