



Ship's Log

Like all other ships, a detailed record, known as a Ship's Log, was kept for each of the SS Great Britain's journeys.

In the SS Great Britain's logs, the officers recorded everything from the wind speed and weather conditions to the location and speed of the ship. The handwritten logbooks also had a column titled "Occurrences and Remarks" for writing down anything else that was happening, this included things like sightings of other ships and icebergs, births and deaths on board ship and more detail on the weather.

To help them record things more clearly, the officers used codes for the wind and weather. They would record everything on an hourly basis throughout the day and night, providing a detailed record of the ship's journey.



Write your own Ship's Log entry!

Use codes for the wind and weather on the next page to fill in your own ship's log for one day of a voyage.

Think about:

- Where is your ship travelling to?
- What are the conditions like?
- Have you spotted something at sea like an iceberg or another ship?
- Is the weather getting better or worse during the day?



Codes for the log



Wind

A number is used to indicate the strength of the wind. This recording method is known as the Beaufort Scale and is still used today.

0	Calm	Smoke rises vertically. The sea is like a mirror
1	Light air	Smoke drifts and the sea ripples
2	Light breeze	Wind rustles leaves. Small wavelets on the sea
3	Gentle breeze	Leaves and small twigs move. Larger wavelets on the sea
4	Moderate breeze	Small branches move. Small waves
5	Fresh breeze	Small trees sway. Moderate size waves with white horses
6	Strong breeze	Large branches move. Large waves with foam crests
7	Near gale	Whole trees move. Foam is blown across the sea
8	Gale	Twigs break off trees. Wave crests break and foam is blown in streaks
9	Strong gale	Slight structural damage, tiles blown off roofs. High waves and spray affect visibility
10	Storm	Trees blown down and serious structural damage. Very high waves, spray leads to reduced visibility
11	Violent Storm	Widespread damage. Exceptionally high waves, sea covered in white foam and visibility seriously affected.
12	Hurricane	Devastation. Phenomenally high waves, air filled with foam and spray leading to very poor visibility.



Weather

Letters are used to record the weather. Multiple letters could be used at the same time to record the weather more accurately, while putting a dot under a letter, shows that a more extreme version of the weather condition occurred.

B	Blue sky
C	Cloudy
D	Drizzling rain
F	Foggy
G	Gloomy, dark weather
H	Hail
L	Lightening
M	Misty or hazy, so as to disrupt the view
O	Overcast
P	Passing showers
Q	Squally
R	Rain i.e., continuous rain
S	Snow
T	Thunder
U	Ugly threatening appearance in the weather
V	Visibility of distant objects, whether the sky by cloudy or not
W	Wet dew

Day of voyage:

Time	Wind	Weather	Speed	Location

From:

To:

Occurrence and Remarks