



## STORIES FROM THE SEA

## EXPLORATION OBJECTS



### BEAVER MASK

#### Date made

1830s

#### Object ref.

GRYEH : 1967.438

#### Credit

Great Yarmouth Museums

#### Description

This Tlingit beaver mask was bought back to Great Yarmouth by a missionary who had travelled to British Columbia to spread the word of religion. The Tlingit are an indigenous people of the Pacific North West coast, who carved and painted these masks to be used during spiritual rituals. A lot of detail has gone into carving and painting this mask; the eyes even move!

The beaver was an important animal to the Tlingit people; as well as being an important source of food, beaver pelts formed one of the main trade items that were exchanged between the tribes and Europeans during the 18th and 19th centuries.

#### Questions

1. What other animals do you think the Tlingit people of British Columbia may depict through their masks? Why?
2. What impact do you think the person who made this mask was hoping to have on the spirits? To make them laugh? To scare them?
3. Have a go at making your own mask. Think about what kind of animal you would choose to be and why? What does it say about you?



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