

Ships and Navigation Tools

Week 16 • Tuesday • How Sailors Found Their Way

Reading Time

How do you find your way on an ocean with no roads and no signs? Sailors used special tools called **navigation** tools.

The **compass** has a needle that always points north, so sailors always knew their direction. The **astrolabe** helped them measure the sun and stars to learn how far north or south they were. Maps of the sea, called **charts**, showed coastlines and safe routes.

Their favorite ship was the **caravel** — small, fast, and easy to steer. Its special triangle sails could catch wind from almost any direction. Sailors climbed tall masts, tied strong knots, and watched the stars at night. The sea was their highway!

Reading Questions

1. Which way does a compass needle always point?
2. What did the astrolabe measure?
3. What made the caravel a great ship for exploring?
4. What are sea maps called?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

navigation 	compass
astrolabe 	chart
caravel 	mast

Which Tool Do I Need?

Write C (compass), A (astrolabe), or CH (chart) for each job.

Job	C, A, or CH?
I need to know which way is north.	
I want to measure the stars to find my position.	
I need to see the coastline and safe routes.	
My ship turned in a storm — which direction now?	
How far north have we sailed?	

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ A compass needle always points north.
- ☐ The astrolabe measured the sun and stars.
- ☐ The caravel was slow and hard to steer.
- ☐ Charts were maps of the sea.
- ☐ Triangle sails could catch wind from many directions.
- ☐ The ocean had road signs for sailors.

Fill in the Blanks

compass astrolabe caravel charts north stars

1. The _____ needle always points north.
2. The _____ measured the sun and stars.
3. The _____ was a small, fast ship.
4. Sea maps were called _____.
5. Sailors watched the _____ at night.
6. Knowing which way is _____ keeps you on course.

Draw a Caravel

Draw a caravel with triangle sails. Add a compass rose in the corner of your picture showing N, S, E, and W.



Review

I learned...	Circle one
What a compass and astrolabe do	YES / NOT YET
Why the caravel was special	YES / NOT YET
How sailors found their way at sea	YES / NOT YET