

Photograph of the crew of the SS Great Britain, courtesy of the SS Great Britain Trust

Taken in the 1880s, this photograph shows the crew of the SS Great Britain standing on the top deck. The ship was being used as a cargo ship, taking coal to and from America; each trip took up to six months.

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Imagine that you are part of the crew working on the ship and describe what is happening on board. You can use the picture, prompts and glossary below to help you.

Sentence starters:

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While the crew and I were hard at work ....
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Going up on the deck I saw...

At midday the ship...

Key words glossary:

- Crew people who work on a ship
- Deck the part of the ship that forms a floor to work on. E.g. Top deck
- Cabin a compartment (room) for passengers or crew
- Rigging ropes or wires used to attach sails