

What am I?



Name of object: Square Plate

Use on ship: Sailor ate their meals from them

Material: Wood

Did you know? The rim around the edge of a square plate is called a fiddle. If the food touched the edge then sailor was said to be 'On the Fiddle' - an expression still used today.

The phrase 'three square meals' also supposedly comes from these plates.

What am I?



Name of object: Tankard

Use on ship: Drinking

Material: Wood

Did you Know? Sailors sometimes drank something called 'Scotch Coffee'. It wasn't real coffee-they just mixed up burnt ship's biscuits with hot water.

What am I?



Name of object: Cat of Nine Tails

Use on ship: To punish sailors for wrong doings like fighting, stealing and drunkenness

Material: Rope

Did you know? The sailors were punished on the Quarter Deck in front of the rest of the crew . Afterwards they cleaned his wounds with salt water or vinegar to prevent infections.

What am I?



Name of object: Wadding

Use on ship: To help secure the round shot inside the gun and stop it rolling around or falling out

Material: Rope

Did you Know? Pieces of the wadding were sometimes left inside the gun after it was fired. The gun crew used a special tool called a 'wormer' or 'wadhook' to clean it out

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Name of object: Linstock

Use on ship: This was a slow match used to fire a gun if the gun lock failed.

Material: Wood, Rope

Did you Know? The slow match needed to be soaked in potassium nitrate. The cheapest way to get it was from animal or human urine!

What am I?



Name of object: Ships Biscuit or Hard Tack

Use on ship: Eaten by the men instead of bread.

Material: Flour, water, Salt

Did you Know? There are lots of tales of these biscuits getting infested with maggots and weevils and long voyages this would have been a problem. However the men would not usually have to eat them as they would be thrown overboard.

What am I?



Name of object: Rigging Block

Use on ship: Acts as a pulley to help sailors to raise and lower sails and flags. They made it possible to move heavy items on the ship like guns

Material: Wood, Metal, rope

Did you Know? Without these blocks it would have been impossible to sail ships the size of HMS Victory as it would have needed too many men to do the work.

What am I?



Name of object: Cup

Use on ship: For drinking

Material: Horn

Did you Know? Sailors drank grog (rum and water) or small beer (beer and water) because after months at sea stored in barrels the water often went bad and it was safer to drink when mixed with alcohol