

SEVERN PROJECT

Gloucester Port Books

The table below is an extract from the Gloucester port book of 1575. Your task is to read it and then answer the questions.

Name of ship	Port of departure	Destination	Captain	Owner of cargo	Cargo
Marie de Bayonne	Bordeaux, France	Gloucester	LeFevre	Merritt	20 tuns of Gascon wine, 2 tuns of Sack.
New Newnham	Tewkesbury	Bristol	Jones	Edward	100 weys of wheat, 20 weys of rye, 1 tun of peas.
Happy Return	Ashleworth	Newnham	Smith	Deighton	50 fitches of bacon, 1 dicker of hides, 2 pipes of sugar and 10 kilderkins of butter.
Two Brothers	Gloucester	Chepstow	Hicks	Cooper	12 hundredweight of iron, 1 pipe of malt, 1 pipe of cheese.
Juno	Gloucester	Cork, Ireland	Daniel	Fletcher	50 dickers of hides, 120 fardles of rabbit skins, 2 quintals of iron nails.
Ceres	Bude	Tewkesbury	Welch	Cloak	50 weys of lime sand, 30 weys of oats.
Harriet	Tewkesbury	Woolaston	Balaams	Keir	20 cattle, 10 pigs, 1 horse.
William	Lydney	Tewkesbury	Pope	Meek	50 hundredweight of High delf coal.
Green Dragon	Ross-on-Wye	Maisemore	Simpkins	Kirby	10 hogsheads of cider, 6 hogsheads of perry, 1 firkin of honey.

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1. A 'tun' is a barrel that holds 982 litres. How many tuns in total is the Marie de Bayonne carrying?
2. What nationality do you think the Marie de Bayonne is? Why do you think this?
3. How many ships are carrying animal products? Why might these be important?
4. What cargoes are being carried in 'weys'? What are these and why are they important?
5. A 'pipe' is a barrel that was often used to carry dry goods. What cargoes are being carried in 'pipes'? What are these cargoes used to make and why was it important?
6. Name the ships that you think are carrying foodstuffs. Is food an important cargo on the river?
7. Who is the captain of the New Newnham? Is this an important role onboard a ship?
8. Who owns the cargo of the Marie de Bayonne? Would this be a valuable cargo?
9. What sort of business does the owner of the cargo on the Marie de Bayonne run?
10. What occupation might the owner of the cargo of the Harriet have?
11. What type of cargo is 'High delf'? Why is this cargo important?
12. What sort of cheese might the Two Brothers be carrying? Why was cheese an important product?