

# The Cutty Sark

## The Cutty Sark was a clipper ship, which meant:

- it was a very fast sailing ship;
- it was used for transporting cargo during the 1800s;
- it had three masts;
- clippers were mainly built to ship tea from China.



### Did You Know?

Ships are traditionally referred to as 'she'.

## The Cutty Sark

Captain John Willis ordered that the Cutty Sark was built for his shipping company. It was built in 1869 in Scotland and was launched on 22nd November 1869.

The Cutty Sark worked on the tea trade for only a few years before being used for the transportation of wool from Australia. It was the fastest ship in the world and could carry 963 tons of tea in 10,000 tea chests, which is enough to make 200 million cups of tea!

## The Winds of Change

Steamships were the new modern way to transport goods so sailing ships were used a lot less often for carrying cargoes.

The Cutty Sark was sold to a company in Portugal in 1895. The ship was still used as a cargo ship until it was bought by a retired captain called Wilfred Dowman in 1922. It was then used as a training ship in Falmouth, Cornwall.

In 1954, the Cutty Sark was no longer needed as a training ship and was taken to Greenwich in London and used as a tourist attraction. The Cutty Sark is one of only three remaining original ships from the 1800s.

### Fun Fact!

A cutty sark is a Scottish term for a short petticoat worn by women. It is not known why this name was given to a ship.

# Questions

1. Tick the correct statement.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Cutty Sark was a slow sailing ship. | <input type="checkbox"/> The Cutty Sark was a ship from China.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Cutty Sark was a fast sailing ship. | <input type="checkbox"/> The Cutty Sark was a ship with thirteen masts. |

2. What were clipper sailing ships mainly used for? Tick one.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrying coffee from china. | <input type="checkbox"/> Carrying chocolate from china. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrying tea from china.    | <input type="checkbox"/> Carrying people from china.    |

3. Complete the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ had the Cutty Sark built for his shipping company.

4. Find and write one word which means 'up-to-date'.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What happened to the ship on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1869? Tick one.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> It was built.    | <input type="checkbox"/> It was destroyed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It was launched. | <input type="checkbox"/> It was sold.      |

6. Explain why clipper sailing ships stopped being used as much as they had been.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Match up the sentences.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| The Cutty Sark was sold to a company       | in London   |
| The Cutty Sark was used as a training ship | in Falmouth |
| The Cutty Sark is a tourist attraction     | in Portugal |

8. How many original ships from the 1800s remain today?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

1. Tick the correct statement.

**The Cutty Sark was a fast sailing ship.**

2. What were clipper sailing ships mainly used for? Tick one.

**Carrying tea from China.**

3. Complete the sentence.

**Captain John Willis had the Cutty Sark built for his shipping company.**

4. Find and write one word which means 'up-to-date'.

**Modern**

5. What happened to the ship on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1869? Tick one.

**It was built.**

6. Explain why clipper sailing ships stopped being used as much as they had been.

**Clipper ships stopped being used as much as they had been because steamships were more modern and were being used more.**

7. Match up the sentences.

**The Cutty Sark was sold to a company**

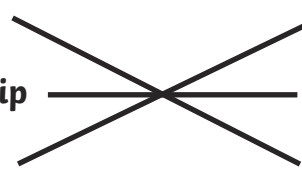
**in London**

**The Cutty Sark was used as a training ship**

**in Falmouth**

**The Cutty Sark is a tourist attraction**

**in Portugal**



8. How many original ships from the 1800s remain today?

**There are three of the original ships remaining.**

# The Cutty Sark

The Cutty Sark was a clipper ship which meant it was a very fast sailing ship common for transporting cargo during the 1800s. They were speedy vessels with three masts. Clippers were mainly built to ship tea from China.



## Did You Know?

Ships are traditionally referred to as 'she'.

## The Cutty Sark

The building of the Cutty Sark was ordered by Captain John Willis to be used in his shipping company. It was built in 1869 on the River Clyde in Scotland and was launched from Dumbarton, also in Scotland, on 22nd November 1869.

One of the last tea clippers to be built, the Cutty Sark only spent a few years working on the tea trade before being used for transporting wool from Australia.

It was the fastest ship in the world and could carry 963 tons of tea in 10,000 tea chests, which is enough to make 200 million cups of tea!

## The Winds of Change

Steamships were the new modern way to transport goods so sailing ships were used a lot less often for carrying cargoes.

The Cutty Sark was making less money for the shipping company and was sold to a Portuguese company called Ferreira in 1895. The ship continued being used as a cargo ship until it was bought by a retired captain called Wilfred Dowman in 1922. He allowed it to be used as a training ship from Falmouth in Cornwall.

Later, the Cutty Sark was given to the Thames Nautical Training College. In 1954, the Cutty Sark was no longer needed as a training ship and was transferred to a dry dock at Greenwich, London, and used as a tourist attraction. The Cutty Sark is one of only three remaining original ships made with a wooden hull on an iron frame, from the 1800s.

## Fun Fact!

A cutty sark is a Scottish term for a short petticoat worn by women. It is not known why this name was given to a ship.

# Questions

1. Tick all the correct facts about clippers.

- They were swift.
- They were for carrying people.
- They were built during the 1900s.
- They carried goods across the world.

2. What would be the definition for the word 'vessel'? You may need to use a dictionary to help you.

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3. What was Captain John Willis' involvement in the Cutty Sark?

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4. Find and copy one word which means 'the practice of carrying something'.

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5. What impact did steamships have on clippers?

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6. Why was the Cutty Sark sold? Tick one.

- It was in need of repair.
- It was not able to carry cargoes.
- It was not making as much money

7. What was Captain John Willis' involvement in the Cutty Sark?

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1. Match up these sentences.

In 1869,

the Cutty Sark was sold to a company in Portugal.

In 1895,

the Cutty Sark was launched in Scotland.

In 1954,

the Cutty Sark became a tourist attraction.

2. Identify one thing which is special about the Cutty Sark.

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3. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Later, the Cutty Sark was given to the Thames Nautical Training College'. Think of a suitable subheading for that paragraph.

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# Answers

1. Tick all the correct facts about clippers.  
**They were swift.**  
**They carried goods across the world.**
2. Write another word that means the same as 'vessel'.  
**Children's own responses, e.g. boat, ship.**
3. What was Captain John Willis' involvement in the Cutty Sark?  
**Captain John Willis was the man who ordered the building of the Cutty Sark.**
4. Find and copy one word which means 'the practice of carrying something'.  
**Transporting.**
5. What impact did steamships have on clippers?  
**Steamboats were a more modern form of transport and were being used more than sailing boats. This meant clippers were not getting used as much.**
6. Why was the Cutty Sark sold? Tick one.  
**It was not making as much money.**
7. Who was Wilfred Dowman?  
**Wilfred Dowman was a retired captain who bought the Cutty Sark in 1922.**
8. Match up these sentences.

In 1869,	<del>_____</del>	the Cutty Sark was sold to a company in Portugal.
In 1895,	<del>_____</del>	the Cutty Sark was launched in Scotland.
In 1954,	_____	the Cutty Sark became a tourist attraction.
9. Identify one thing which is special about the Cutty Sark.  
**Children's own responses, e.g. The Cutty Sark was the fastest clipper ship.**
10. Look at the paragraph beginning, 'Later, the Cutty Sark was given to the Thames Nautical Training College'. Think of a suitable subheading for that paragraph.  
**Children's own responses, e.g. The End of the Cutty Sark, At the End, A Retired Ship, The End of an Era, A New Attraction.**

# The Cutty Sark

The Cutty Sark was a clipper ship which meant it was a very fast sailing ship commonly used for cargo transportation during the middle of the 19th century. They were speedy, yacht-like vessels with three masts, mainly built to supply the growing demand for tea from China.



## Did You Know?

Ships are traditionally referred to as 'she'.

## The Cutty Sark

The building of the Cutty Sark was ordered by Captain John Willis in London. It was built for his company, the Jock Willis Shipping Line, in 1869 on the River Clyde in Scotland. It was launched from Dumbarton in Scotland, on 22nd November 1869.

One of the last tea clippers to be built, the Cutty Sark only spent a few years working on the tea trade before being used for the wool trade from Australia.

It was the fastest ship in the world and could carry 963 tons of tea in 10,000 tea chests, which is enough to make 200 million cups of tea!

## The Winds of Change

Due to the popularity of steamships, which were the new modern way to transport goods, sailing ships were used less frequently.

The Cutty Sark was making less money for the shipping line and consequently was sold to a Portuguese company called Ferreira in 1895.

The ship was renamed Ferreira.

The ship continued being used as a cargo ship until it was bought by a retired captain called Wilfred Dowman in 1922. It was then used as a training ship which operated from Falmouth in Cornwall.



## The CuttySark

After the captain's death, the Cutty Sark was given to the Thames Nautical Training College. In 1954, the Cutty Sark was no longer needed as a training ship and was transferred to a dry dock at Greenwich, London, for general display and as a tourist attraction. The Cutty Sark is one of only three remaining original ships made with a wooden hull on an iron frame, from the 1800s. This type of ship is known as a composite construction clipper.

### **Fun Fact!**

A cutty sark is a Scottish term for a short petticoat worn by women. It is not known why this name was given to a ship.

# Questions

1. Write three things that you are told about clipper sailing ships.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Find and copy the phrase which means the orders for tea from China were 'urgent'.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What happened on the River Clyde and in Dumbarton?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Look at the third paragraph. What impression do you get about clippers from this section?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What difference did steamships make?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the Ferreira?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. In detail, complete these sentences:

- In 1869, \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1922, \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1954, \_\_\_\_\_

8. Explain what a composite construction clipper is.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. Number these statements from 1 to 5.

John Willis had the Cutty Sark built for his shipping business.	
The Cutty Sark was launched from the coast in Scotland.	
The clipper was sold to a company in Portugal.	
The Cutty Sark was used as a transporter for wool.	
The Cutty Sark was taken to London to become a tourist attraction in Greenwich.	

2. What is your opinion regarding how the Cutty Sark is used now?

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# Answers

1. Write three things that you are told about clipper sailing ships.  
**Children's own responses, e.g. They were very fast sailing ships; They were used for cargo transportation; They were used during the middle of the 19th century; They were yacht-like vessels; They had three masts; They were built to supply the growing demand for tea from China.**
2. Find and copy the phrase which means the orders for tea from China were 'urgent'.  
**Growing demand**
3. What happened on the River Clyde and in Dumbarton?  
**The Cutty Sark was built on the River Clyde and then launched at Dumbarton.**
4. Look at the third paragraph. What impression do you get about clippers from this section?  
**The impression I get from this paragraph is that clippers were not being used to transport tea as much and were instead being used to transport wool.**
5. What difference did steamships make?  
**Steamships made a huge difference to the use of clippers because they were considered more modern and were more popular so clippers were not being used as much.**
6. What was the Ferreira?  
**The Ferreira was the name given to the Cutty Sark after it was sold to a company called Ferreira in Portugal.**
7. In detail, complete these sentences:  
**In 1869, Captain John Willis had the Cutty Sark built and it was launched later that year.**  
**In 1922, the Cutty Sark was bought by a retired captain called Wilfred Dowman.**  
**In 1954, the Cutty Sark was taken to a dry dock at Greenwich, London for general display and as a tourist attraction.**
8. Explain what a composite construction clipper is.  
**A composite construction clipper is a sailing ship made from a wooden hull on an iron frame.**

9. Number these statements from 1 to 5.

John Willis had the Cutty Sark built for his shipping business.	<b>1</b>
The Cutty Sark was launched from the coast in Scotland.	<b>2</b>
The clipper was sold to a company in Portugal.	<b>4</b>
The Cutty Sark was used as a transporter for wool.	<b>3</b>
The Cutty Sark was taken to London to become a tourist attraction in Greenwich.	<b>5</b>

10. What is your opinion regarding how the Cutty Sark is used now?

**Children's own responses, e.g. I think the Cutty Sark is used well now as it raises lots of money through tourism in London.**