

Tudor Ships



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History

W.A.L.T.

What did a Tudor
ship look like?

History

WHY

To begin to understand
some important facts
about Tudor ships



When Henry VIII became king in 1509 there were no planes, trains or cars. The explorers used sailing ships called galleons. They were powered by the wind and each voyage could take several years. England had only a small navy which meant they did not have very many ships. They only had 7. While he was King, Henry spent a great deal of money and built another 24 ships

Life at sea was risky and dangerous.



Tudor ships travelled across seas to trade, fight and explore the world.

They had three or four masts, carrying both square and triangular sails. This meant that they sailed well in light or strong winds and were more easily steered than other ships.



Life was hard for the sailors on board. They slept in the bow (front) of the ship in hammocks which swung from side to side as the ship rocked.

The food on ships included: salted beef, fish, bread, dry biscuits and cheese. The food often had maggots in it and the drinking water went stale. On long journeys, many sailors became very poorly or died because they did not have enough fresh fruit and vegetables.

Fighting



Cannons were put along the upper decks of the ship. Sailors were armed with muskets, swords, daggers, bows and clubs. They had to fight pirates, rival traders or the people in the new lands they explored.

Trading



The most valuable item of **trade** was wool. The woollen **trade** was essentially and more than 90% of the goods exported out of England were wool.

As explorers crossed the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans they brought back expensive goods like spices, silk and precious metals. New foods and drinks were introduced. There was tea from China and chocolate from Mexico

Spices were imported from all corners of the world. There was pepper from India, cinnamon from Ceylon, nutmeg, mace and cloves from the Spice Islands.

The Tudors brought tomatoes, potatoes, peppers from America



Exploring



The Tudors wanted to explore the World because they wanted the excitement of traveling to new places where no British people had ever been and to become rich by bringing back expensive goods (like: spices, silk and precious metals). They also wanted to find new places to live

To find their way, seamen used navigation instruments like an astrolabe. This helped them measure the Sun's angle above the horizon which could then be looked up in a table to see how far north or south of the equator they were.

Activities

Design, draw or create your own Tudor ship



What objects can you find that float like a ship?

