

**How to Ace High-Stakes Tests
Science Economics Health**

**What
Could
Annie
Know?
Hardtack**

**MASTER BEDTIME TALE: Annie Hated Hardtack, But Would Make a Sweet Snack
High-Stakes Questions**

**Master
Story**

As much as she loathed hardtack on shipboard, she would still sometimes make a gruel with it and boiling water and sugar as a treat for her grandchildren. (Boiling water had a dual purpose of softening the hardened flour and making sure that any vermin who had drilled their way in would exit their burrows and be killed so that they could be sieved out.)

What Could Annie Know?

Hardtack is a cracker made from only flour and water. These are combined and then packed into a mold so tightly that almost all of the water is pushed out. The cracker becomes very dense and very dry. These crackers were one of the staple foods on whaling ships.

What is a staple food?

- A a food that is able to provide basic nourishment in many conditions
- B a food that people enjoy every day
- C the food that is the most delicious of all the foods available
- D the food that is connected

What Could Annie Know?

Why were the crackers made to be so dense and dry?

- A so that air would circulate through them to keep them fresh
- B so that bugs would have almost no place to live or drink
- C so that bugs would enjoy them
- D so that water could not be mixed with them

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What Could Annie Know?

Annie despised hard tack. (Today foodies are making it.) But, every once in a while, she would break some hard tack into a bowl, add some sugar, boil water, pour it on the hard tack and sugar, mix it up, and give it to her granddaughters as a treat. Write an essay on something else in your life that relates to this story,