



# Top 10 ... Ways to keep busy on the SS Great Britain

## 1) Games

The Victorians loved to play card and board games, such as Chess, Whist and Cribbage. Just as long as they could find someone to play with!

## 2) Concerts

Sometimes passengers would get together for a sing song, and put on a concert. However they weren't always good singers and people would sometimes be happier when the concert finally finished!

## 3) Sight seeing

Surprisingly, there was lots to see on the way around the world by sea. There are reports of seeing icebergs, penguins and even man-eating sharks!



## 4) Water Fight

One year the crew decided to soak the passengers by using the hose on them. Some people had no choice but to climb to the very top of the ship to escape!



## 5) Dancing

Whenever they could, passengers would host balls on the main deck. But these would only take place when there were enough men and women to be able to dance together!

## 6) Work

Some passengers would get so bored, they would end up working alongside the crew! This was great for the captain as whenever the ship would get stuck in a storm, he would need every able body on deck.

## 7) Sewing

With no shops for hundreds of miles, and hazards such as farm animals on deck, that could eat the ends of your clothes, people would use their sewing skills to mend their clothes and pass the time.



## 8) Plays

On a voyage from Australia to the UK in 1860, some passengers put on a production of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice on the top deck of the ship for the rest of the passengers entertainment.

## 9) Writing

Victorians loved writing. They would write books, plays, newspapers and letters. One passenger was so tired of the awful food that he decided to write a poem about the conditions on the SS Great Britain, describing the ship as "The Goat of the sea"!



## 10) Nothing!

Whilst lots of people tried to keep busy, for others, it was a welcome break in a life that was often filled with hard work. One passenger wrote how some did nothing but sit around all day, especially as they passed the hot weather of the equator.

