

## The Salcombe Shipwreck

Around 3,000 years ago, during a period called the Bronze Age, a trading ship sank off the coast of Salcombe in Devon, south-west England. The ship was carrying a valuable cargo of metal ingots — chunks of copper and tin — which traders had collected from different parts of Europe. Copper and tin are mixed together to make bronze, which people in those times used to craft weapons, tools and jewellery.

The wreck was first discovered in 1977 when a diver spotted a Bronze Age sword lying on the seabed. Later, in 2004, a team of underwater archaeologists called the South West Maritime Archaeological Group began exploring further. They found nearly 400 objects in total, including swords, axes, copper and tin ingots, and two beautiful gold bracelets. These finds helped experts understand that people were trading across the English Channel thousands of years ago.

The wooden ship itself has long since rotted away, but the metal objects survived. They are now carefully looked after by the British Museum.

## Questions

1. What period of history did the ship come from?
2. Where did the ship sink?
3. What was the ship carrying?
4. What are ingots?
5. What metal do you make by mixing copper and tin?
6. What did the first diver find in 1977?
7. What is the name of the group of underwater archaeologists who explored the wreck in 2004?
8. How many objects were found in total?
9. Where are the objects from the wreck kept today?
10. The wooden ship had rotted away but the metal objects survived. What does this tell you about the difference between wood and metal when left underwater for a long time?



Text B Quiz



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