John "Longitude" Harrison

(24 March 1693 – 24 March 1776)
22 October 1707: Shipwreck!
Board of Longitude

- Scilly naval disaster 22 October 1707
- Sinking of a British naval fleet off the Isles of Scilly
- Four large ships (Association, Eagle, Romney and Firebrand) and 1,400 sailors lost
- One of the greatest maritime disasters in the history of the British Navy
- Cause of the disaster was the navigators' inability to accurately calculate their positions
- Led to the First Longitude Act passed in July 1714 during the reign of Queen Anne
- Created the Board of Longitude and offered a 20K Pounds for anyone who could find a simple and practical method for the precise determination of a ship's longitude
Most promising method: Lunar Distances
John Harrison

[Images of a blue plaque and a diamond shape with text, and a portrait of John Harrison holding a pocket watch]
H2: 1741
The Ultimate: H4 1759 (5)