

# The Mary Celeste

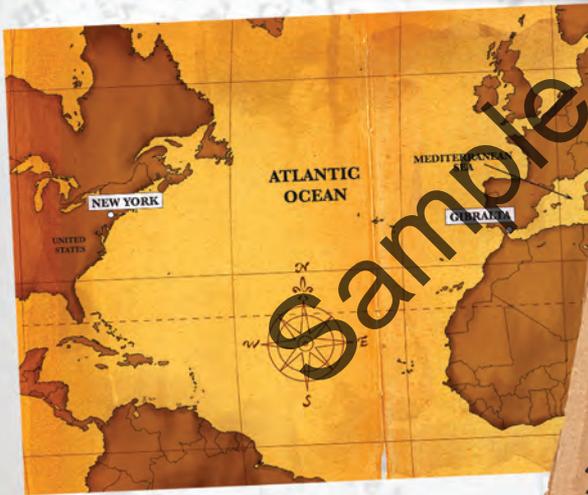
The *Mary Celeste* was a type of ship called a brigantine. She was used for transporting goods. On 8 November 1872, her captain, Benjamin Briggs, had left New York bound for Italy. The ship was carrying casks of ethanol, a type of alcohol used in wine making. On board, along with his crew of seven, was his wife Sarah and their two-year-old daughter, Sophia.



Before they'd left port, Captain Briggs and his wife had eaten dinner with their friends, Captain Morehouse and his wife. They'd discovered they had a similar course across the Atlantic Ocean, past Gibraltar to the Mediterranean.

Captain Briggs had also written a letter to his mother, who was caring for their seven-year-old son, Arthur. The letter showed he and his wife were looking forward to the trip and expecting a pleasant journey.

But the *Mary Celeste* never made it to its destination.



....." We finished loading last night and shall leave Tuesday morning if we don't get off tomorrow night, the Lord beautiful trim and I hope we shal have a fine passage but I have never been in her before and cant say how she will sail....hoping to see you in spring with much love

I am yours affectionately  
J" (this is actual copy from the letter including the spelling..)