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Ships and Boats



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Introduction

Ships and boats carry people and goods over water.

Before cars, trains, or airplanes, boats were the fastest way to move things.

Boats continue to get bigger and faster.



Early Ships and Boats

The first boats were carved from single logs.

People used poles to push the boats.



Other boats used paddles or oars.

Paddles and oars are long pieces of wood with broad, flat ends.

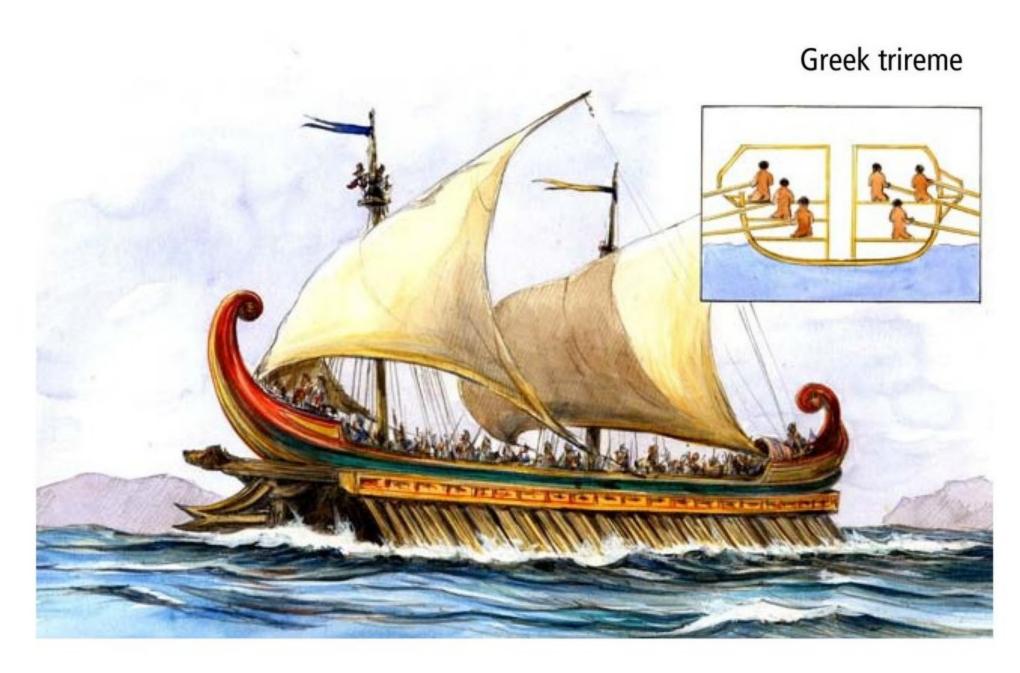
They push against the water, moving the boat forward.



Later, people made boats with wooden frames.

They covered the frames with bark or animal skins.





Frame boats were larger than log boats.

Many people could row at the same time.

Some frame boats carried hundreds of rowers.



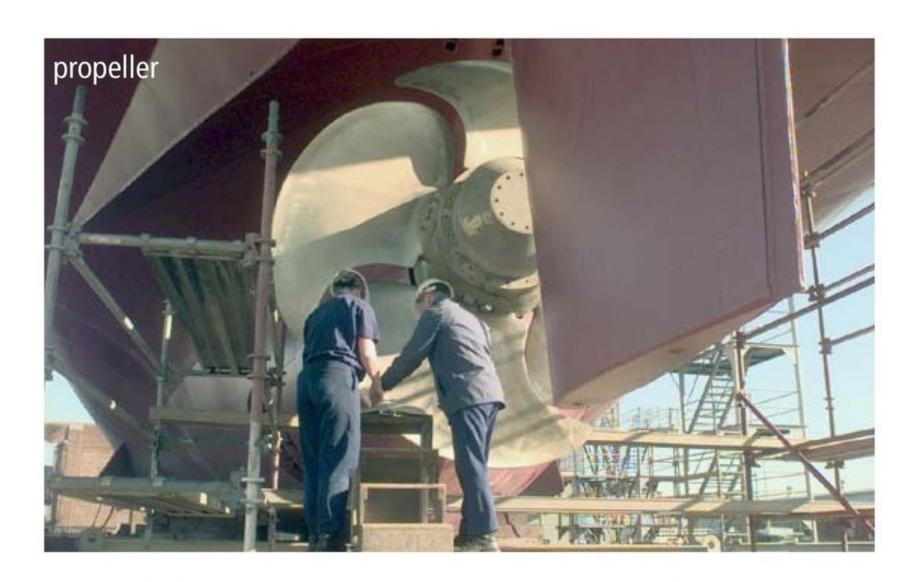
Sails made from strong cloth were also used to move boats.

The sails caught the wind, and the wind pushed the boat.



As ships became bigger, they needed more sails.

Sailing ships carried **explorers** all around the world.



Modern Ships and Boats

Today, many boats are made of metal and plastic.

Many ships and boats use engines to turn propellers.

The propellers push the boat through the water.



People still use smaller boats for fishing, fun, and sport.

Many boats that carry one or two people still use paddles or oars.



Special Ships and Boats

Cruise ships are like floating hotels. They can carry thousands of people. Huge tankers carry oil and gas over the ocean.



Tugboats push and pull larger ships.

Ferryboats carry cars and people short distances.

Fireboats put out fires on other ships.





The navy uses many ships and boats, large and small. Submarines move under the water.

Planes and helicopters take off and land on aircraft carriers.

Conclusion

Ships and boats have changed a lot over the years. But they are still an important way to move people and things quickly over the water.

Glossary

explorers (n.) people who visit and learn about new places (p. 10)

frames (*n*.) structures that give shape and strength to objects (p. 7)

goods (*n*.) things that can be bought and sold (p. 4)

propellers (*n*.) rotating blades connected to an engine that push a boat through the water (p. 11)

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Front cover: U.S. Coast Guard training ship Back cover: Motorboat and cruise ship

Title page: Ocean liner

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