

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.

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cargo

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

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dock

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

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hold

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

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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.

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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.

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main deck

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

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marina

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

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maritime

Human activity connected to the sea.

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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.