

## **O** is for *Ostrich Egg*



This intricately carved egg dates from the late 19th century and once resided at Great Yarmouth's 'Home for Shipwrecked Sailors'.

Scrimshaw usually refers to carving of whale's tooth but can in fact refer to carving of any bone.

Whaling was a notoriously dangerous occupation and usually only attempted during the day. As such these seamen had more spare time than most of the men who worked on the ocean. In this way scrimshaw became both a maritime trade and a popular pastime aboard long voyages.

After etching the design into the bone the 'scrimshander' would then bring out the details with whatever they could get their hands on, usually soot or tobacco juice.

The "Home for Shipwrecked Sailors" in Yarmouth was founded in 1861 and for a small entrance fee people could look around the curiosities brought back by sailors all four corners of the globe.

Why not try drawing on an egg. It might be safer to hard boil it first!



Can you make your own museum of 'O' objects from around your home?

#AtoZ

#MuseumAtHome

#EveryoneACurator