

Activity 9: The Shape of Ships (Visitor Center)

You can identify different kinds of sailing ships by looking at their sails. The fore-and-aft sail is often triangular and is often found on pleasure boats, like this sloop:



Another type, called a square sail, is really rectangular. It hangs from a pole called a yard that crosses the mast at a right angle. Square sails can be found on historic ocean-going sailing ships like our Balclutha. This brig is an example of a ship with square sails:



In our Visitor Center, find an example of a schooner, a barkentine and a full-rigged ship and write the vessel's name to the right of the appropriate picture. You may find your examples from among the sailing ship models on display or in any paintings of ships you can find. There may be more than one example for each type of "rig."

Schooner

Two or more masts,
fore-and-aft sails



Barkentine

Three or four masts: square sails
on the first mast, fore-and-aft
sails on the others.

Hint: look for a painting of a ship.



Full-rigged ship

3 or more masts, all with square sails.


