

As the tide finally turned, silent footsteps hurried tensely down the zigzagging path to the deserted beach. Oars pulled through the milky water, as the rowing boat followed the moonlight path to the ship anchored on the horizon.

Swiftly, barrels and boxes were unloaded: silks, tea, nankeens and wine - piled high. Money changed hands. A light flickered back from the cliff tops – on, off and on again: safe to return.

Just before their boat reached the shore, they sensed something was wrong. Their lookout was missing. A decision had to be made. Unload and hide, or stand and fight.



1. Which words, or phrases explain the time of day?
2. What does '*the tide turned*' mean?
3. What do you think '*nankeens*' are? Explain why.
4. Describe how the feelings of the smugglers change during this passage.
5. What do you think has happened to the lookout? What will the smugglers do?

A Starter for 10

### Be a detective.



What is the history of smuggling in Britain?

Who were the Wiltshire moonrakers?

What is the history of sailing ships? Find out facts about a famous sailing ship.

Research famous sailors. What might them famous? What, or where, did they discover?

Find out about a famous pirate in history. Why are they famous?

Design a boat, or ship, for the future. Why is it different? What can it do?