



The Parts of a Ship

Hi kids! From my post on the Custom House, I have watched hundreds of vessels tie up at Derby Wharf. I'm always impressed by how much sailors need to know about their ships. Here are just a few parts of a ship that I have heard sailors talk about over the years. Can you identify them on the other side of the page?

Anchor – A large hook attached to the ship which is cast overboard and digs into the sea bed to keep the ship from moving.

Bow – The front of a vessel.

Bowsprit – A spar attached at an angle to the bow of a ship, used to hold jibs.

Fore and Aft – From the bow to the stern. Fore is towards the front, aft is towards the back.

Hull – The main body of the boat. *Friendship's* hull has two decks.

Keel – The timber at the very bottom of the hull that runs from the bow to the stern, often called the ship's "backbone."

Line – The sailor's word for a rope.

Mast – A large wooden spar used to hold up other spars and the rigging. *Friendship* has three masts: the fore mast, at the bow, the main mast, in the middle, and the mizzen mast, at the stern.

Port – When facing the bow, the left side of the ship.

Rigging – The lines that support the masts and move the sails.

Rudder – A blade attached under the stern used for steering.



Sails – A ship like *Friendship* carries several different types of sails.

Jibs – Triangular sails at the front of the ship, attached to the bowsprit.

Square Sails – Rectangular sails that are placed square, or perpendicular, to the keel. *Friendship* carries 11 square sails. The lowest are the **main sails**, the next highest are the **topsails**, the third sails from the bottom are the **topgallant** (pronounced t'gallant) sails, and at the very tops of the masts are the **royal sails**.

Spanker – The biggest sail at the stern of the ship.

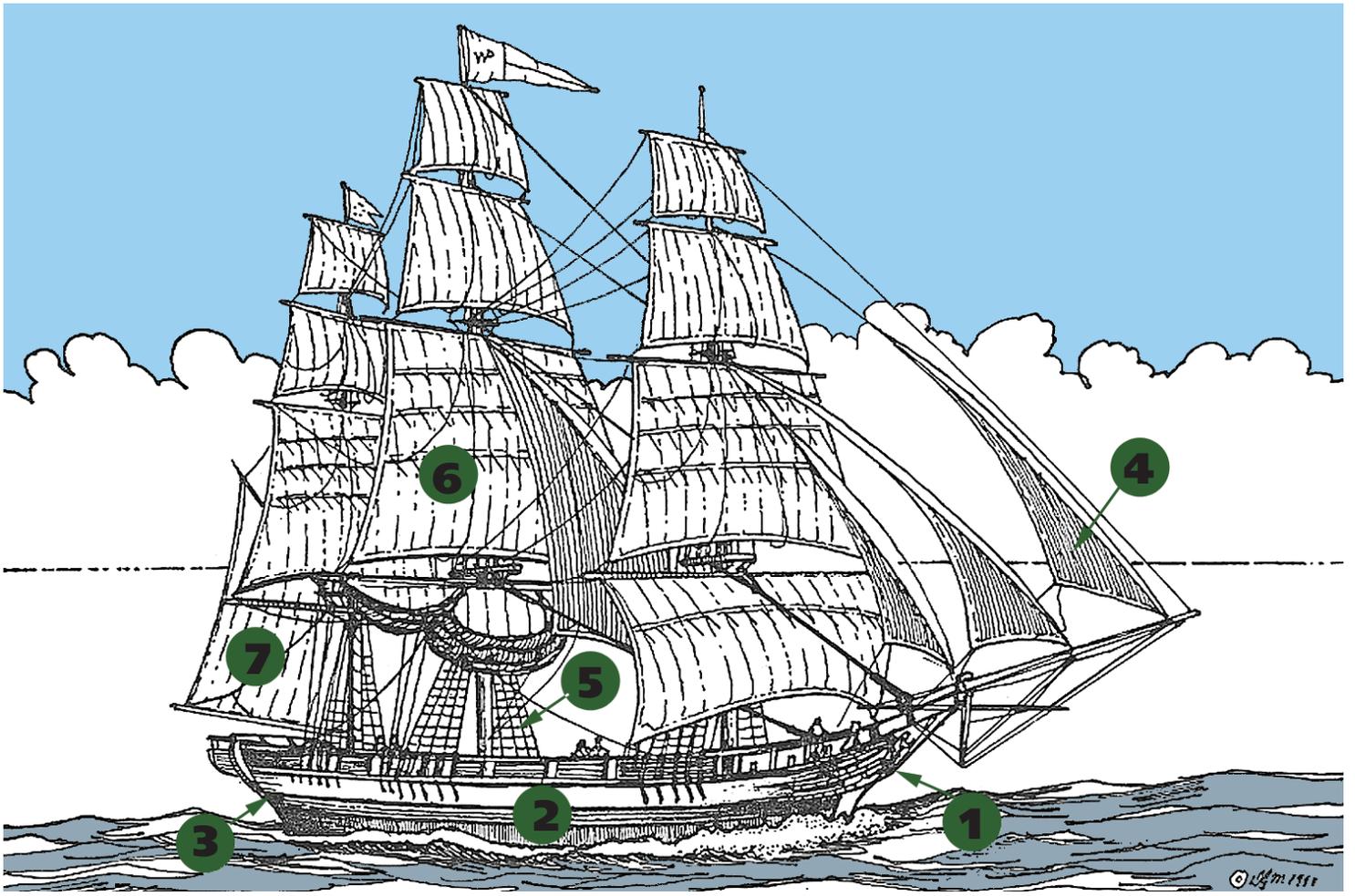
Shrouds – Heavy lines which hold up the masts from the sides of the vessel. Sailors use the ratlines on the shrouds to climb the masts.

Starboard – When facing the bow, the right side of the ship.

Stern – The back of a vessel.

Spar - long pieces of wood used to support the sails and rigging. The bowsprit, masts and yards are all spars.

Yards - horizontal spars that hold the square sails.



Above is a drawing of the original *Friendship*. Can you identify the numbered parts of the ship using the glossary on the other side of the page?

1. _____

6. _____

2. _____

7. _____

3. _____

8. _____

4. _____

9. _____

5. _____

10. _____

If you are 11 years old or older, once you have identified the numbered parts of the ship, try to identify more of the parts of the ship. Starting with the number 8, label as many other parts of the ship as you can.