

SAILING SHIPS

Unit Study



By
Amanda Bennett

Table of Contents

Unit Studies – The Easy Way	7
Getting Started	9
Introduction	11
Favorite Resources	13
Family Project Ideas	18
Amanda’s Tips on Search Engines	20
Sailing Ships – Week One	21
Learning Plans, Day 1 – Day 4	
Weekly Windup	
Additional Internet Sites	
Sailing Ships – Week Two	34
Learning Plans, Day 1 – Day 4	
Weekly Windup	
Additional Internet Sites	
Sailing Ships – Week Three	50
Learning Plans, Day 1 – Day 4	
Weekly Windup	
Additional Internet Sites	
Sailing Ships – Week Four	63
Learning Plans, Day 1 – Day 4	
Weekly Windup	
Additional Internet Sites	
Appendix	77
<i>How Perry's Kite Saved a Crew</i>	78
<i>The Secret of the Sea</i>	87
<i>Around Cape Horn</i>	88
<i>At Sea</i>	94
<i>The Building of the Ship</i>	95
<i>A Wonderful Rescue</i>	98
<i>Old Ironsides</i>	102
Sailing Ships Notebooking Pages	103

INTRODUCTION

Hear the wind whipping and snapping the sails; feel the steady pull of the force of the wind; taste the salt spray misting your face; and you'll realize that we're on our way to an adventure! Cast off! We're setting sail! Children of all ages will enjoy this study of **Sailing Ships**, learning about the development of ships from ancient civilizations to George Washington and "Old Ironsides," from the Vikings to the adventures of brave explorers like Captain Cook and the good ship *Endeavor*. Remember the classics like **Treasure Island**, **Captains Courageous**, and **Kidnapped**? Part of the thrill of these books is in the reading and dreaming of far away places and wild voyages across the wide ocean. Every child should know that thrill and understand the importance that ships had on these adventures.

With great excitement, I am pleased to introduce this addition to the Amanda Bennett unit study series. Taking the topic of **Sailing Ships**, this book will take you by the hand through the unit study, one step at a time. Each day's Study Plan includes everything that you need to have a successful adventure.

Written to encourage curiosity and learning, I use a unit study approach to simplify the concepts while exposing the students to many important ideas from history, science, geography and other areas. Children and adults alike are intrigued by sailing ships under full sail-the sight of a tall ship in the wind is breath-taking! Many of us have never had the opportunity to sail away on a sailboat, and we have never outgrown the curiosity and daydreams of an adventure at sea.

America's history is interwoven with sailing ships of all kinds - through centuries of exploration, colonization, naval battles, and world-wide trade. We will be studying all kinds of sailing ships that have helped shape our country and the sailing ships used by the early traders and explorers. Why was the clipper ship so important to America? What brought about the end of our dependence on sailing ships? We will investigate these ideas and many more.

And so, we begin our newest adventure, setting sail for new places and meeting new people. What makes a sailboat sail? How did early mariners navigate unknown waters? What's the difference between a schooner and a clipper, a topsail and a mainsail? How do they tie all of those knots? Let's get started!

I hope that you and your family enjoy this adventure into sailing ships. May God bless you all as you learn together!

Sailing Ships: Week One - Day Three

Today we are going to look at the basics of sailing-how a ship floats and how it is handled under sail.

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Carefully copy today's quote into your Sailing Ships Journal:

**"Up anchor! Up anchor!
Set sail and away!"**
Silas Mitchell, from *Dreamland*

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Sailing Ships Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#) and [Word Central](#)

**stern
aft
keel
rope**

Interesting People and Places

Using an encyclopedia or Internet site, look up **Archimedes**. Write or narrate a paragraph about Archimedes for your Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Archimedes](#) and [Archimedes](#)

Read and Discover

Using an encyclopedia, book, or Internet site, read the following questions and find the answers. Write your answers in your Journal.

1. There are terms for the front, back, left, and right side of a ship. Draw a picture of a ship and label these parts with the correct terms. **Website suggestion:** [Boat Terms for Kids](#)
2. How does a boat float? Visit the following website and read about Archimedes' Principle that explains how things float. Write or narrate a paragraph that describes this in your own words. **Website suggestions:** [How Does a Boat Float?](#), [Archimedes' Principle](#), and [Buoyancy Basics](#)
3. Sailors have long used nautical flags as a way to send signals. Visit this website to see what the flags look like. Draw the flag that means "Keep Clear." **Website suggestion:** [Nautical Flags](#)

Internet Resource

[Online Sailing Ship Quiz](#)

Sailing Ships: Week One - Day Three

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Sailing Ships Journal:

**"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;
These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep."**

Psalm 107:23-24

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Sailing Ships Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#) and [Dictionary.com](#)

**fathom
halyard
bulwark
construction**

Interesting People and Places

Using an encyclopedia or Internet site, look up **Archimedes**. Write a short summary about Archimedes in your journal. How did he help the Romans with an invention that used levers? What was the name of his invention? **Website suggestions:** [Archimedes' Biography](#) and [Archimedes' Bathtub](#)

Read and Discover

Using library books, encyclopedias, or Internet sites, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal along with the source of your information.

1. What is a "**point of sail**?" There are three basic points of sail. Find out what they are, and describe each one in your Journal. **Website suggestion:** [Sailing Lesson Two](#)
2. What makes a boat float? Look up **Archimedes' Principle** and write a paragraph describing it using your own words. **Website suggestions:** [Archimedes' Principle](#) and [What Floats Your Boat?](#)
3. What is the difference between a schooner and a sloop? **Website suggestion:** [Sailing Lesson One](#)
4. Take the challenge -- build the foil boat and see how many pennies it can hold! **Website suggestion:** [Aluminum Foil Boat Experiment](#)
5. Sailors have always had to depend on ropes and their ability to tie certain knots. Can you tie these important knots? **Website suggestion:** [Knots!](#)