

# 1877 Tall Ship ELISSA

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Grab the Vocab.:**

*Play the Quizlet vocabulary games to learn the following terms*

[https://quizlet.com/ 312ndk](https://quizlet.com/312ndk)

**\*\*\*Playing the games multiple times will help cement the vocabulary in your mind, which in turn will help you when it comes time to take the end of unit quiz.**

**Hull:** the main body of a ship or vessel

**Bow:** front part of a ship

**Stern:** back part of a ship

**Deck:** a horizontal structure of planks that extend across a ship

**Port:** when facing forward, the left side of a ship

**Starboard:** when facing forward, the right side of a ship

**Mast:** a tall upright post that carries a sail or sails

**Yard:** a cylindrical spar (or post) that narrows at the end; attached to the mast for bottom of sail

**Barque:** a sailing ship with three masts

**Ballast:** heavy material placed low in a vessel to improve its stability

**Figurehead:** ornament (usually female) or bust attached to the bow of a ship

**Cargo:** goods carried on a ship

## 1877 Tall Ship ELISSA

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**Directions:** Answer the following questions using complete sentences. Use proper spelling conventions when labeling the ship on question #2.



1. In the picture above, what are the ways you can tell the ship is moving through the water?



**2. Using this drawing, label the general parts of the ship (using the vocabulary list below).**

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**3. What's missing in the drawing of the ship above? (Hint... look at the water.)  
Please explain your answer fully.**

**4. Use your knowledge about sailing and history to explain what a voyage from England to America would have been like on a ship like this in the 19th century.**  
(You may need to do a bit of research in order to answer this question fully. Materials from the Texas Seaport Museum will be helpful as well.)

**5. What was the most important thing that you learned about the ELISSA (either while studying or when you visited the ship)? Please explain why it is important.**

**Read the following information about the ELISSA's history, and answer the questions that follow using complete sentences.**

*The Tall Ship ELISSA was built in the year 1877 towards the end of the 'Age of Sail' in order to transport cargo. She is classified as a barque sailing ship, because she has three masts. In the year that she was built, the decline of ships of its kind was due to the invention and production of steamships. The steamships were able to more efficiently transport goods (imported and exported) to countries all over the world in. While the steamships had less room for cargo (because the engine took up so much space), they required fewer sailors and were not at the mercy of the wind and weather.*

*The ELISSA was commissioned by a wealthy Liverpool businessman named Henry Fowler Watt. The iron-hulled ship itself was built by Alexander Hall and Company out of Aberdeen, Scotland. It was designed to transport cargo to and from ports that were less developed than those that were in Europe at the time. Interestingly, the ELISSA actually delivered cargo to Galveston twice, once in 1883 and again in 1886.*

*Throughout the ELISSA's proud history, she has flown under six different flags and been renamed just as many times. This fully functioning sailing vessel is in an elite group of ships; she is not a replica. She lives on due to the generosity of the Galveston Historical Foundation donors and can be seen today at the Texas Seaport Museum.*

**Reflection Questions:**

**6. If steamships were able to transport goods more efficiently, why might Henry Fowler Watt still have commissioned a barque vessel to be built in 1877 (during the decline of such vessels)? What might that say about him?**

**7. Why do you think a ship would be renamed? What might it signify?**

**8. Challenge: As a way of furthering your research, what were the other names that were associated with this great ship? While you are looking, be sure to record the countries that flew flags upon the ELISSA as well.**

# It's All About the 1877 Tall Ship ELISSA

## Answer Key:

1. The sails are filled with wind, and there is presence of a wake.
2. The students should have labeled the ship according to the vocabulary definitions.
3. There is an absence of wake, but the sails are full of wind... the ship should look like it's moving through the water.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. He could have had a love for sailing ships and wanted to keep them alive. One could also say that he wasn't scared to go against what many in the industry were doing at the time.
7. Ships were usually renamed when they were purchased by a new owner.
8. 6 names: ELISSA, Fjeld, Gustaf, Christophoros, Achacios, and Pioneer  
6 flags: British, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Greek, and American

## Challenge Questions about the ELISSA:

### *How did the ELISSA end up in Galveston, Texas?*

(The Galveston Historical Foundation purchased it in 1975.)

### *How many different names did the ship have?*

(6- ELISSA, Fjeld, Gustaf, Christophoros, Achacios, & Pioneer)

### *Under how many different flags did the ship sail?*

(6- British, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Greek, and American)

More challenging nautical vocabulary [like... lastage, jackyard, gangway, leeboard, pallograph (spelling is correct), & scupper] can be found on the following website:

<http://phrontistery.info/nautical.html>