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Ocean Research: Life Exploring the Ocean Nautical Terms

Objective:

Be able to recognize, understand, and use some common terms used on a research vessel.

Introduction:

Nautical terms and phrases have existed for as long as humans have been using boats to travel on the water. For people that use boats, knowing what those terms and phrases mean is essential to communicate clearly with your crew. Clear communication is key to the safety of the crew and vessel, as well as, the ability to maintain organization and smooth operation of the vessel and crew.

For example, "Starboard" refers to what is the right side of the vessel; "port" refers to what is the left side. Both of these terms use the front of the vessel as the reference point. So "starboard" is the right side of the vessel when you are facing the bow. This is important because "starboard" is ALWAYS the starboard side, no matter which way you or anyone else is facing. This makes communication very clear.

Let's look at a specific situation to demonstrate this. Imagine that you're on a boat and the captain asks you to quickly move to the right side. If you were facing one another, would that be your right or the captain's? Or imagine you can't see which way people are facing on the boat. Saying "It's to your left!" or "Look to the right!" would make no sense to anyone and would create confusion that could threaten the crew and vessel.

In this activity you'll learn the meaning of, to recognize, and to use some common nautical terms.

Answer keys to all the activities are included.

Part One: Define the terms

Below is a list of common nautical terms. Use the internet (or another resource) to find meanings of each term that has been left blank. Use the space provided to write the meaning of each term to complete the table.

Common Nautical Terms	
Aft	Describes the direction of movement towards the stern of a vessel. It can also be used to describe a location that is at, near, or toward the stern of a vessel.
Ahead	Move in a forward direction.
Amidships	A location midway between the bow and stern of a ship.
Astern	Describes a location in or at the stern of a ship.
Below	A location that is beneath the deck of a vessel.
Bow	
Cabin	
Chart	
Deck	A permanent covering over the hull or compartment of a vessel.
Fathom	
Forward	Describes the direction of movement towards the bow of a vessel. Can also be used to describe a location that is at, near, or towards the bow of a vessel.
Freeboard	The distance between waterline and main deck of a ship.
Galley	
Head	
Hull	
Knot	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A measure of the speed of a vessel. Equal to one nautical mile (6076 feet) per hour.2. Rope that is folding and tied upon itself to create a fastening to make a loop, bind two ends together, or to tie rope to an object.

Line	Rope used on a vessel.
List	A vessel's tendency to lean to one side, because of an uneven distribution of weight.
Port	On a vessel - The left-hand side of a vessel when facing the bow. On land - A location with a harbor where ships load or unload.
Starboard	
Stern	
Tide	
Topside	
Transom	The flat section across the back (stern-most) part of a vessel's hull.
Underway	Meaning that the vessel is not tied up ashore, on a mooring, at anchor or aground.
Wake	
Watch	A segment of a 24-hour day that crew members are assigned to specific roles to ensure a vessel can operate continuously and allows the crew members time to rest.
Wheelhouse	An enclosed space on a deck of a vessel from which the vessel can be navigated (steered).
Winch	A mechanical device with a line wound around it that can be used for hoisting or hauling to a load like a net or other equipment.

Part two: Word search

Complete the word search provided below by finding all the terms. Each word only appears once. Words can be up-and-down, across, or diagonal.



AFT
LINE
BELOW
TOPSIDE
KNOT

ASTERN
STERN
FATHOM
AMIDSHIPS
STARBOARD

CHART
WATCH
HEAD
BOW
TRANSOM

GALLEY
AHEAD
PORT
FORWARD

Part 3: Quiz

Now that you know the meaning of the terms and can identify them, let's see how well you can use them. Choose the correct term for each item below.

- The captain tells you to move to the port side. Which side of the vessel do you move to?
 - LEFT
 - RIGHT
- Where would you hope your meals are prepared on a vessel?
 - A HEAD
 - A CABIN
 - A GALLEY
- If you were on the stern of a vessel which direction would you have to move to get to the bow?
 - FORWARD
 - AFT
- A crew member has asked you to find a line. What are you looking for?
 - A ROPE
 - A PAINTED DASH ON THE DECK
 - SOMETHING WRITTEN IN A PLAY
- If you were halfway between the bow and the stern you could say you were where?
 - MISSING
 - ON WATCH
 - AMIDSHIPS
- What might you use to show someone the current location of the vessel?
 - A GLOBE
 - AN ATLAS
 - A CHART
- Someone asks if the vessel was underway. What are they asking?
 - WHAT THE WIFI PASSWORD IS
 - IF THE BOAT HAS LEFT THE DOCK
 - IF THE VESSEL IS BELOW THE NORMAL WEIGHT OF A VESSEL

Part 4: Creating a story with the terms

Now you will be helping to create a story about a day at sea on an oceanographic research vessel. The story you create is not a record of a true story. Any resemblance of persons or events are just chance. *Step 1:* You need to create a word bank using the terms that you now know. Use those words and other responses to items to fill out your word bank. Try not to read the story before you finish your word bank.

Step 2: Fill in the blanks found in the story with your word bank. In the story, put in the word that matches the number in your word bank. For example, the first word in your word bank is numbered 1. You would fill in the blank number 1 in the story with that word.

Step 3: Share your story with others if you want to.

1. Word describing when a crew member is on duty.	
2. Word for the kitchen area on a vessel.	
3. Your favorite snack.	
4. A location in a vessel.	
5. A direction of movement on a vessel.	
6. An adjective.	
7. Word for the distance between waterline and main deck.	
8. Word to describe a vessel's tendency to lean.	
9. A side of a vessel when facing the bow.	
10. Word for the back (stern-most) part of a vessel's hull.	
11. A color.	
12. Part of the face.	
13. Word for the location from which a vessel is navigated.	
14. A food item.	
15. A condiment.	
16. Word to describe rope on a vessel.	
17. A tool.	
18. A side of a vessel when facing the bow.	
19. Word for a device used for lifting or hauling heavy loads.	

A Difficult Day at Sea

You were just finishing your **1** _____ and on your way to the **2** _____ for your **3** _____, when all of a sudden you heard loud voices and horrible noises coming from the **4** _____.

You quickly made your way **5** _____ to see what all the commotion was about. As you arrived, you noticed that there was a **6** _____ tentacle coming over the **7** _____ which was causing the boat to **8** _____ dangerously to the **9** _____ side. All of a sudden, a huge wave came crashing over the **10** _____ caused by a second tentacle that reached for Captain **11** _____ **12** _____ who was in the **13** _____ eating an anchovy, **14** _____, and **15** _____ sandwich. You knew that you had to do something to save the vessel and crew, so you grabbed a **16** _____ and a **17** _____ and started to attack the tentacle that had just made its way over the **18** _____ side. You knew the only way you could get the tentacle off the vessel was to use the **19** _____. With a loud screech, the tentacles released the ship and slide back into the sea. As they disappeared, you thought you heard the strangest thing: a voice saying, "Thanks for the sandwich and **3** _____!"

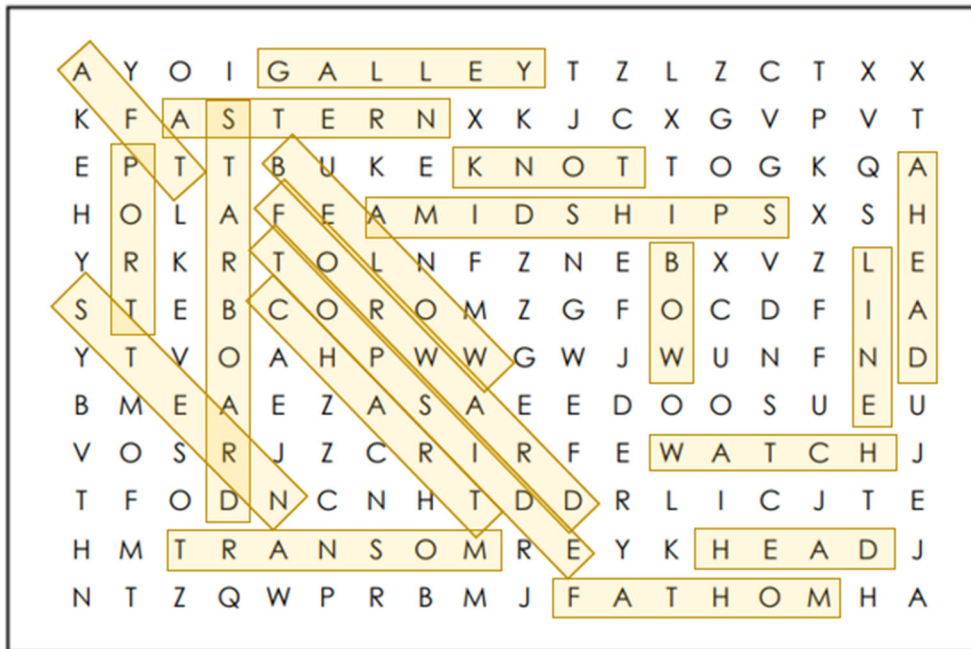
Answer Keys:

Definitions

Common Nautical Terms	
Aft	Describes the direction of movement towards the stern of a vessel. It can also be used to describe a location that is at, near, or toward the stern of a vessel.
Ahead	Move in a forward direction.
Amidships	A location midway between the bow and stern of a ship.
Astern	Describes a location in or at the stern of a ship
Below	A location that is beneath the deck of a vessel.
Bow	The front of a vessel.
Cabin	A compartment (room) for crew or passengers.
Chart	A map use to navigate by on a vessel.
Deck	A permanent covering over the hull or compartment of a vessel.
Fathom	A unit of depth that equals six feet.
Forward	Describes the direction of movement towards the bow of a vessel. Can also be used to describe a location that is at, near, or towards the bow of a vessel.
Freeboard	The distance between waterline and main deck of a ship.
Galley	The kitchen area on a vessel.
Head	A toilet (bathroom) on a vessel.
Hull	The many body of a vessel.
Knot	1. A measure of the speed of a vessel. Equals to one nautical mile (6076 feet) per hour. 2. Rope that is folding and tied upon itself to create a fastening to make a loop, bind two ends together, or to tie rope to an object.
Line	Rope used on a vessel.
List	A vessel's tendency to lean to one side, because of an uneven distribution of weight.
Port	On a vessel - The left-hand side of a vessel when facing the bow. On land - A location with a harbor where ships load or unload.
Starboard	The right side of a boat when facing the bow.
Stern	The back part of a vessel.
Tide	The daily rise and fall of water level in the oceans produced by the gravitational force of the moon and the sun.
Topside	The upper part of a vessel above the waterline. Can also mean on or towards the upper decks of a vessel.
Transom	The flat section across the back (stern-most) part of a vessel's hull.
Underway	Meaning that the vessel is not tied up ashore, on a mooring, at anchor or aground.
Wake	The waves that a vessel leaves behind it when moving through the water.

Watch	A segment of a 24-hour day that crew members are assigned to specific roles to ensure a vessel can operate continuously and allows the crew members time to rest.
Wheelhouse	An enclosed space on a deck of a vessel from which the vessel can be navigated (steered).
Winch	A mechanical device with a line wound around it that can be used for hoisting or hauling to a load like a net or other equipment.

Wordsearch



Quiz

- The captain tells you to move to the port side. Which side of the boat do you move to?
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 - RIGHT
- Where would you hope your meals are prepared on a vessel?
 - A HEAD
 - A CABIN
 - A GALLEY
- If you were on the stern of a vessel which direction would you have to move to get to the bow?
 - FORWARD
 - AFT

- A crew member has asked you to find a line. What are you looking for?
 - **A ROPE**
 - A PAINTED DASH ON THE DECK**
 - SOMETHING WRITTEN IN A PLAY**
- If you were halfway between the bow and the stern you could say you were where?
 - MISSING**
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 - **AMIDSHIPS**
- What might you use to show someone the current location of the vessel?
 - A GLOBE**
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- Someone asks if the vessel was underway. What are they asking?
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