

# Knowledge Organiser - Year 4 — History: Smugglers

Key Question — Why did some people see smugglers as heroes not villains?

## Key Concepts

Rebellion	The action or process of <b>defiance</b> towards authority, control or convention. <i>(In this case by getting around paying high taxes set by the government by smuggling and buying smuggled goods).</i>
Taxation	A way for a government to raise money to fund their spending by forcing charges on their citizens and businesses. <i>(From the 16th Century onwards, taxes were used to pay for the many wars that Britain fought, against the French, in particular and to create, expand and maintain the British Empire.)</i>

## What is happening at the time?

1642	1666	1775	1815
English Civil war begins	Great Fire of London	American War of Independence	Battle of Waterloo

Date	Smuggling Timeline—Key Events
1643	<b>Excise Bill introduced</b> — taxing items such as beer, cider, spirits and soap. Smugglers brought these items, without tax, from France and the Channel Islands and sold them to British people at a lower price than they would have paid.
1671	<b>Board of Customs set up</b> to oversee the collection of taxes set on goods from abroad.
1713	<b>Riding Officers</b> patrol the coastline to catch smugglers in the act.
1721	Harsher punishments for smuggling led to increased violence from smugglers to avoid capture. 250 customs men wounded in 10 years.
1751	Duke of Richmond Act passed. It stated that the death penalty was to become the sole punishment for smuggling gangs and anyone found to be hiding smugglers could also be given the death penalty.
1813	Smuggling reaches its peak. 2100 Customs Acts are passed in total.
1815	Royal Navy formally linked to Revenue forces to blockade English channel, seizing 875 smuggling ships and their contents by 1817.
1831	Coastguard Service formed.
1846	In Britain, many items now free of tax because free trade deals have been established. Smuggling diminishes

## Key Places — Local Smuggling Links

Bournemouth	Originally a vast heathland extending about six miles inland from Hengistbury Head to Poole. "The Great Heath", as it was known then, stretched inland for about six miles and was an ideal location for importing and moving contraband.
Branksome Chine	This was once a favourite landing place for smugglers, often used by <a href="#">Isaac Gulliver</a> . The remains of a well can be seen near Seaward Path, and it is likely that this was used as a dump for contraband when the Revenue men were hot on the pursuit of a free trader.
Kinson	Former village, now a suburb of Bournemouth, it was an inland smuggling centre. It is believed that the village was once dotted with underground tunnels connecting to the Parish Church of St Andrew, the oldest church in Bournemouth). The tower of St Andrew's acted as a lookout point, store house and head office. Marks can be seen worn into the stone where contraband was hauled by rope up the tower.
Poole & Poole Harbour	Records of smuggling in Poole date right back to the 15th century as it was an ideal location, partially due to its proximity to the Purbecks, another great smuggling area, and the benefits provided by the road links to the markets of Blandford, Salisbury, Wareham, Dorchester and Christchurch.



St Andrew's Church



Isaac Gulliver's House

**There were lots of nicknames for smugglers:  
Free-Trader, Owler and Smugsmith**

## Key People — Local Smuggling Links

Lewis Tregonwell 1758 - 1832	The founder of modern Bournemouth. He retired and moved to a place called Bournemouth Bottom, where the Bourne stream enters the sea. He set up a mill and built property in a location ideal for looking out over the sea for incoming ships. Craborne Lodge, his main residence, lay on a smuggler's route north from Bournemouth. He was suspected of being involved in smuggling or at the very least 'turning a blind eye' to it.
Isaac Gulliver 1745 - 1822	Many stories have been written and told about "Old Gulliver", perhaps the most popular of Dorset smugglers. Isaac was a 'Moonraker' (a Wiltshire-man). He bought land, notably in Kinson and West Howe, with houses and farms, then built cellars, tunnels and hides for smuggled goods, then moved on. He had 50 men working for him who wore uniforms (traditional Dorset smocks) powdered their hair white. This gave them the nickname "White Wigs".



## Key Vocabulary

Excise	A type of tax put on certain goods consumed or sold within a country.
Contraband	Goods that have been imported or exported illegally without payment of tax or duty.
Customs	Money paid to the government when you take particular goods from one country to another.
Taxes	Requirement to pay money to a government for public use. Taxes could be paid on land, products or deducted from money that people earned.

**Impact of high taxation on the general population**  
By the middle of the 18th century, the tax on tea was nearly 70% of its initial cost! The amount of tax due on land and products was widely resented by a rural population often close to starvation.