

Age of Sail

A period of time lasting roughly between 1571 and 1862, when ships with sails were used to transport goods between countries and to fight enemies at sea.

cargo

The goods that are carried by large types of transport, such as ships and aircraft.

dock

To bring a ship into a port where it can be tied up.

hold

A space below the main deck of a large ship, used for storing cargo.

keel

A long piece of metal or wood, running lengthwise along the centre of the bottom of a ship, that helps to keep the boat balanced in the water.

lighthouse

A tall tower, close to the shore, with a powerful light at the top that flashes to warn sailors about rocks and other dangers at sea.

main deck

The uppermost deck that stretches across the full length of a ship.

marina

A small port for small boats, mainly used by those who sail for pleasure.

maritime

Human activity connected to the sea.

mast

A tall, vertical pole on a ship, used to support sails.

mechanism

Part of a machine, such as a lever or a pulley, or a set of parts that work together.

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navigate

To use maps, instruments or knowledge of the area to plan and direct the route of a ship, aircraft or other form of transport.

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ocean

A very large area of sea. There are five oceans on our planet: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern (Antarctic).

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pirate code

A set of rules about pirate behaviour, agreed by the pirates who follow it.

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poop deck

The highest raised deck, at the rear of a ship, often forming the roof of a cabin. The captain could stand on here to keep an eye on his crew.

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port

A place with a harbour where a ship's cargo can be loaded or unloaded.

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quarterdeck

A raised deck behind the main mast of a sailing ship. The captain often commanded his ship from here, and the ship's officers, guests and passengers would use this area.

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quarter gallery

A platform at the rear of a ship, close to the captain's cabin, that was often used as a toilet or as a place where weapons are fired.

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RNLI station

A station from which lifeboats are launched, funded by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) charity.

rudder

A flat, vertical piece of wood or metal at the rear of a ship that can be moved from side to side to steer it.

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sail

A sheet of fabric attached to the mast of a ship that can be used to catch the wind and make the ship move.

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sea shanty

A type of work song often used to help sailors to time and coordinate their actions.

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shipwreck

A ship that has been destroyed or has sunk due to an accident at sea.

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smuggler

Someone who illegally takes a person or thing to or from an area.

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symbol

A shape, sign or object that represents something else.