Polly Woodside Student Activities

These following student activities are designed to be used with the *Polly Woodside* online resource, Discover *Polly Woodside*. These open-ended activities are designed for students in Upper Primary and Secondary.

1. Where did the *Polly Woodside* get her name from?

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2. Why are ships traditionally given the female pronoun and referred to as ‘she/her’?

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3. What can you observe about the gender of the ship’s crew from the 'The Crew’ activity? Why?

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4. Research and explain in your own words the sailor superstitions about females aboard sailing vessels.

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5. Why is it significant that Polly Woodside (*Rona*) sailed Cape Horn 16 times? What is significant about voyages around Cape Horn?

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6. How did the introduction of the steam ship affect barques like the *Polly Woodside*?

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7. What year did the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) purchase the ship? How much did it cost?

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Polly Woodside statistics, ship's watch and rations.

The following activities explore the history of the *Polly Woodside* with a focus on Mathematical skills required for successful voyages. Designed for Secondary students and Mathematics curriculum learning area.

1. Look at the following *Polly Woodside* statistic and explain what they mean.

Polly Woodside Ship Statistics

Official number	90129	
Signal letters	KDCN	
Gross tonnage	648 tons	
Cargo capacity	1,100 tons	
Hull length	192 feet	
Overall length	230 feet	
Extreme breadth	30 feet	
Draught laden	14 feet	
Mainmast above deck	108 feet	
Length of main yard	65 feet	
Approx. sail area	11,000 sq.ft.	
Maximum speed (approx.)	14 knots	

2. Convert the SI base unit to metric units. For example; 1 Foot (ft) is equal to 0.3048 meter (m).

3. What is a nautical mile?

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4. How does a nautical mile differ from a land mile?

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Ship's Watch

Learn about ship's watch below and answer the questions.

During the sailing era the ship's bell was used to tell everyone on board what the time was. Time was kept by a half an hour sand glass and a bell was rung to indicate the time. This was called a watch system. A watch system allows the ship's crew to operate the ship 24 hours a day while also allowing crew enough time for rest and perform other duties.

The 24 hours were divided into 5 four-hour watches and 2 two-hour watches.

The watches were named:

- The Afternoon Watch was from noon to 16:00 (4 p.m.)
- The First Dog Watch (2 hours) was from 16:00 (4 p.m. to 18:00 (6 p.m.)
- The Last Dog Watch (2 hours) was from 18:00 (6 p.m.) to 20:00 (8 p.m.)
- The First Watch was from 20:00 (8 p.m.) to midnight
- The Middle Watch was from midnight to 04:00 (4 a.m.)
- The Morning Watch was from 04:00 (4 a.m.) to 08:00 (8 a.m.)
- The Forenoon Watch was from 08:00 (8 a.m.) to noon

During these watches the bell was rung each half hour with the number of rings being increased by one each time. For example, half hour into the watch was one bell, one hour in was two bells, 1.5 hours 3 bells etc. with the watch ending at eight bells (except the First Dog watch which ended at four bells).

Quote:

'I keep the time in our watch, the bells are struck every half hour, but I don't take a wheel or lookout, so only have to keep about in case I am wanted. I found the night watches very slow, and cold when the deck was not dry enough to walk about on, but now I find I can sit in my cabin, and read etc.'
George Andrews, Polly Woodside crew member, 1904

1. What would be your preferred watch times? Why?

_____

2. How long is left of a watch if the bell rings 6 times?

_____

3. How long is left of the watch if the bell rings 8 times?

_____

4. How long is left of the watch if the bell rings 4 times?

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Ship food

Learn about ship rations and compare to quantities you would eat.

Below is the agreed list of daily provisions (food allocations) for each crew member for the *Polly Woodside*.

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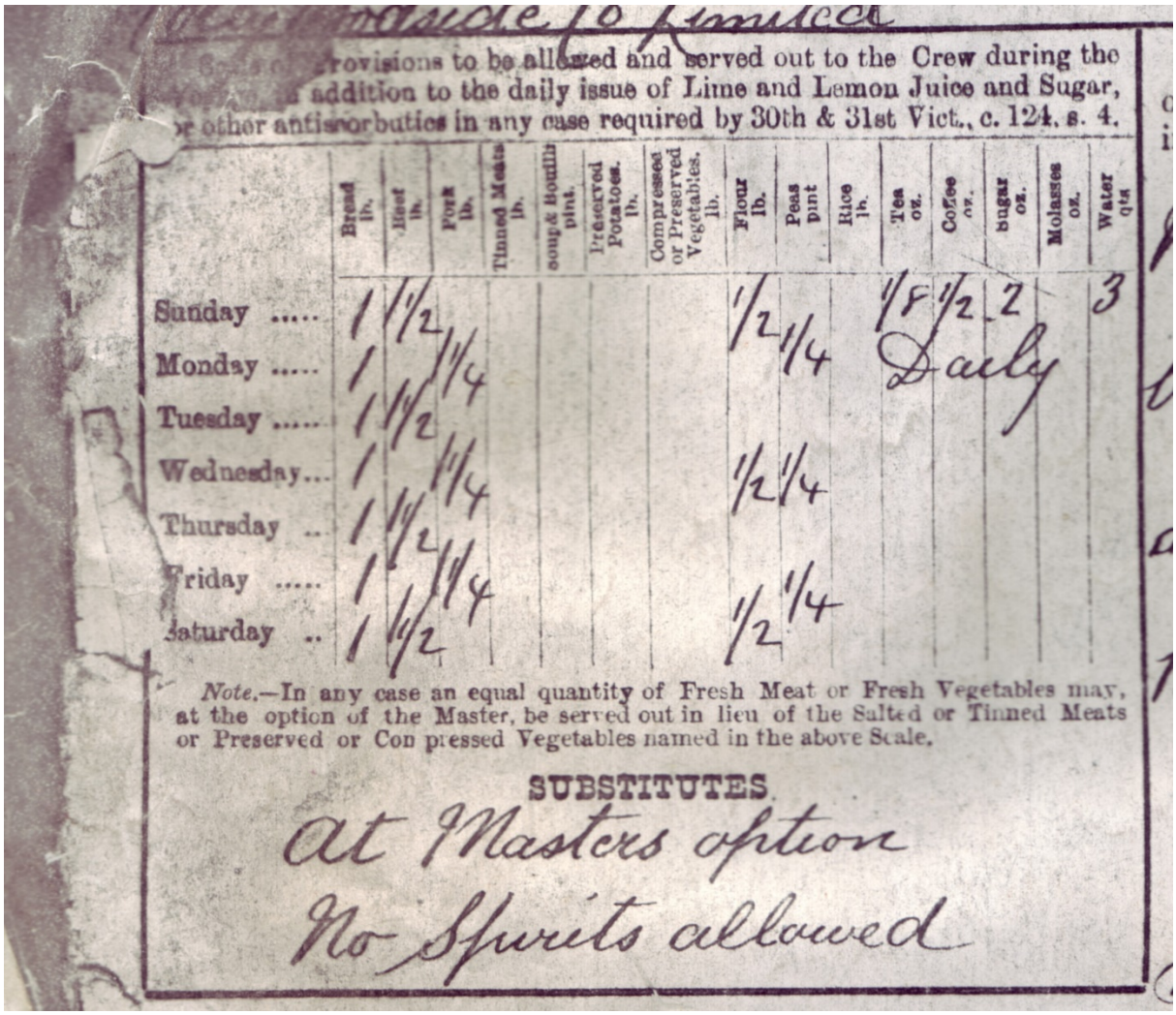

rovisions to be allowed and served out to the Crew during the addition to the daily issue of Lime and Lemon Juice and Sugar, or other antiscorbutics in any case required by 30th & 31st Vict., c. 124, s. 4.

	Bread lb.	Beef lb.	Pork lb.	Tinned Meats lb.	Soup & Broth pint.	Preserved Potatoes lb.	Compressed or Preserved Vegetables lb.	Flour lb.	Peas pint	Rice lb.	Tea oz.	Coffee oz.	Sugar oz.	Molasses oz.	Water qts
Sunday	1	1/2						1/2	1/4		1/8	1/2	2		3
Monday	1		1/4								Daily				
Tuesday	1	1/2													
Wednesday...	1		1/4					1/2	1/4						
Thursday ..	1	1/2													
Friday	1		1/4					1/2	1/4						
Saturday ..	1	1/2													

Note.—In any case an equal quantity of Fresh Meat or Fresh Vegetables may, at the option of the Master, be served out in lieu of the Salted or Tinned Meats or Preserved or Compressed Vegetables named in the above Scale.

SUBSTITUTES.

at Masters option

No Spirits allowed

Extract from Agreement and Account of Crew, 5 December, 1885

It reads:

6 pints of water per day for washing and drinking

1 pound of bread per day,

1 ½ pounds of salt beef every second day,

1 ¼ pounds of salted pork every other day.

½ pound of flour and

¼ pint of peas three times per week

1. How many grams of bread would you eat a day?

_____

2. How much water do you drink a day?

_____

3. Convert these imperial measurements into the metric system.

Quote:

"… a man signs for a certain quantity but the quality is quite another matter but it did mention extras at the masters option which was in my experience just a farce … just your lb, & pint,& no more but plenty of work & tighten your belt & say nothing."

Samuel Hudson, *Polly Woodside* crew member, 1904

Image: Rona's crew eating at the mess table, c.1915
Courtesy: National Trust of Australia (Vic.)

4. After reading the overview about the Cook in 'The Crew' activity on the Discover *Polly Woodside* resource and the above information, what do you think the food would have been like aboard the *Polly Woodside* ship*?*

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5. List all the ways maths was used in daily life aboard ships.

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You could have…

- Direction, compass, reading the stars
- Degrees of turning the wheel
- Map reading
- Estimating food and water quantities
- Water depth
- Speed
- Wind velocity
- Current
- Cargo capacity and weight
- Time and duration
- Rope lengths