

THE CAT
and the
CAPTAIN

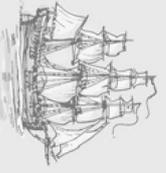
Trim the Cat & Matthew Flinders

RUTH TAYLOR

THE CAT *and the* CAPTAIN
TEACHING NOTES



H.M.S. Cumberland
To Île de France - 1803



INDIAN OCEAN

H.M.S. Investigator - 1803

TIMOR

H.M.S. Cumberland - 1803

Bombay's Isles

Cape Arnhem

GULF of CARPENTARIA

NEW GUINEA

Torres Strait

Great Barrier Reef

PACIFIC OCEAN

CORAL SEA

Flinders Passage

Reef

Mark Reefs

Keppel Bay

Facing Island

Fraser Island

H.M.S. Porpoise - 1803

Port Jackson

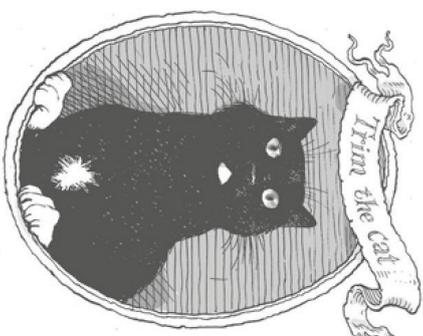
Sydney

Botany Bay

H.M.S. Reliance
to England - 1800



Matthew Flinders



Trim the Cat

NEW HOLLAND

GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT

Encounter Bay

Cape Corcoran

NEW SOUTH WALES

Georges Bay

Lake Illawarra

TERRE NAPOLÉON

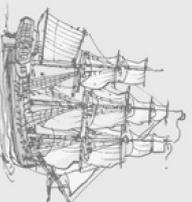
Van Diemen's Land (TASMANIA)

Basin Strait

Swanport

Norfolk

1798

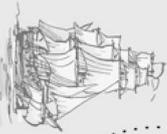


Thistle Island &
Taylor, Little, Lewis,
Smith, Hopkins &
Grimal Islands -
7 Drowned Men.

Matthew Flinders' Exploration and Circumnavigation of Australia 1797-1803

H.M.S. Reliance
from Capetown - 1797

H.M.S. Investigator
from England - 1801



Synopsis

Does Matthew Flinders find fame and fortune? This intrepid explorer was the first man to circumnavigate Australia in 1802-1803 accompanied by his mischievous but faithful cat, Trim. Faced with a leaking ship, stormy seas, sickness and an unknown land, Matthew and Trim overcame every obstacle, until they were shipwrecked on the Great Barrier Reef. Saved, they sailed on to Mauritius, only to be imprisoned by the French as spies. What was to become of them?

About the Author

Ruth Taylor was born by the sea in Bournemouth, Dorset, setting a trend of attachment to oceans for the rest of her life. At the age of two she became a Ten Pound POM – sailing to Australia with her family on the Assisted Passage Scheme. Matthew Flinders was a familiar historical figure to Ruth living in Melbourne, where she trained as a nurse. Returning to the UK she worked on a Greek passenger liner. After studying medicine at Sheffield University she qualified as a doctor in 1978, and as an obstetrician and gynaecologist in 1983. She retrained as a GP, working on cruise ships in her holidays until 2015. Researching the role of cats on ships in the National Maritime Museum, she came across Flinders and Trim and decided that their story had to be told for children. She lives in London with her husband and a foster cat who is very like Trim.

About the Illustrator

David Parkins was born in Brighton, but moved to Grantham, Lincolnshire at the age of five. He didn't take up art until sixth form. He studied Wildlife Illustration at Dyfed College of Art for a year, before switching to graphic design at Lincoln College of Art, specialising in illustration. Graduating in 1979, he became a freelance illustrator. Parkins worked for the publisher D.C. Thomson on *Beano* and *The Dandy* during the 1990s and beyond. Throughout his career he has drawn cartoons for a number of papers. In 2006, he emigrated to Ontario, Canada and currently illustrates children's books, his total standing at over fifty.



PUBLISHING

<https://www.littlesteps.com.au>

<https://www.littlestepspublishing.co.uk>

Letter Writing and Diary Entries

Letters

- Write a letter back home from your sea journey, describing the differences between home and here - wherever 'here' is. You can choose from being at sea, or in a port, or harbour, or ashore in a town, village, or countryside.
- Pretend you are Matthew Flinders writing to your family about what you find different in Tahiti or Australia from home: people, food, customs, weather, tools, etc.
- Write a personal letter from Ann to Matthew, telling him about your life back in Lincolnshire, (living with your mother and stepsister) about your parting from Matthew, and about missing him.
- You are Matthew. Write a letter home to your father about your experiences of the 'Glorious First of June' sea battle in 1794 between the English and the French navies.

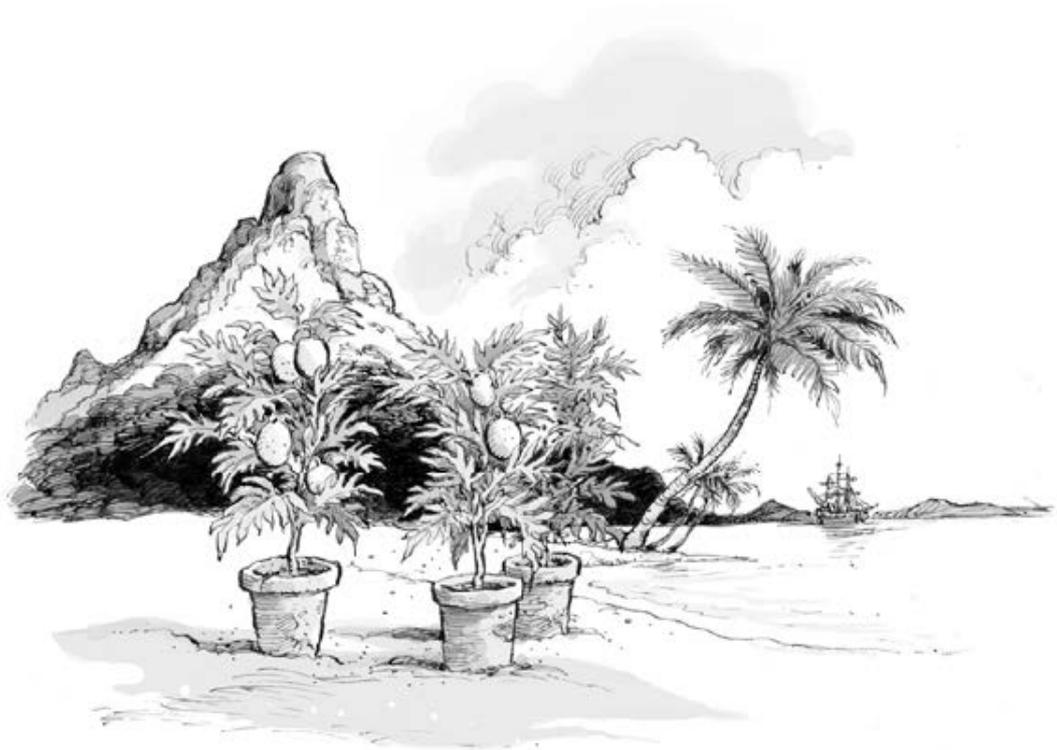
Diary Entry

- Decide who you are (Matthew, or Trim, or a sailor) and write about what happens during one day on the voyage.
- Write in your diary whether you miss England on your voyage, or not, and why.
- Write in your diary as Samuel, Matthew's younger brother, describing the good and bad things about working with your older brother.



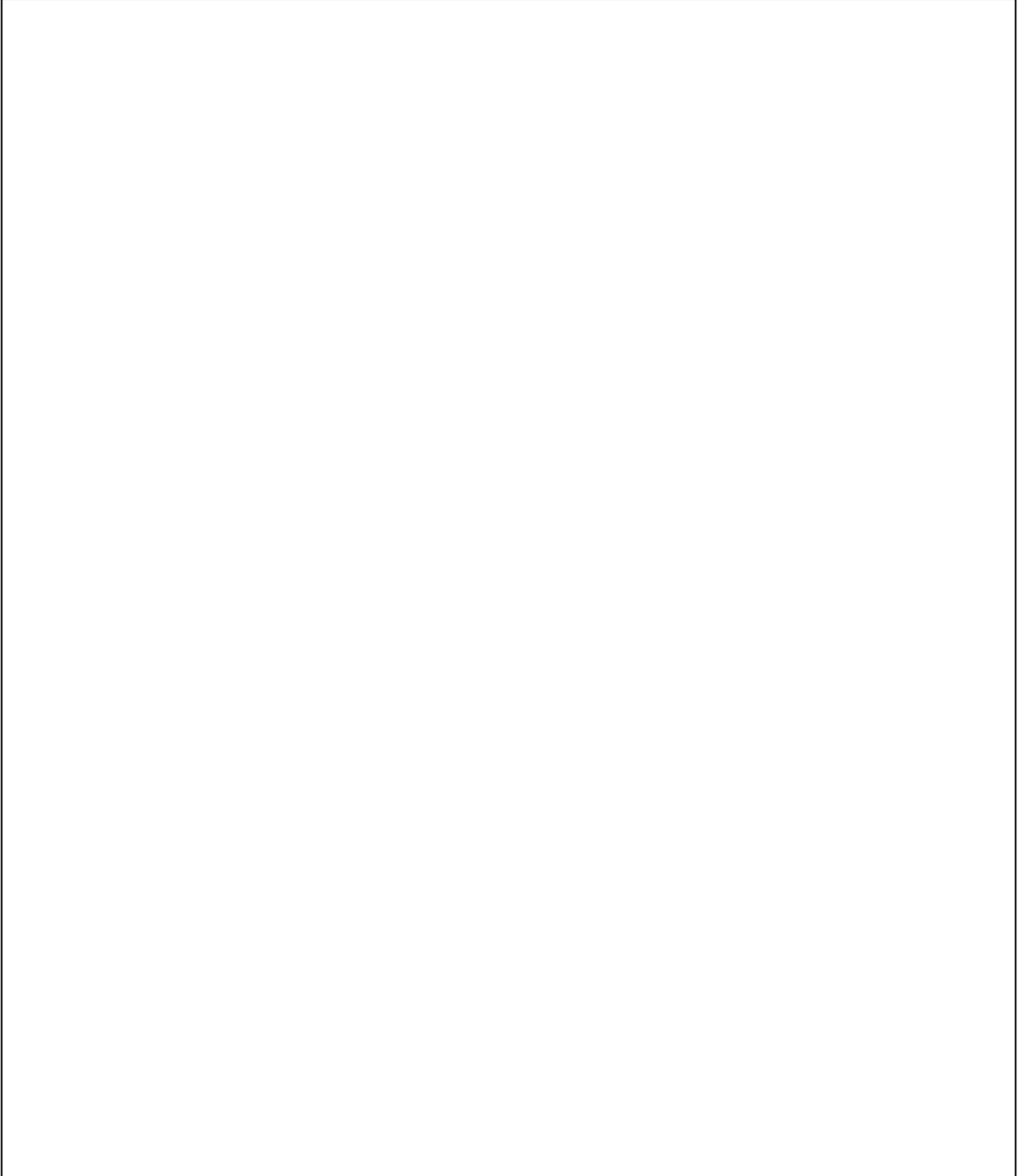
Discussion Topics

- If you landed on a desert island, what are the things you usually have with you, or at home, but could do without, and those that you really feel you could not do without. Explain your reasons. What essentials would you need to survive?
- What are the things that would absolutely make you avoid going on an exploration to an unknown land? What are the things that would encourage you to go?
- What are the effects on Indigenous people of having their country taken over and run by another nation? Which countries can you think of where this has happened?
- Were there women explorers at that time? What did they do? What were the characteristics of the women who became explorers? Why might they have been restricted in their activities?



Drawing

Draw a picture of Trim, or a pet you know;
or of the ship – Investigator;
or of Matthew Flinders;
or of a storm, or a battle at sea;
or a compass, an anchor and a telescope;
or of the camp on Wreck Reef.



Make a Trim Glove Puppet

What You Will Need:

- 2 A4 sheets of black felt
- 1 A4 sheet of white felt
- 2 buttons
- A pink felt pen
- White tailor's chalk
- Scissors
- A needle
- Thread

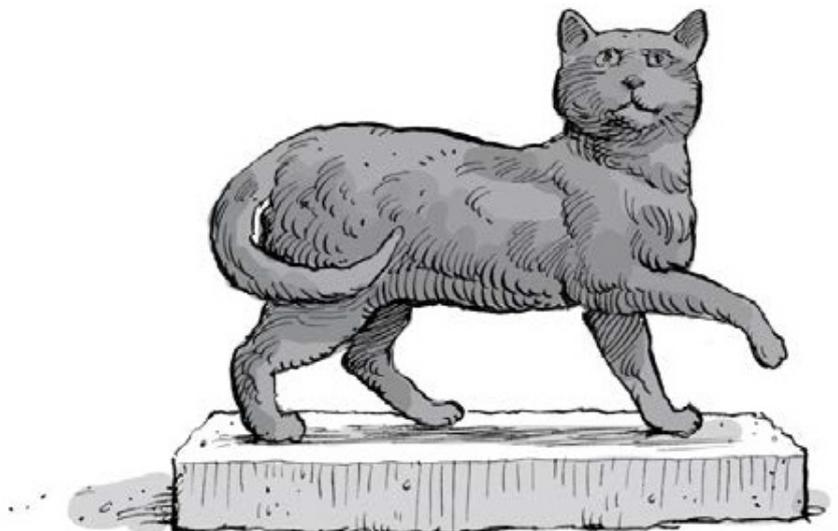
Instructions

1. Draw a simple cat shape on one of the sheets of black felt with the tailor's chalk. You could also use regular chalk but this will be harder to rub off the felt.
2. Align the second sheet of black felt directly behind the sheet with the cat outline. Cut out the cat shape on both sheets, to ensure that they are the same on both pieces of felt. Decide which piece will be the front of the puppet and which will be the back and mark them with the chalk.
3. Now you can start adding the cat's features: draw an oval shape on the white felt sheet using the pink marker. This will be Trim's nose. Then on the bottom of the sheet of white felt draw a larger half oval shape, this will be Trim's white stomach. Finally draw Trim's paws on the white felt, look at the final photo to see what they should look like.
4. Now cut out all the shapes. Draw a triangle at the top of the small white oval and a straight line ending in two opposing curves on Trim's nose, like in the photo.
5. Now on the front piece of black felt, draw two dots with the chalk. This will be where you sew buttons for eyes. Now you can sew on the buttons.
6. Sew on Trim's nose underneath the buttons and then his stomach. Then sew on his white paws at the end of each leg. You can use a running stitch for this. I used white thread so it wouldn't be visible against the white felt.
7. Now that you have sewn on Trim's features, you can sew the front and back of the glove puppet together. For this, I used black thread and a blanket stitch. Once you've finished, you should have something which looks like the final photo!



Stories

- You have just landed on the newly discovered planet of Tribidium - 500,000 miles from earth. Describe the first day - weather, landscape, living creatures, threats, good things, bad things, surprises, fears.
- Write about a pet you have had, its character, its activities, what it contributed to your life or to the life of your household and your feelings about it. What would your pet say if it could talk?
- What did Trim find when he went exploring in Mauritius? Were there any strange creatures he met that he had never seen before? What was he thinking about?
- You are an Aborigine, having lived in Australia all your life, and you have just met a group of Europeans for the first time. Describe your encounter to members of your family and tribe.
- When Matthew arrived back in England he felt that he and his explorations were not valued. He felt very let down. Have you ever achieved/done something that you felt was very good, but was not recognised or appreciated? Write about your experience.
- Write about what happened to Trim on Mauritius, either from someone who saw him, from what you make up yourself, or from Trim's point of view.



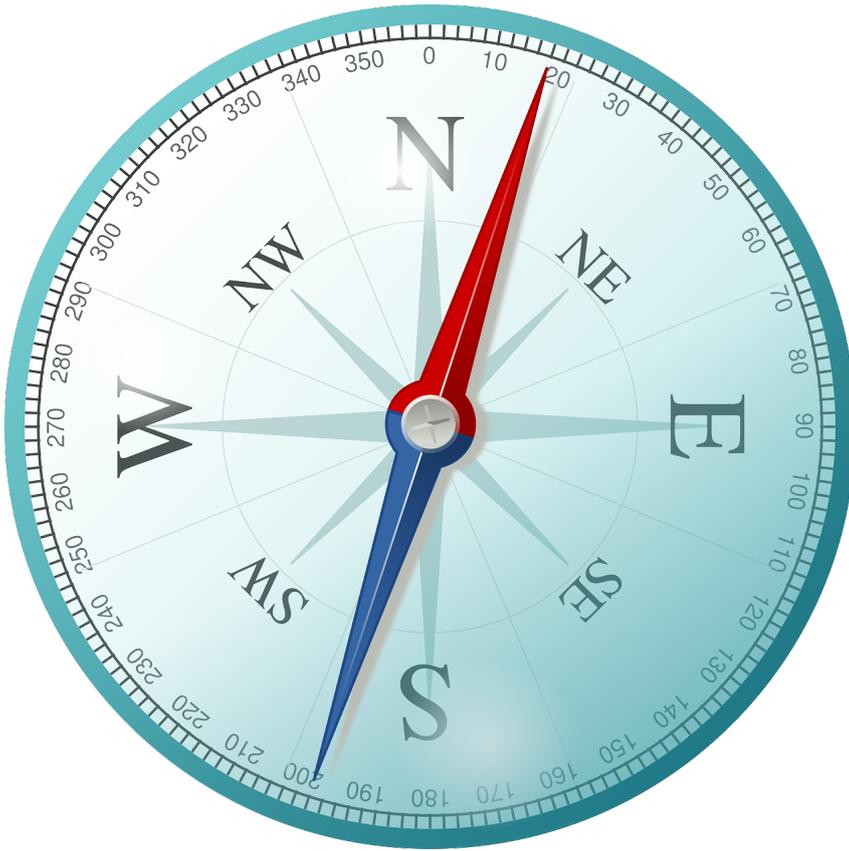
The Cat and the Captain Quiz

1. Question: In which county is Matthew Flinders' home town of Donington?
(Answer: Lincolnshire.)
2. Q: Where were Matthew's bones found? (A: Behind Euston Railway Station, London.)
3. Q: Why there? (A: It was the site of the original graveyard where he was buried in 1814.)
4. Q: What was Matthew's favourite subject at school? (A: Trigonometry.)
5. Q: What made him want to go to sea? (A: He was inspired by reading the book about a heroic shipwrecked sailor, Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe.)
6. Q: What was the purpose of Matthew's voyage from Tahiti to Jamaica, with Captain Bligh? (A: To transport breadfruit as food for British-owned slaves in Jamaica.)
7. Q: What caused the sailors' illness: scurvy? (A: Lack of vitamin C.)
8. Q: What cured it? (A: Fresh fruit and vegetables which are all rich in vitamin C.)
9. Q: What is a compass used for? (A: It shows which direction the ship, or a person, is travelling with respect to the map of the world based on its magnetic field: north, south, east or west.)
10. Q: How else could mariners know which way they were travelling on the sea? (A: By the position of the sun, moon or stars.)
11. Q: How long did it take Investigator to sail from England to Australia? (A: 5 months.)
12. Q: What does circumnavigate mean? (A: Travel all the way round a land by sea.)
13. Q: How did Matthew know that Tasmania was an island? (A: He circumnavigated it.)
14. Q: What made Matthew decide to adopt Trim? (A: Trim was such a clever and brave kitten. He fell in the sea, swam to a rope and climbed up back on board the ship.)
15. Q: What emergency equipment did a sailing ship carry at that time? (A: Small boats which could be launched in an emergency, oil lamps, and guns to fire a signal.)
16. Q: What is an anchor used for? (A: Attached firmly to the ship, it digs into the sea bottom to stop the ship from moving.)
17. Q: Why couldn't most sailors swim? (A: Most sailors came from poor families who would not have had the facilities for them to learn to swim, and many didn't live by the sea or a lake suitable to learn swimming. It also wasn't seen as essential. Public swimming pools weren't built in towns in any number until about 1840.)
18. Q: What is a convict colony? (A: A settlement for convicted criminals.)
19. Q: Why was Matthew sent to chart the Australian coast? (A: Because Australia had been claimed as a British possession by Captain James Cook, but no Briton had fully charted the coast or looked at the countryside. Very little was known about it.)

The Cat and the Captain Quiz Continued

20. Q: Who was Bungaree? (A: An Aboriginal man who volunteered to accompany Matthew from Sydney on Investigator in order to make friendly contact with other native people they met along the coast.)
21. Q: Why was Sir Joseph Banks so important to Matthew's project? (A: Sir Joseph Banks promoted Matthew's proposed voyage to the Admiralty. He had a lot of influence.)
22. Q: What was Trim's favourite raw food? (A: Mice.)
23. Q: Why were clocks and watches so important on board ship? (A: The difference between the time in England, and the time on board ship, was the way longitude was measured at sea i.e. the distance east or west of a line through Greenwich, London. So the position of the ship on the ocean was worked out.)
24. Q: How was the ship, Porpoise, wrecked?(A: She hit a coral reef.)
25. Q: Why did the French imprison Matthew and Trim on Mauritius? (A: Because France and England were at war with each other and the governor of the island thought Matthew had been sent there as an English spy. He didn't believe that Matthew could be an official British explorer sailing in such a tiny ship.)
26. Q: What happened to Trim? (A: He disappeared on Mauritius. No-one knows what happened to him.)
27. Q: Who published charts of Australia and claimed parts of the country before Matthew did? Someone who was charting the coast at the same time as Matthew.(A: The French explorer Captain Nicholas Baudin.)
28. Q: When Matthew returned to England how long had he been away from England and from his wife, Ann? (A: Nine years.)
29. Q: Did Matthew have any children? (A: Yes. One daughter, Anne.)
30. Q: Why are Matthew's bones being examined now? (A: To find out more about his diet, his illness and his medicines. They will all leave traces in his bones.)
31. Q: How did Australia get its name? (A: Australia got it's name from Matthew. He changed the old Latin name for the South Land, or Terra Australis, to Australia in the title to his book of maps.)

Introduction to Using a Compass



The Eight Points of a Compass

The eight points of a compass are divided into the four cardinal directions:

N: North
E: East
S: South
W: West

And the four intercardinal, or ordinal directions:

NE: Northeast
SE: Southeast
SW: Southwest
NW: Northwest

The red needle is the magnetic needle. The Earth has a magnetic north pole and the compass is designed so that the magnetic needle always points north.

The numbers around the compass form a dial with degrees.

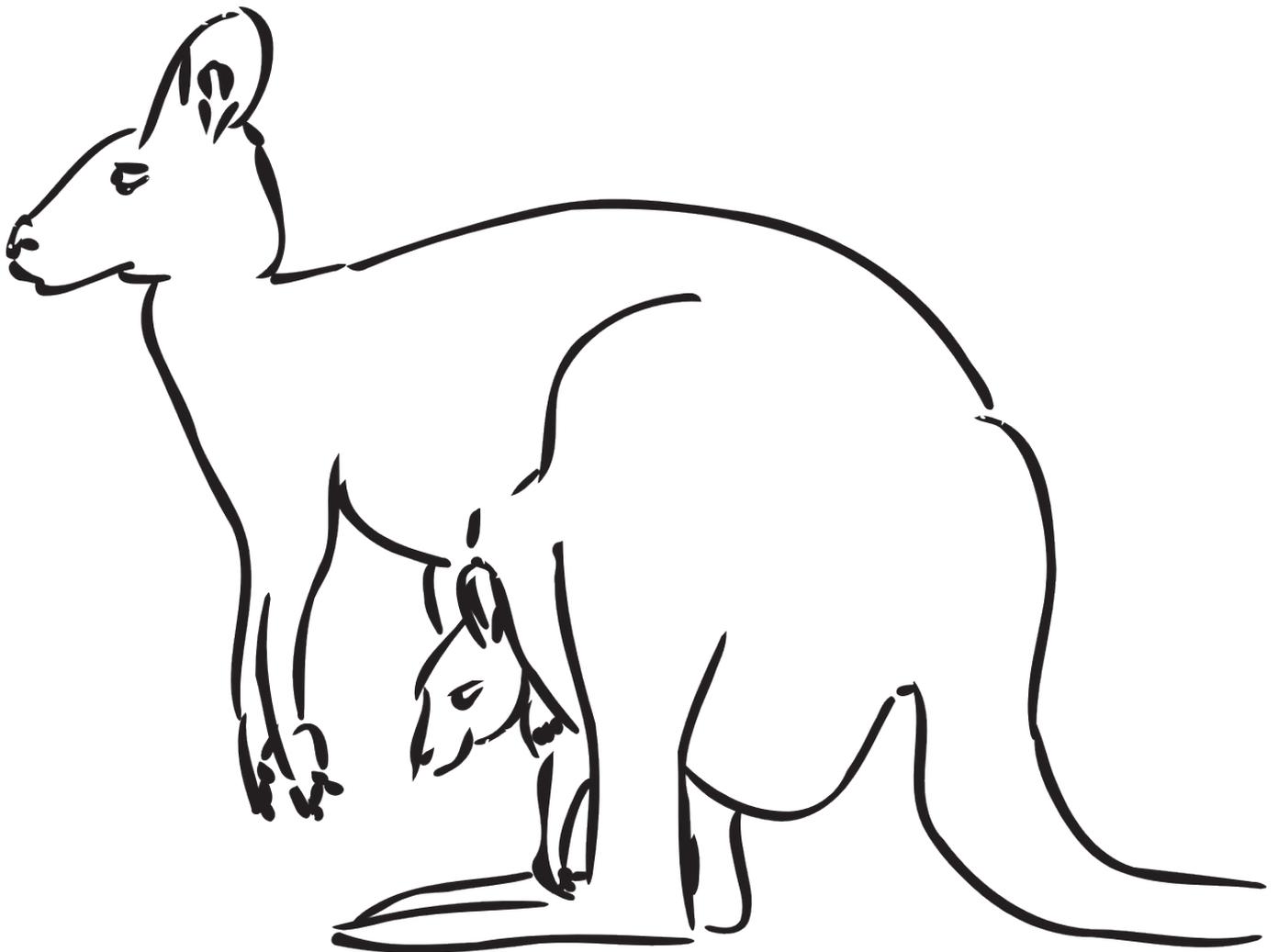
As you can infer from reading *The Cat and the Captain*, a compass is a tool for finding direction. The magnetic needle always points north, therefore you can work out the other directions.

A compass works because the Earth is a huge magnet. A magnet has two poles - one at each end. Lines of magnetic force connect these poles. Bits of metal near a magnet become magnetised and arrange themselves along these lines. A compass needle acts like these bits of metal. It points north because it lines up with Earth's lines of magnetic force.

People in China and Europe first learned how to make magnetic compasses during the 1100s. They discovered that when a magnetised bit of iron floated in water, it pointed north. Sailors soon began to use compasses to navigate at sea.

Kangaroo Cut Out

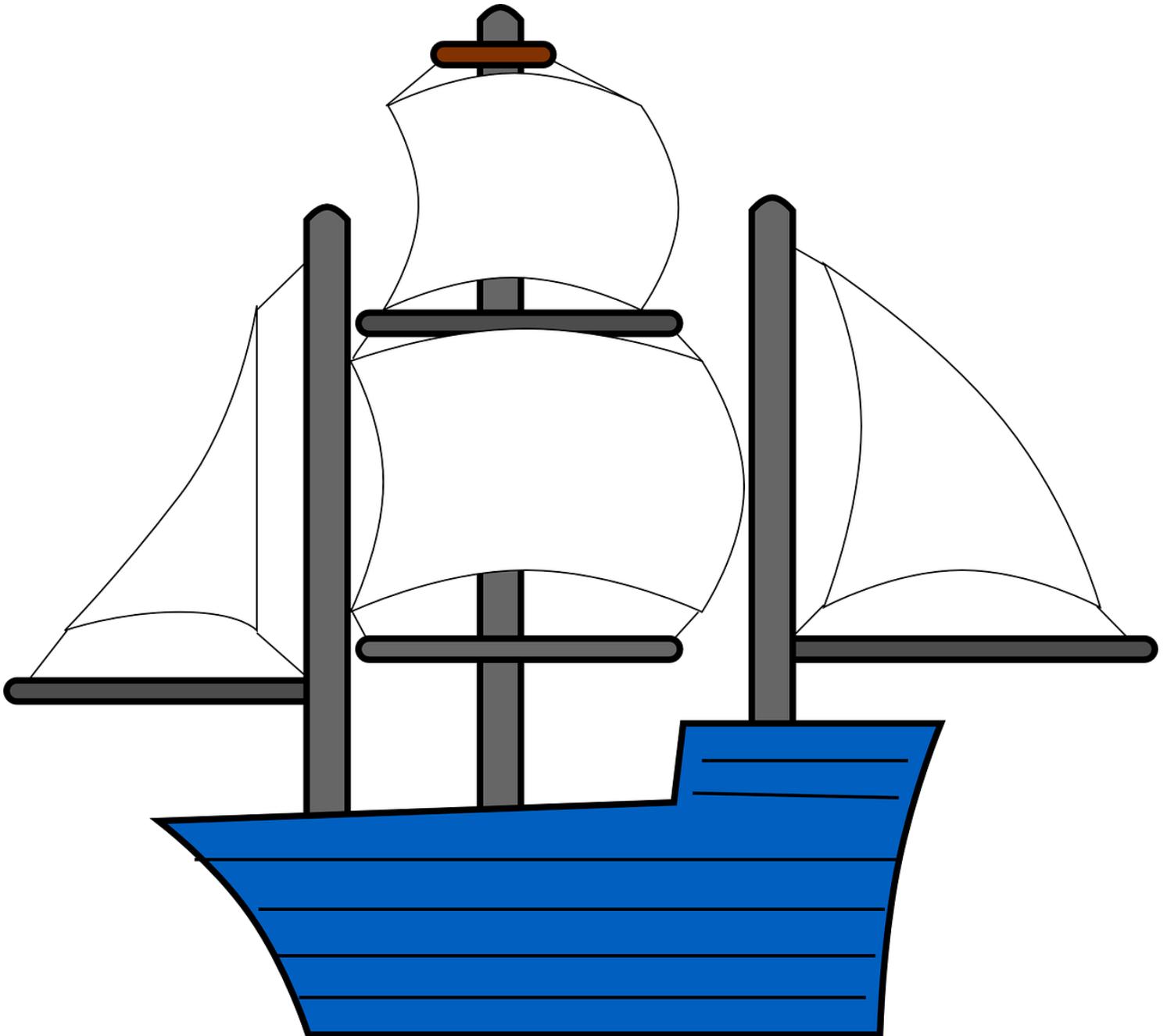
Print the outline of the kangaroo mother and her joey on a sheet of card. Then colour them in and carefully cut them out.



Ship Cut Out for Younger Readers

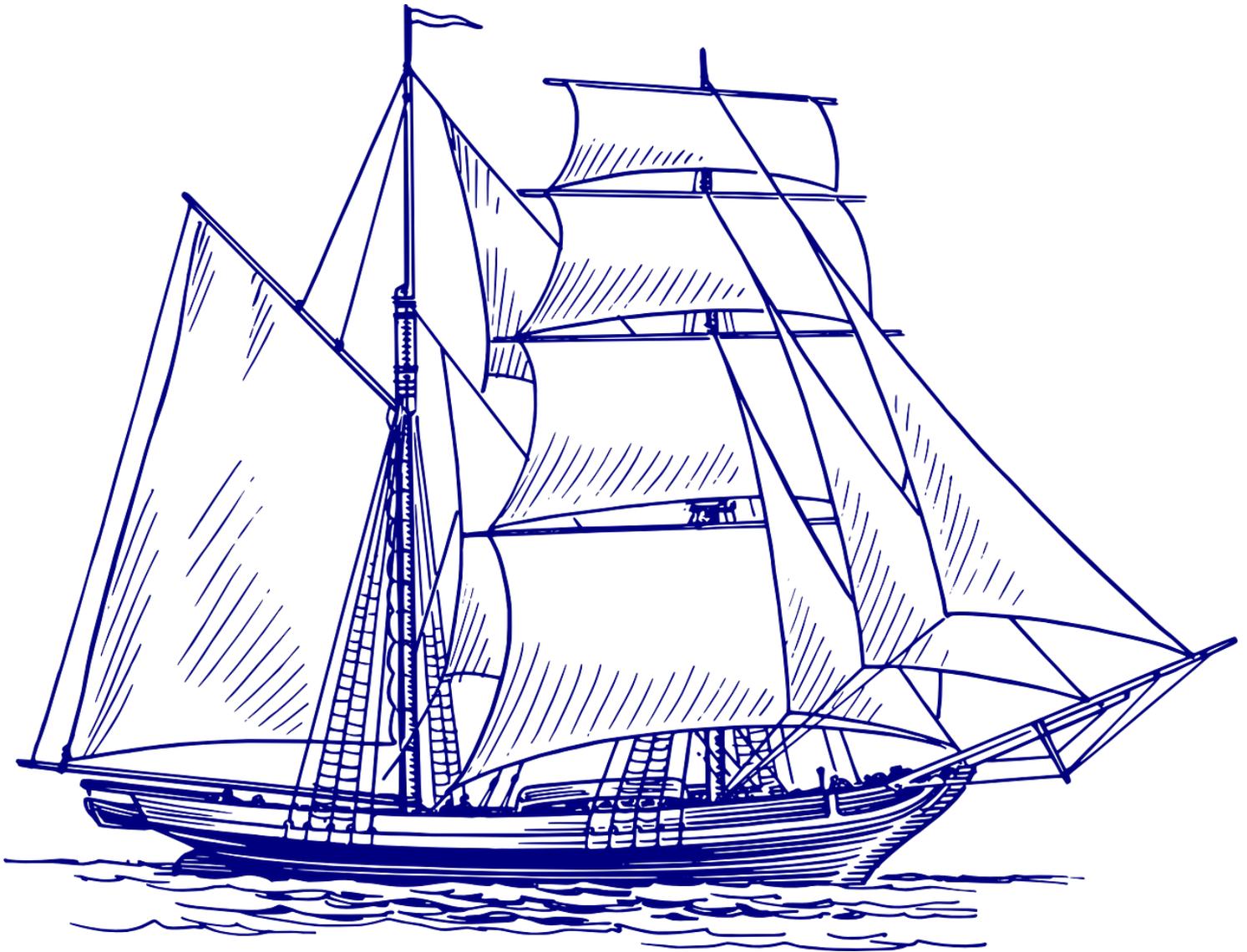
Print out the illustration of the ship below and then carefully cut it out. Once you have cut out the ship, why not give your ship a name and write this name at the back of your cut out?

Matthew worked as a seaman on *Bellerophon* and eventually went on to take command of *Investigator*. What would you call your ship?



Ship Cut Out for Older Readers

Older children can try their hand at cutting out this more intricate ship outline. Be careful of the delicate sails!



The Flora and Fauna of Australia

Australia is home to many unique, fascinating animals and plants. On this page you will find a list of animals and plants and a map of Australia. Can you point out on the map one or more places where these animals and plants can be found?

Animals

Short-Beaked Echidna
Platypus
Tasmanian Devil
Crocodile
Grey-Headed Flying Fox
Koala

Emu
Lyrebird
Bird-of-Paradise

Plants

Swordfish Banksia (named after
Sir Joseph Banks)

Emu Bush
Kangaroo Paw
Arrowsmith Spider Orchid
Prickly Bottlebrush
Golden Wattle
Sturt Desert Pea



The Flora and Fauna of Australia Answer Sheet

Short-beaked Echidna: These unique animals can be found all over mainland Australia, so if you put down a marker anywhere except Tasmania, you're correct!

Platypus: The platypus can be found in east and south-east Australia. You can put a marker for platypi in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

Tasmanian Devil: As the name suggests, the Tasmanian Devil can now only be found in Tasmania.

Crocodiles: There are two types of crocodile in Australia; salt water and fresh water crocodiles. They can both be found on the northern coast so place your marker at the tip of Northern Territory.

Grey-Headed Flying Fox: This mammal can be found in Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Victoria.

Koalas: Koalas can be found in most of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Emu: These birds are only found in Australia. Their range extends across mainland Australia. Just avoid putting your marker too close to the south-west coast.

Lyrebird: The lyrebird can be found in rainforest areas in Victoria, New South Wales and south-east Queensland. It can also be found in Tasmania.

Bird-of-Paradise: They can be found in Queensland and New South Wales.

Swordfish Banksia: This plant is found in Western Australia. Your marker should be lower down on the territory and close to the line that separates Western Australia and South Australia.

Emu Bush: Like the emu, emu bush can be found in all dry areas of mainland Australia.

Kangaroo Paw: This plant is found in the south west of Western Australia.

Arrowsmith Spider Orchid: This flower grows in Western Australia.

Prickly Bottlebrush: Prickly Bottlebrush is found in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Golden Wattle: Golden Wattle is found from southern New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, through Victoria and into southeastern South Australia.

Sturt Desert Pea: The Sturt Desert Pea is native to the arid regions of central and north-western Australia. Its range extends into all mainland Australian states with the exception of Victoria.

Vocabulary

What do the following words mean?

acrid (smell):

cyclone:

advantage:

diarrhoea:

antics:

discipline:

archaeologist:

drown:

ardour:

endangered (as in species):

astronomy:

etiquette:

blubber (e.g. from a seal or porpoise):

expedition:

botanist:

feast:

brave:

fertility (of land):

career:

flock (of birds):

cargo:

foreigner:

cartography / cartographer:

governess:

charity:

to graze (an animal):

comical:

hammock:

compatible (e.g. laws between Britain &

harbour:

Australia):

humble:

convoy:

indigenous:

crew:

infection:

crockery:

keg:

current (in the sea):

latitude:

Vocabulary Continued

livestock:

log (on board ship):

longitude:

mariner:

monsoon:

mutiny:

mutton:

naked:

native:

navigation / navigator:

navy (the institution):

opium:

pharmacist:

pirate:

prisoners of war:

publisher:

quicksand:

quill (for pen):

remorse:

revolution:

rigging:

ritual:

seafarer:

science:

slave:

stalk (e.g. to stalk prey):

stowaway:

swamp:

swift (action):

telescope:

tropics / tropical:

turmoil:

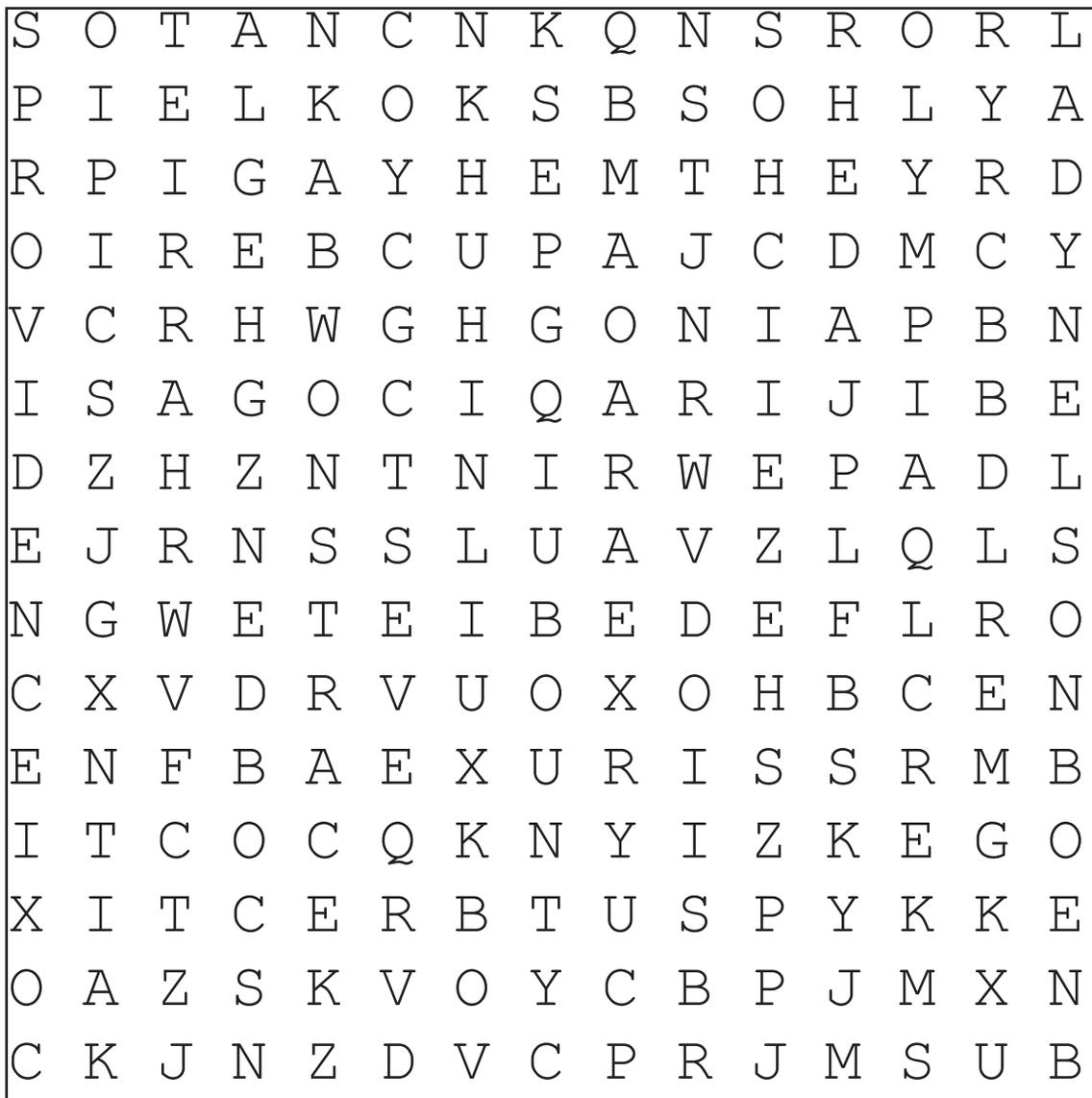
volunteer:

Ships Word Search

You've read about a whole series of ships in *The Cat and the Captain*, can you find them in the word search below?

List of Ships:

Scipio
Bellerophon
Bounty
Providence
Reliance
Investigator
Lady Nelson
Cato
Harriet
Olympia



Ships Word Search Solution

S	O	T	A	N	C	N	K	Q	N	S	R	O	R	L
P	I	E	L	K	O	K	S	B	S	O	H	L	Y	A
R	P	I	G	A	Y	H	E	M	T	H	E	Y	R	D
O	I	R	E	B	C	U	P	A	J	C	D	M	C	Y
V	C	R	H	W	G	H	G	O	N	I	A	P	B	N
I	S	A	G	O	C	I	Q	A	R	I	J	I	B	E
D	Z	H	Z	N	T	N	I	R	W	E	P	A	D	L
E	J	R	N	S	S	L	U	A	V	Z	L	Q	L	S
N	G	W	E	T	E	I	B	E	D	E	F	L	R	O
C	X	V	D	R	V	U	O	X	O	H	B	C	E	N
E	N	F	B	A	E	X	U	R	I	S	S	R	M	B
I	T	C	O	C	Q	K	N	Y	I	Z	K	E	G	O
X	I	T	C	E	R	B	T	U	S	P	Y	K	K	E
O	A	Z	S	K	V	O	Y	C	B	P	J	M	X	N
C	K	J	N	Z	D	V	C	P	R	J	M	S	U	B