

Getting Around on the Water

There are lots of different ways to get around on water.

People in China have sailed in Chinese junks for nearly 2,000 years. They are strong, wooden ships which come in lots of different sizes. They all have huge sails.

If you were a Viking about 1,000 years ago, you might have travelled on a longship. These ships were long and narrow, which helped them to move quickly over the water. This was useful in battle. Sometimes the ship used a sail but Vikings could also use oars when they were getting close to shore, or when the weather was calm.

During the First World War, hydrofoil boats were used. They could rise up out of the water as they moved, which meant they could avoid water mines. Nowadays hydrofoil boats are used for all sorts of things such as carrying cargo and people. They are a great way to travel because they are so fast.

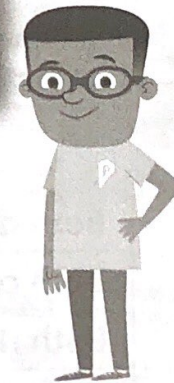
A much slower type of ship is a freighter. These are large cargo ships that transport things around the world. Some large freighters even have gigantic cranes to unload the cargo. Freighters take many days or even weeks to get to their destination.

Cruise ships also take a long time to reach their destination. This is because the passengers are looking at lots of interesting sights on the way. People might travel on a cruise ship for weeks or even months but they have fun onboard as there are lots of different things to do. One of the biggest cruise ships is called the *Symphony of the Seas* and can carry 9,000 passengers. It has 40 different restaurants and 23 swimming pools!

Water mines are underwater bombs.

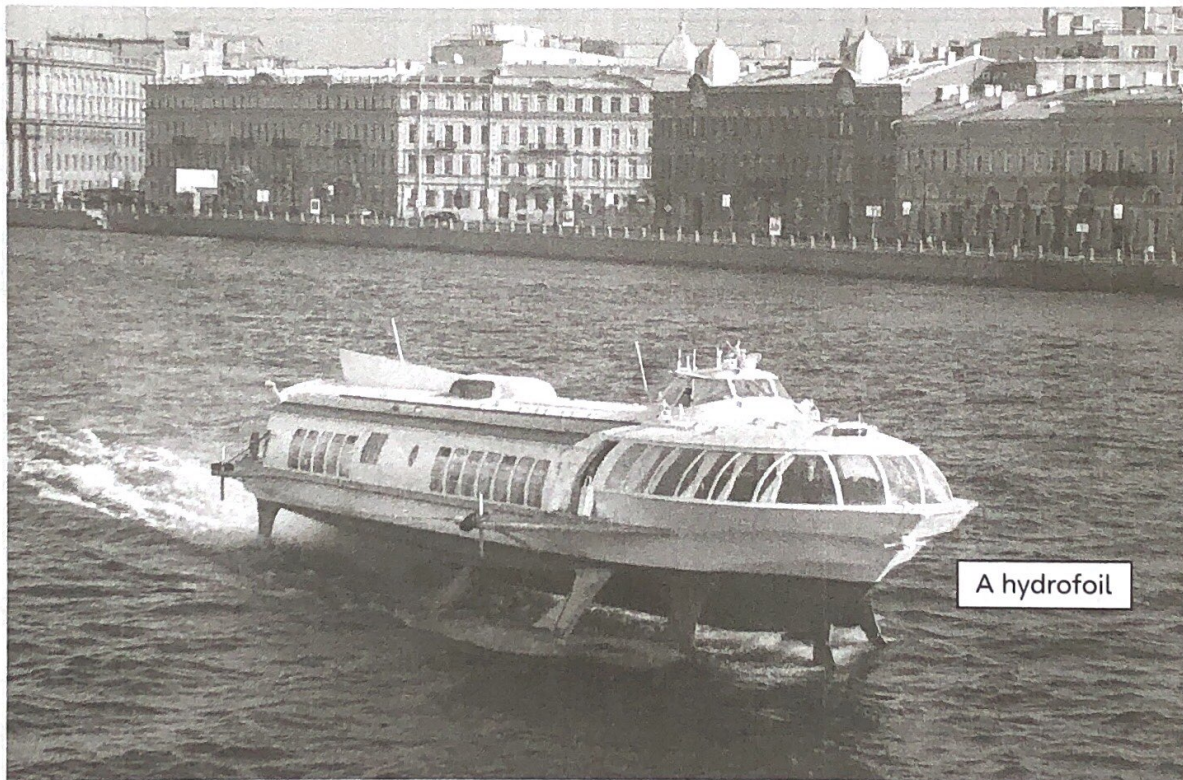


Cargo is a load of products, which is taken from one place to another.



Unlike a cruise ship, some boats are very small. A canoe carries just one or two passengers. You sit very low in the boat and use a paddle to steer. People enjoy being so close to the water and it can be exciting and fun.

What sort of boat would you most like to travel in?



A hydrofoil