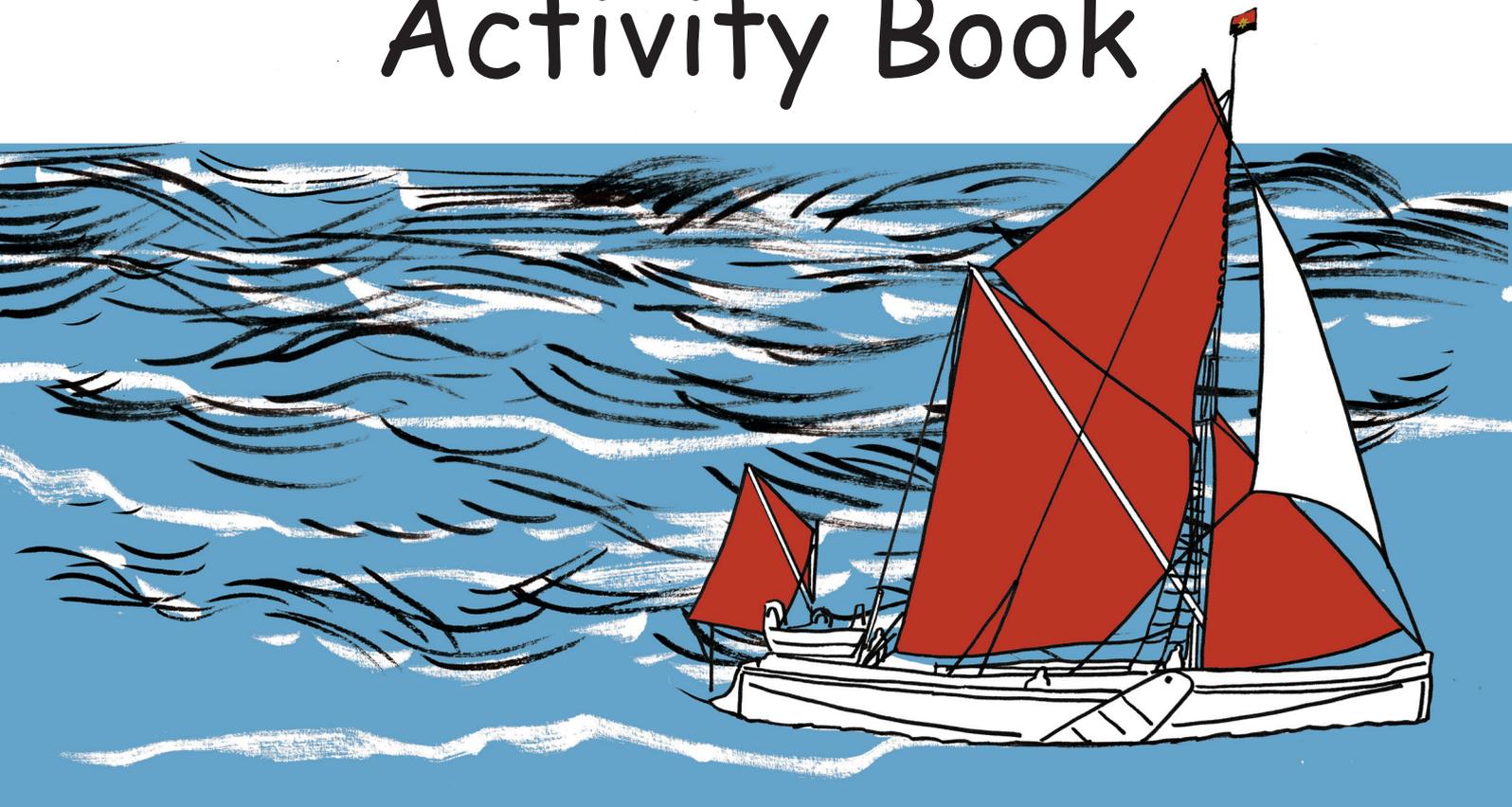


SAILING

BARGES

Activity Book



Artwork by Rachel McGivern & Jess White



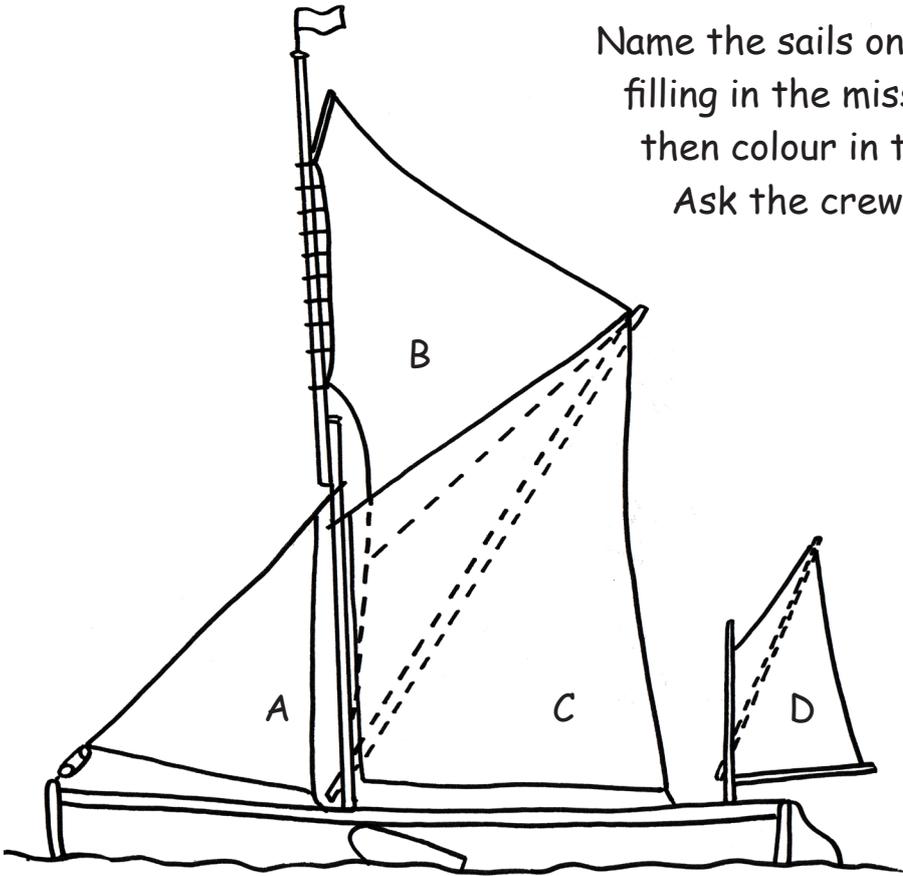
**THAMES SAILING
BARGE TRUST**



Rotary  **Club of Maldon**

Skipper's knowledge

This page of activities is for when you're on board the barge...



Name the sails on the barge by filling in the missing letters, then colour in the picture. Ask the crew for help.



- A f___ sail
- B t__ sail
- C m__n sail
- D m__zz__

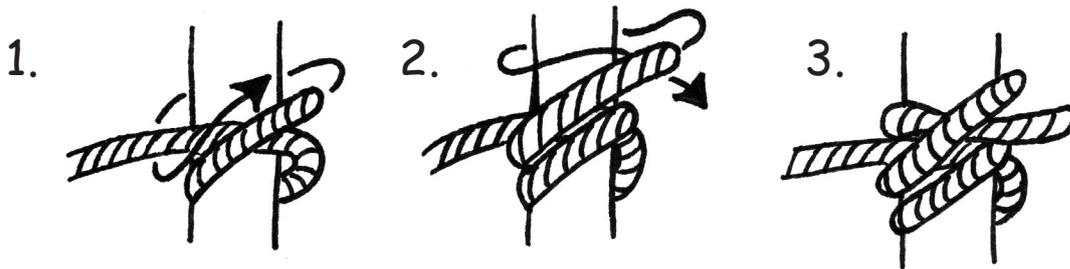
Look at the labels around the barge or ask someone for help.

Find out about the items listed below.

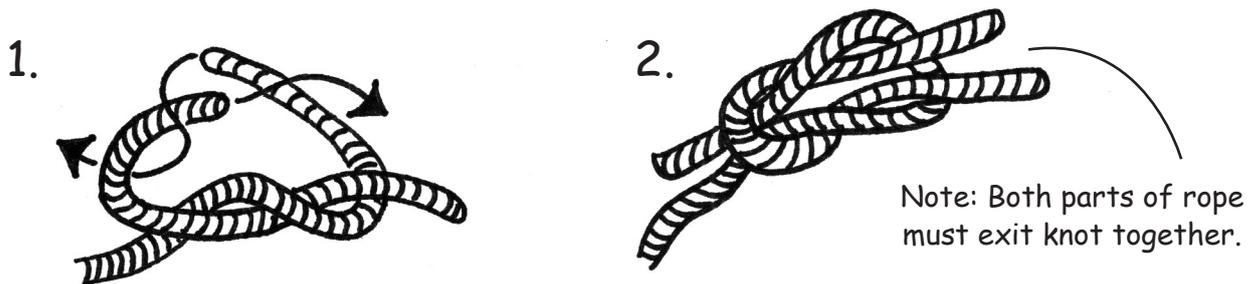
Note the number and write what the item does....

Item	Number	What the item does
Sprit		
Davits		
Rudder		
Ratlines		
Leeboard Winch		
Windlass		
Shrouds		

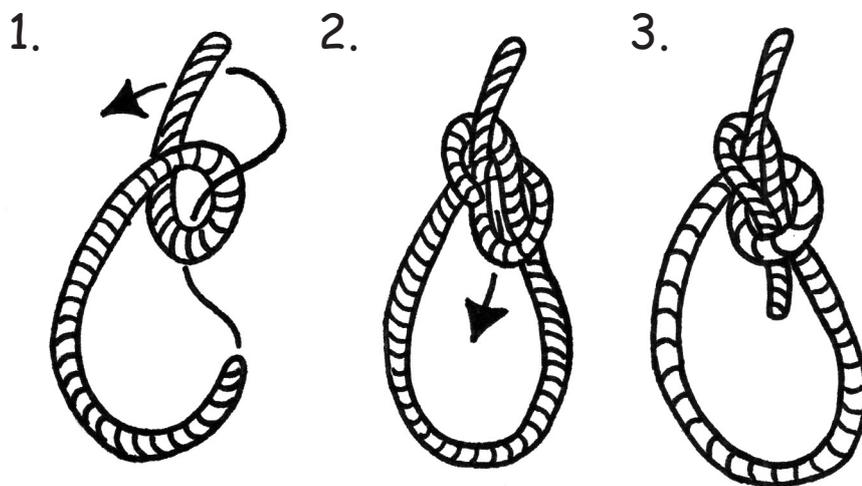
Learn to tie knots



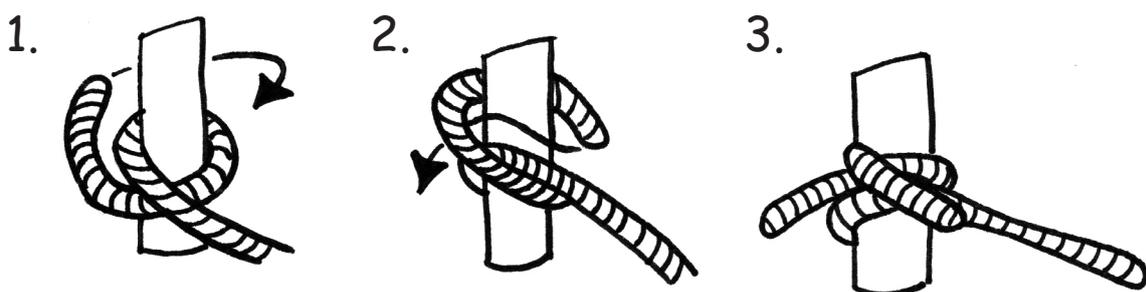
Rolling Hitch - is used to attach a rope to a rod, pole, or another rope.



Reef Knot - used to tie the two ends of a single line together such that they will secure something.



Bowline - is used to form a fixed loop at the end of the rope.

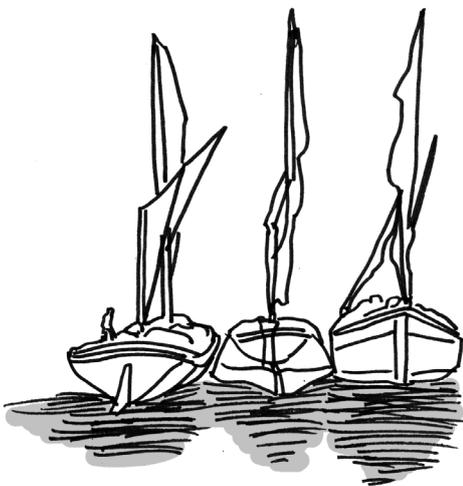


Clove Hitch - is a good binding knot suitable to tie an object to something.

History of Sailing Barges

Did You Know?

In the 17th and 18th century Britain began to import many things such as sugar, tea and spices from countries all around the world. The ships that carried the goods to England were too big to get alongside the wharves in London to unload. The goods were called 'cargo'.



Fact :

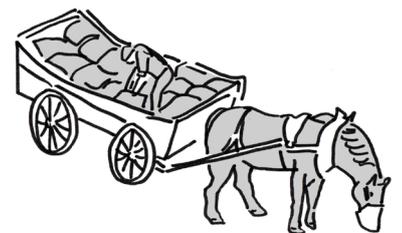
A lighter collected the cargo. A lighter was a large, floating wooden box with a flat bottom. When it was full the lighter was rowed ashore. Rowing was hard work.

Question : What do you think they did to make it easier to move the lighter?

Answer : They started to put sails on their lighters so that the wind could help them along. This simple lighter with a sail developed over the years until it began to look like the barges you can see sailing today.

Did You Know?

In the 19th century engines and lorries had not been invented. If you wanted to take anything, anywhere, you had to use a horse and cart. Barges were used to carry goods to places all around the East Coast, because it was much quicker and easier.



Question :

How many people do you think would have sailed a Thames sailing barge?

Answer :

Two people. They were usually sailed by a skipper and a mate.

Did You Know?

Thames barges had flat bottoms so they were able to sail up very shallow creeks to pick up grain and hay (for London's horses) from the farms and take it to London. On the way back they would carry horse dung collected from the streets of London and deliver it to the farms to be used as a fertiliser. Barges also carried: timber, bricks, stone, sand, gravel, coal for heating and lots of other things, even gunpowder!

Fact :

In 1907 there were 2090 Thames sailing barges carrying cargoes around the coast. There are only around 30 still sailing today.

Fact :

A barge would carry between 140 to 170 tons of cargo!

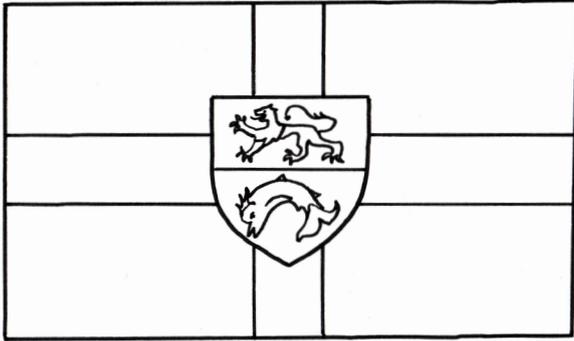
History of Pudge

Fact :

Pudge was built in 1922 by the London & Rochester Trading Company. She is a Thames sailing barge and is made of wood. Pudge is one of the last wooden barges to be built. When she was first built Pudge only had sails, but in 1932 she was fitted with an engine.

Fact :

Pudge is a Dunkirk Little Ship.



Flag of St George
Can you colour it in?

Did You Know?

During the Second World War thousands of British soldiers were on the beach in the French town of Dunkirk. The Germans were bombing them and they couldn't get away. Small boats were asked to go across the English Channel to rescue soldiers. On 31st May 1940 Pudge and two other barges were towed across the Channel by a tug. The tug was hit by a bomb. Sadly the tug sank and so did the other two barges. But Pudge survived and carried lots of soldiers safely back to England. Now she is allowed to fly the flag of Saint George in honour of her special rescue work.

Did You Know?

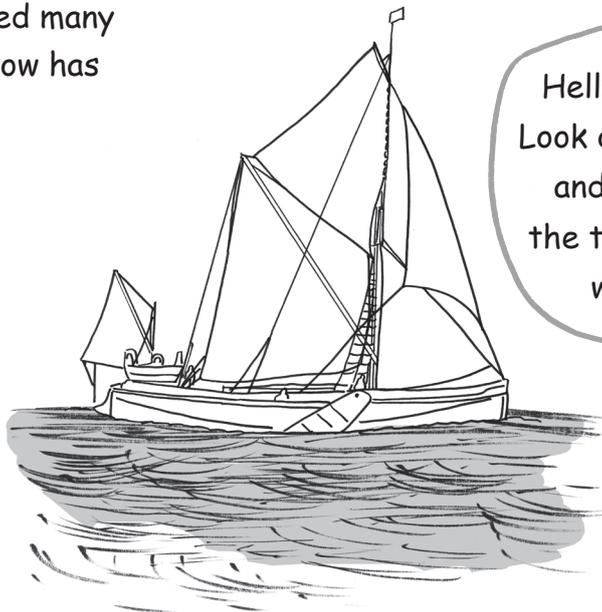
Just like the lorries you see on the roads today Pudge was built to carry goods. The cargo was loaded into the middle part of the barge, known as the 'hold'. Pudge sailed all around the East Coast. She sailed up the River Thames to the docks in London, to Ipswich in Suffolk and to the River Medway in Kent. She carried many different cargoes. Pudge now has cabins in the hold.

Did You Know?

In Arthur Ransome's 'Swallows and Amazons' book series, 'Welcome' the Thames barge in the 'Coot Club' story was based on Pudge, which Ransome had once moored alongside on the Norfolk Broads!

Fact :

In 1968, Pudge was no longer needed. She was bought by the Thames Barge Sailing Club who have been looking after her ever since. She is still sailing and taking people out to sea.



Hello! I'm Skipper Geoff.
Look out for me in this book
and I'll tell you some of
the things I've learnt from
working on barges.



History of Centaur

Fact :

Centaur was built in Harwich in 1895 by John & Herbert Cann, when Queen Victoria was on the throne. Her first owner was Charles Stone who lived at Mistley on the River Stour.

Question :

How old is Centaur?

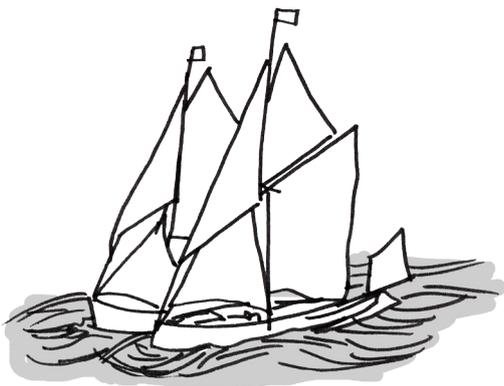
Answer:

Fact :

The Cann brothers used to build two barges a year. 'Kitty', another barge you can sometimes see at Maldon was also built there in 1895. Centaur is made of wood. She is a strong barge and is very seaworthy. She used to sail all around the British coast with her cargoes. She is known as a Coastal Barge. She crossed the English Channel to France and the North Sea to Belgium and Holland.

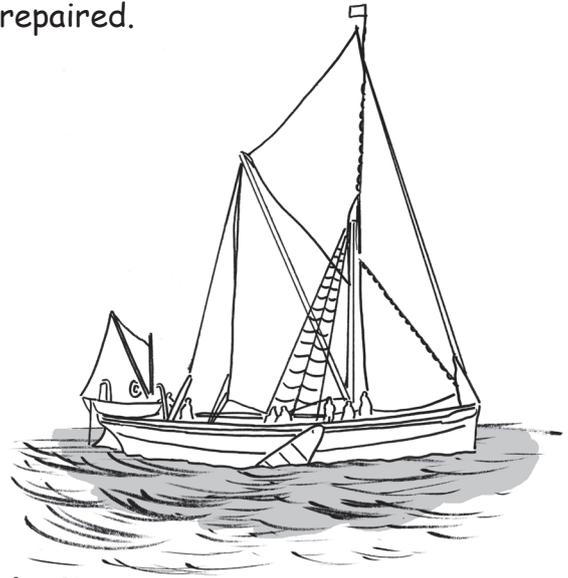
Did You Know?

Centaur takes part in races, which are held especially for barges each year. They are known as Barge Matches. In 1898 she won the Harwich Barge Match and in 1899 she won the Medway Match. She is still entering Barge Matches today.



Fact :

In October 1933 Mr Stone sold her to Francis & Gilders Ltd at Colchester. She became a grain barge carrying wheat from Yarmouth, Felixstowe and Ipswich to London. In May 1940 like Pudge she set off to go to France with a lot of other ships to help evacuate British Soldiers. Centaur stopped at Dover for the first night but was damaged in the harbour by a tug. She couldn't go to France and had to return to the Barge Yard at Maldon to be repaired.



Fact :

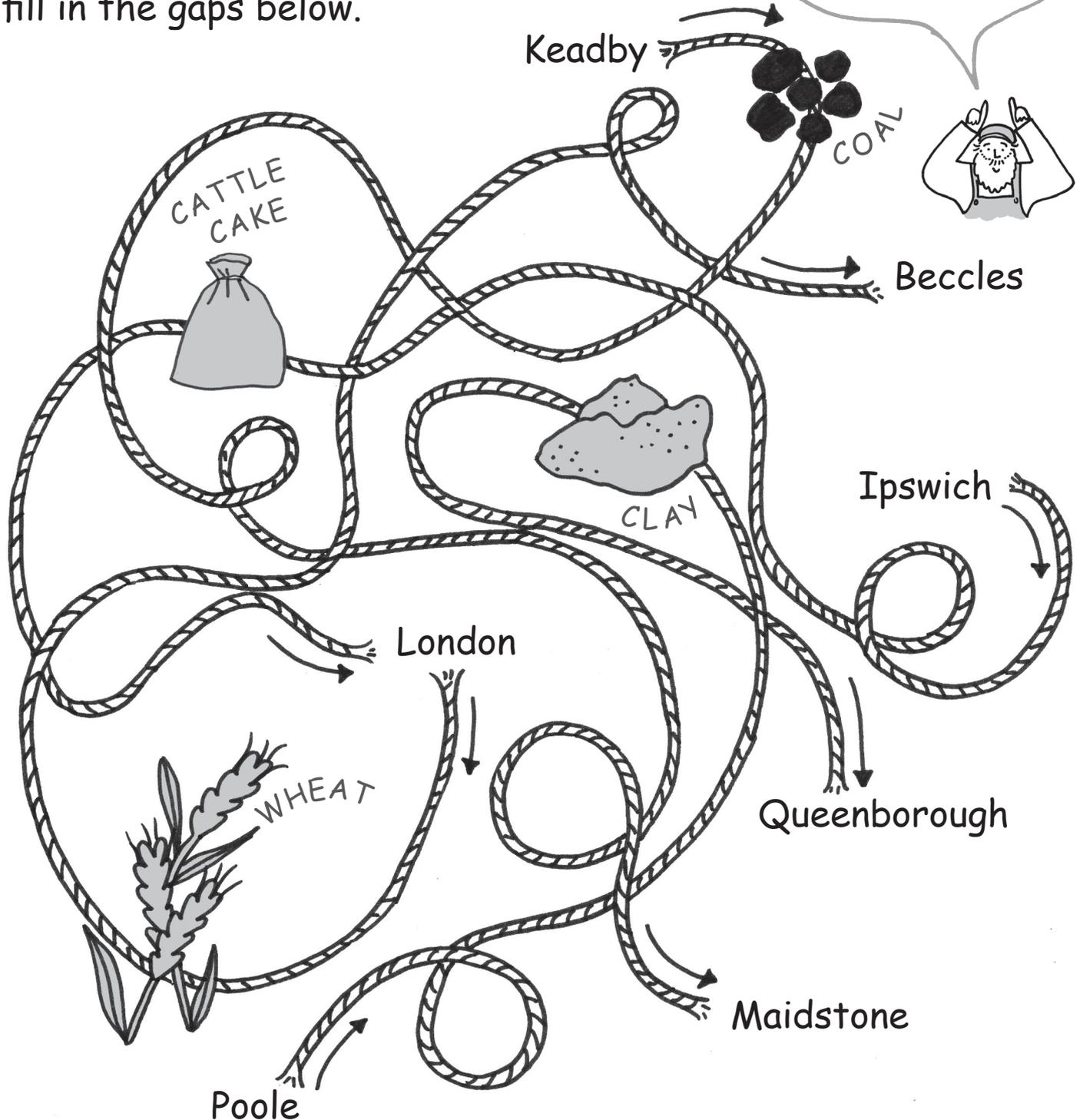
In the 1950's more and more lorries were being built to carry goods Thames barges were no longer needed. In October 1955 Centaur's mast and sails were removed. She looked very sad. She joined some other old barges at Heybridge Basin. Their job was to bring timber from ships moored off Osea Island into the Basin. The wood was then taken up the Chelmer Canal by canal barge to Chelmsford. It wasn't very nice work and she was bashed about and damaged.

Fortunately, she was rescued and re-rigged and later sold to The Thames Barge Sailing Club in 1974. They restored her and look after her so that she can still work taking people sailing rather than carrying cargo.

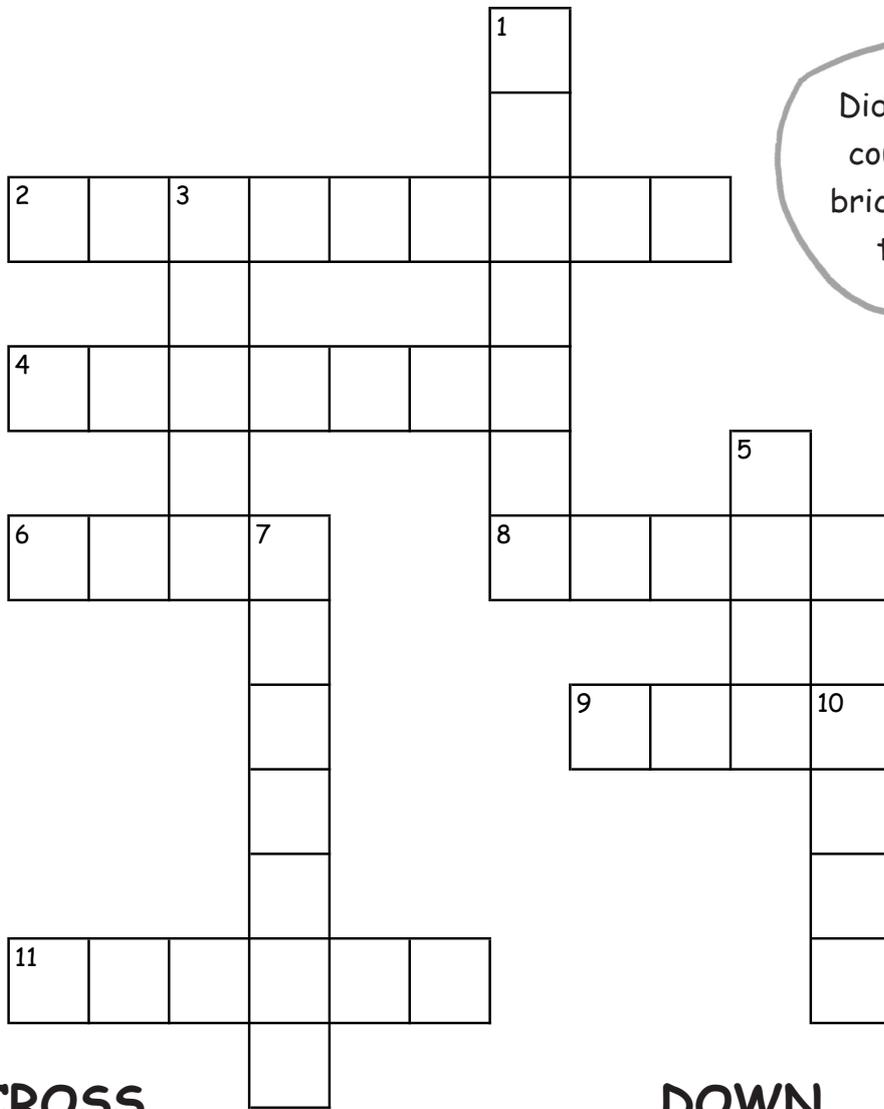
Cargoes

Follow the ropes to work out where cargoes were transported and fill in the gaps below.

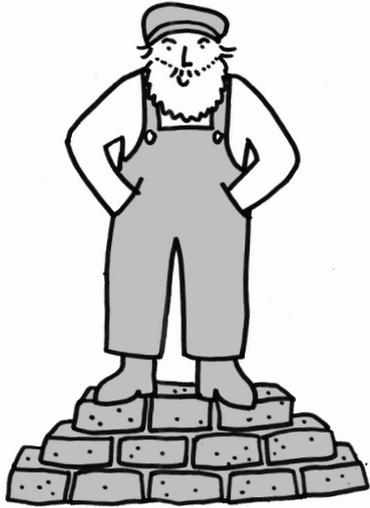
Cattle cake was a by-product of vegetable oil production



Coal	from	Keadby	to	Maidstone
_____	from	London	to	_____
_____	from	_____	to	Queenborough
Cattle cake	from	_____	to	_____



Did you know that a barge could carry up to 40,000 bricks that were then used to help build houses?



ACROSS

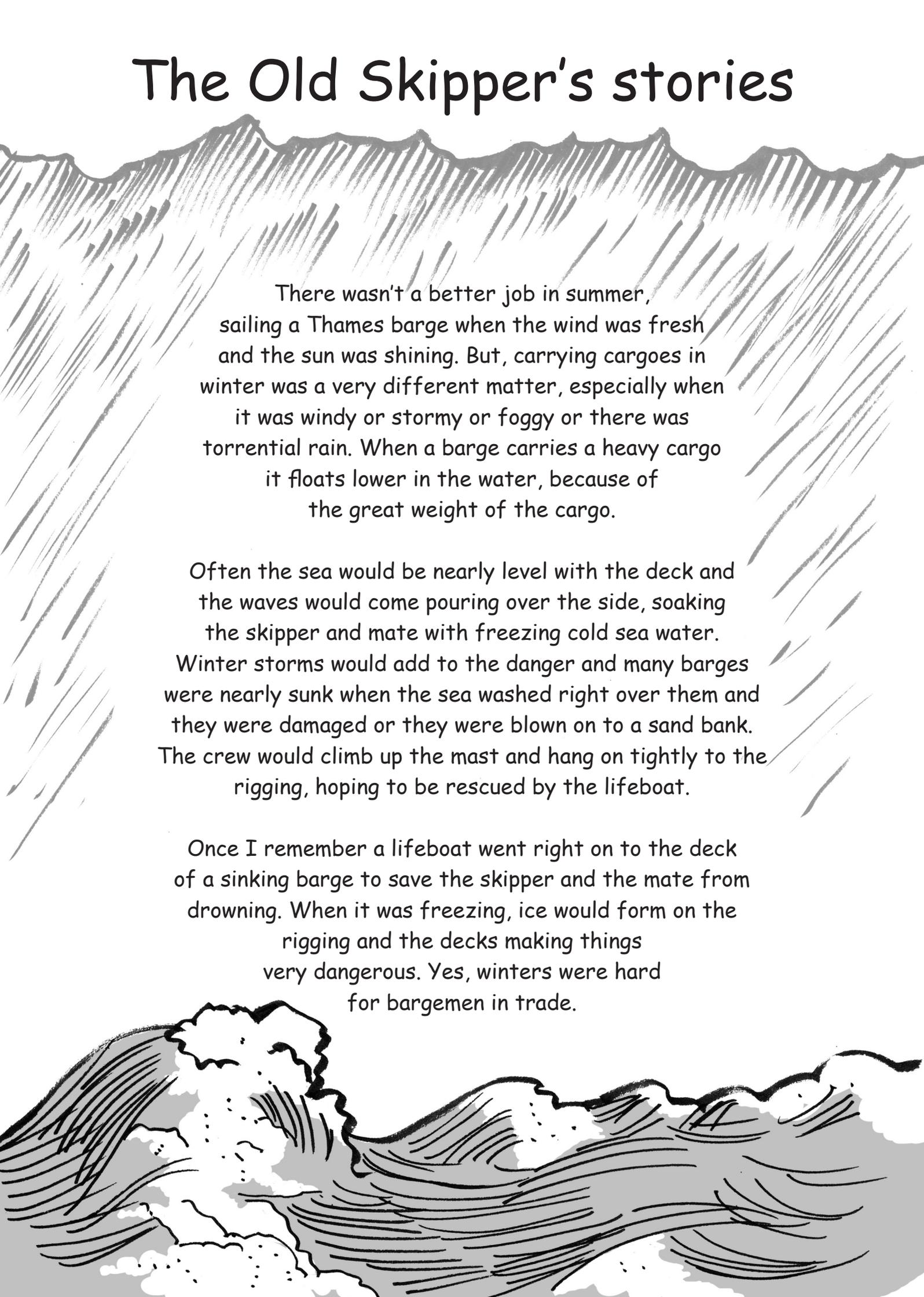
DOWN

- 2. Where was Pudge built? (9) [P]
- 4. Where was Centaur built? (7) [C]
- 6. What material are Centaur and Pudge made from? (4) [P+C]
- 8. What did people add to 'lighter' boats so that the wind could help them along? (5) [H]
- 9. What do you call the person that usually sails with the skipper? (4) [H]
- 11. What Saint's flag can Pudge fly in honour of her special rescue work? (6) [P]

- 1. What are barge races known as? (7) [C]
- 3. What were the goods also known as which Pudge and Centaur transported? (5) [H]
- 5. What did the bottoms of Pudge and Centaur need to be for them to sail in very shallow creeks? (4) [H]
- 7. Which French town did Pudge sail to during the WWII to rescue British soldiers? (7) [P]
- 10. What coast did Pudge sail all around? (4) [P]

(TIP: [H,P,C] relates to the pages to read
 [H] History of Sailing Barges, [P] History of Pudge, [C] History of Centaur
 Answers at the back of this book.)

The Old Skipper's stories



There wasn't a better job in summer, sailing a Thames barge when the wind was fresh and the sun was shining. But, carrying cargoes in winter was a very different matter, especially when it was windy or stormy or foggy or there was torrential rain. When a barge carries a heavy cargo it floats lower in the water, because of the great weight of the cargo.

Often the sea would be nearly level with the deck and the waves would come pouring over the side, soaking the skipper and mate with freezing cold sea water. Winter storms would add to the danger and many barges were nearly sunk when the sea washed right over them and they were damaged or they were blown on to a sand bank. The crew would climb up the mast and hang on tightly to the rigging, hoping to be rescued by the lifeboat.

Once I remember a lifeboat went right on to the deck of a sinking barge to save the skipper and the mate from drowning. When it was freezing, ice would form on the rigging and the decks making things very dangerous. Yes, winters were hard for bargemen in trade.





When we were trading during WWII we weren't allowed to sail into a river at night, as in the dark no one would know if we were just a barge delivering cargo, or we were an enemy ship. Barges were supposed to anchor in the estuary and wait for daylight. That was a very dangerous position to be in.

Sometimes we would have bombs dropped on us by the Luftwaffe - very scary!

Fortunately, not many barges were actually blown up although quite a few were machine gunned and ended up with holes in their sails.

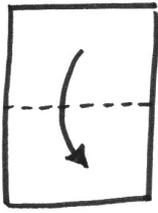
Write and illustrate a story, a poem, a letter or a diary entry about the barges...

Join the dots to complete the Skipper's face
and remember to colour him in too!

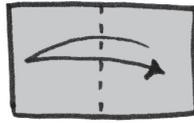


What year do you think Skipper Geoff began to grow his beard?
(Answer at the back of this book.)

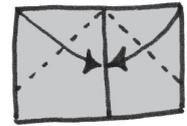
Paper boats



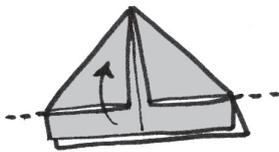
1. Fold a rectangular piece of paper in half (widthwise)



2. Fold in half again, then unfold, leaving a crease.



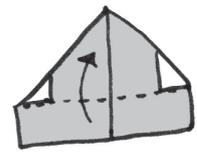
3. Fold the top corners toward the centre.



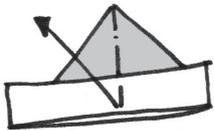
4. Fold the flap of paper at the bottom upwards.



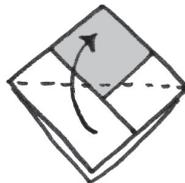
5. Fold both corners indicated backwards. Turn over.



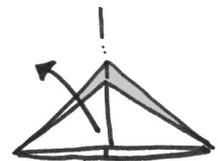
6. Fold the flap of paper at the bottom upwards.



7. Grip the bottom-centre of each side. Pull outwards until it is completely open. Then press flat.



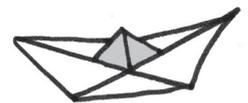
8. Fold the bottom corner upwards. Turn over and repeat.



9. Open and flatten again as you did in step (7).



10. Grip the outer corners and pull outwards.



11. Float or decorate your own paper boat. Try adding a sail.

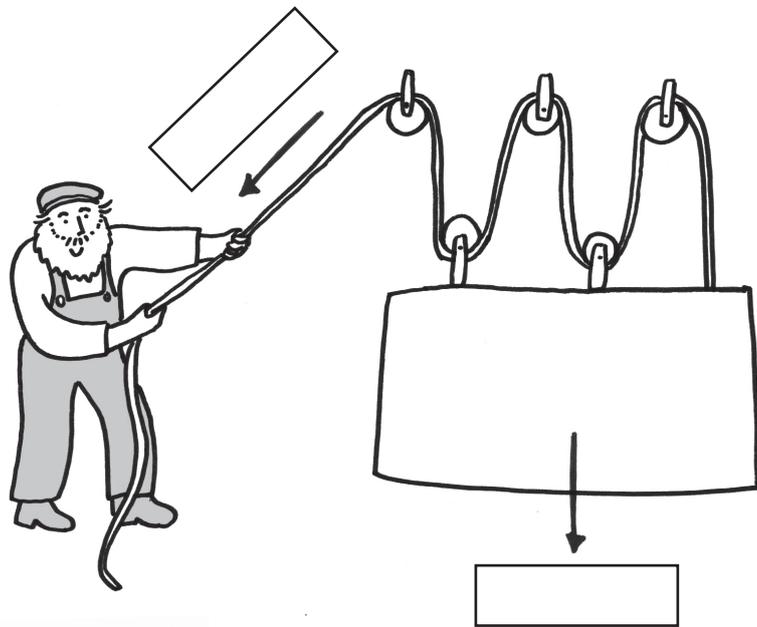
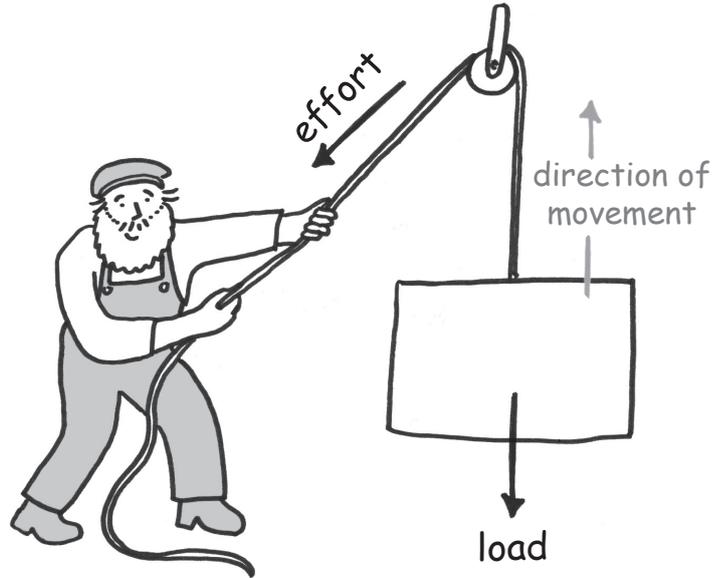
If a barge had no work, they could moor up on to 'starvation buoys' until cargoes came their way.



Pulleys and levers

A **pulley** is a simple machine consisting of a rope (or string) wrapped around a wheel with one end of the rope attached to an object and the other end attached to a person or a motor.

load - weight of the object
effort - amount of force required to lift the object



Fill in the labels to show the forces in the picture:

effort **load**

With more pulleys, do you think it will be easier or harder for Skipper Geoff to lift the object?

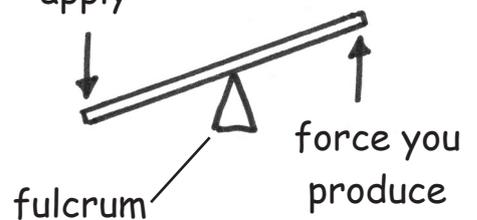


Where can you see a pulley system on board the barge?

A **lever** is a simple machine consisting of a beam or rod that is fixed to a pivot point (fulcrum).



force you apply



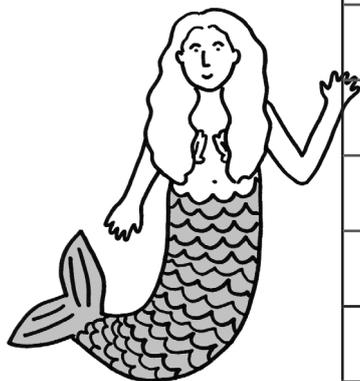
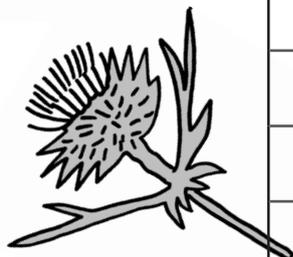
Skipper Geoff goes rowing, what is the lever he uses to make the boat move?

Where is the fulcrum?

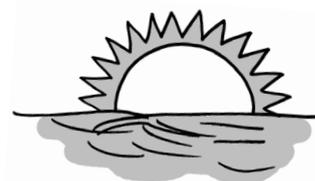
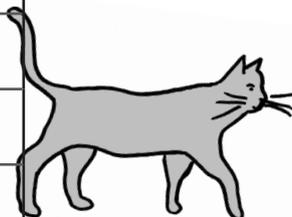
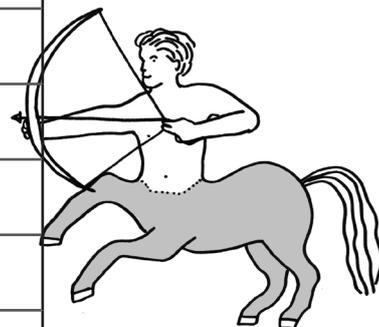
(Answers at the back of this book.)

Spot the barges

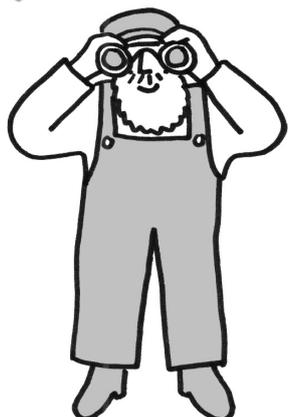
Here is a list of barges you might see at or near Maldon.
Tick their names off if you spot them.



Barge name	Spotted
Pudge	
Centaur	
Thistle	
Hydrogen	
George Smeed	
Resourceful	
Blue Mermaid	
Kitty	
Reminder	
Dawn	



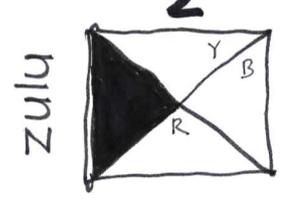
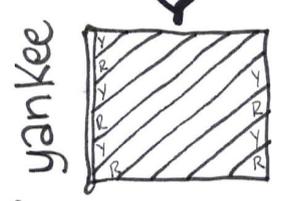
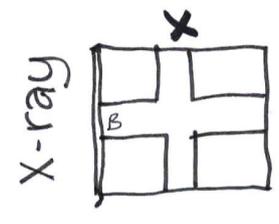
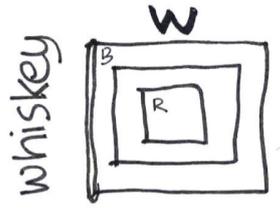
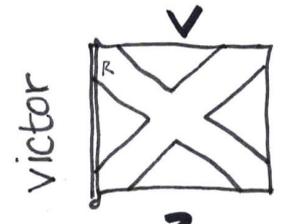
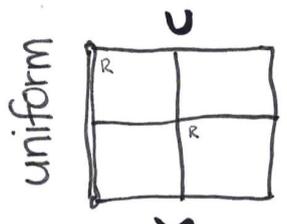
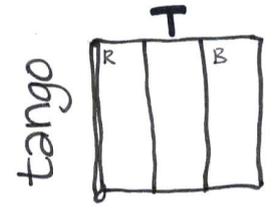
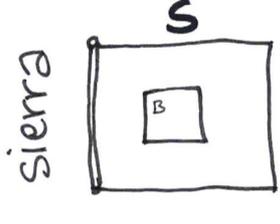
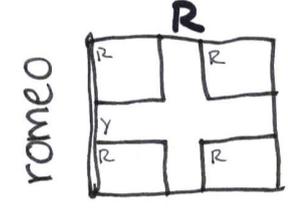
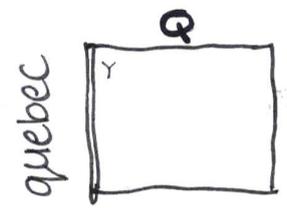
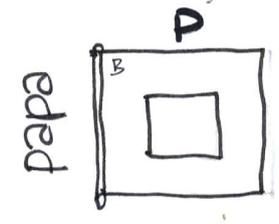
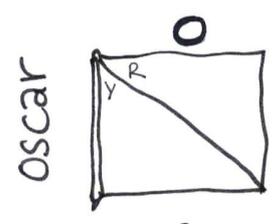
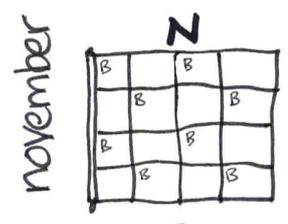
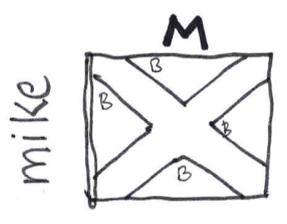
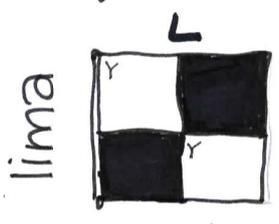
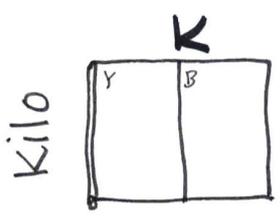
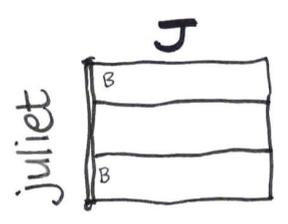
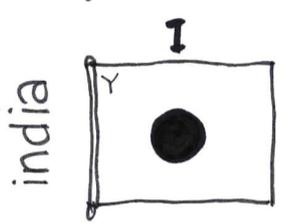
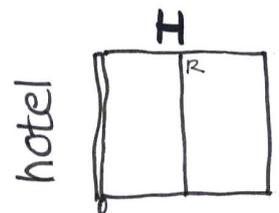
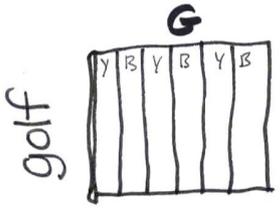
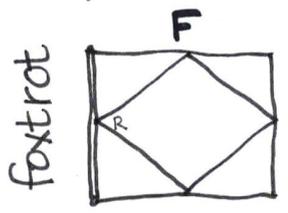
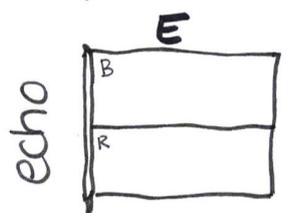
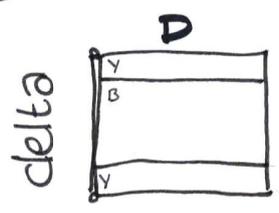
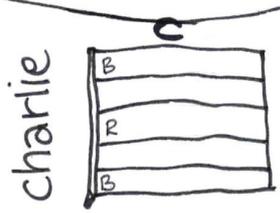
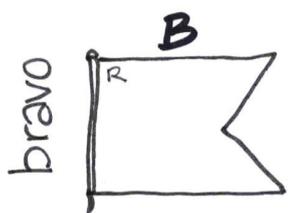
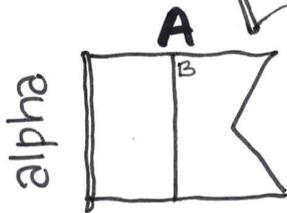
Barges carried manure from London to East Anglian farms to be used as fertiliser. The hay grown in the fields went to London on 'Stackie' barges to feed the horses.



ANSWERS:
Crossword -
Across 2. Rochester, 4. Harwich, 6. wood, 8. sails, 9. mate, 11. George
Down 1. matches, 3. cargo, 5. flat, 7. Dunkirk, 10. east
Dot-to-dot fact - Skipper Geoff has grown his beard since 6th August 1968.
Pulleys and levers - With more pulleys it will be easier for Skipper Geoff to lift the object. The lever which Skipper Geoff uses to make the boat move is the oar. The fulcrum or pivot point is where the oar is held, the rowlock.

B = Blue
R = Red
Y = Yellow

International SIGNAL FLAGS & phonetic alphabet



Use the space below to draw the flags to spell out your name.