

La Belle in the Classroom

Lesson 3: The Ship's Design

Overview

Since La Belle was a “ship kit,” its timbers contained markings that served as instructions for assembling the ship. La Salle planned to transport the timbers to North America, but he decided he needed to assemble the ship in France and use it to carry cargo to the mouth of the Mississippi River. During this lesson students explore the parts and size of La Belle and investigate how to design and build their own kit.

TEKS

§113.15 – Social Studies, Grade 4
4.21A, 4.21E
4.22A

§111.6 – Math, Grade 4
4.1A, 4.1C, 4.1D

§113.19. Social Studies, Grade 7
7.20A
7.21B, 7.21C, 7.21H
7.22A, 7.22D

§111.27. Math, Grade 7
7.1A, 7.1C, 7.1D

Objective

Students will:

- Represent *La Belle*’s size by measuring its length and width.
- Identify and explain the parts of *La Belle*.
- Demonstrate the purpose of a “ship kit.”
- Design and mark pieces of a structure that can be reassembled.

Materials

Look Inside La Belle
Look Inside La Belle description cards
Look Inside La Belle key
wood skill sticks
measuring tape/ sticks

Online Resources

La Belle: The Ship that Changed History
<http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/la-belle>

Procedure

Key Terms

aft	hull
starboard	bow
ship kit	stern
port	

Engage Students: Measure La Belle

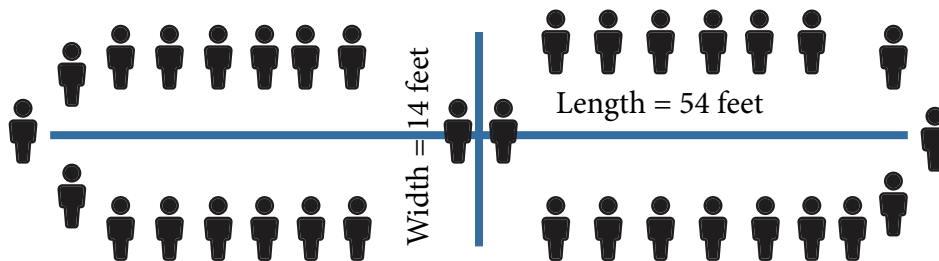
1. Visit *La Belle: The Ship that Changed History: The Exhibit* (<http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/la-belle/the-exhibit>) to view a video about La Belle's excavation. Ask and discuss:

How long do you think *La Belle* was? How wide? Write students predictions on the board to refer back to later.

2. Give each student a copy of *Look Inside La Belle*. Students fold the page in half along the solid line to create a booklet. Looking at the bird's-eye view of the ship, ask students what they think the front of the ship is called. Students label the front of their ship diagram with the term **bow**. Identify and label the back of the ship as the **stern**, the left side of the ship as the **port** side, and the right side of the ship as the **starboard** side.
3. Identify the measurements for length and width. *La Belle's* overall length was about 54 feet. Its width was about 15 feet at its widest point. Ask and discuss:

What can you think of that might be as long as *La Belle*? As wide? Answers will vary. Since students may not have an understanding of how long each measurement is, it will be helpful to go outside and measure the length and width of the ship.

4. Explain that students will measure the length and width of La Belle. Take students and measuring tape or sticks outside to a large open area.
 - Ask several students to measure a distance of 54 feet. This is *La Belle's* length.
 - Place students at each end of the distance to mark the ends of the ship.
 - Ask several students to stand in the center of the ship's length, and measure a width of 14 feet.
 - Place students at each end of the distance to mark the sides of the ship.
 - The remaining students should spread out to form an outline of the ship.



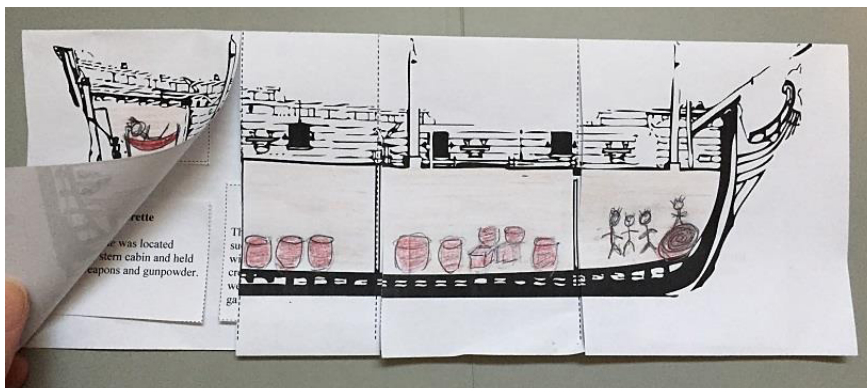
5. Identify the area as the size of *La Belle*'s hull. Identify and point to the stern, port, bow and starboard sides of the ship. Then ask students to say and point to each side of the ship. Ask and discuss:

- **Does anything surprise you about the size of the ship?** Some students may be surprised with how small the ship seems. *La Belle* was considered a small ship.
- **What types of supplies could you fit inside the area?** Students should suggest the types of supplies needed to sail on the ship and to set up a colony in the 1600s.
- **What do you think measures the same length as *La Belle*?** Answers will vary.


6. Compare the ship's measurements with the predictions students made at the beginning of the lesson.

Explore Concepts: Parts of La Belle

1. Students turn the *Look Inside La Belle* booklet so that they are looking at the cross-section of *La Belle*.
2. Students cut along the three dotted lines on the front of the booklet, stopping at the fold in the paper. See image below. This will create a flip chart. Give each student one set of *Look Inside La Belle* description cards to cut out.
3. Place students in groups of two. Students work together to read the descriptions on each card and then match the descriptions with the locations on the ship.
 - Students glue each card under the flap that matches the description.
 - On top of each flap, students illustrate how the compartment was used and what was stored inside. See image below.
4. Students share their flip charts.

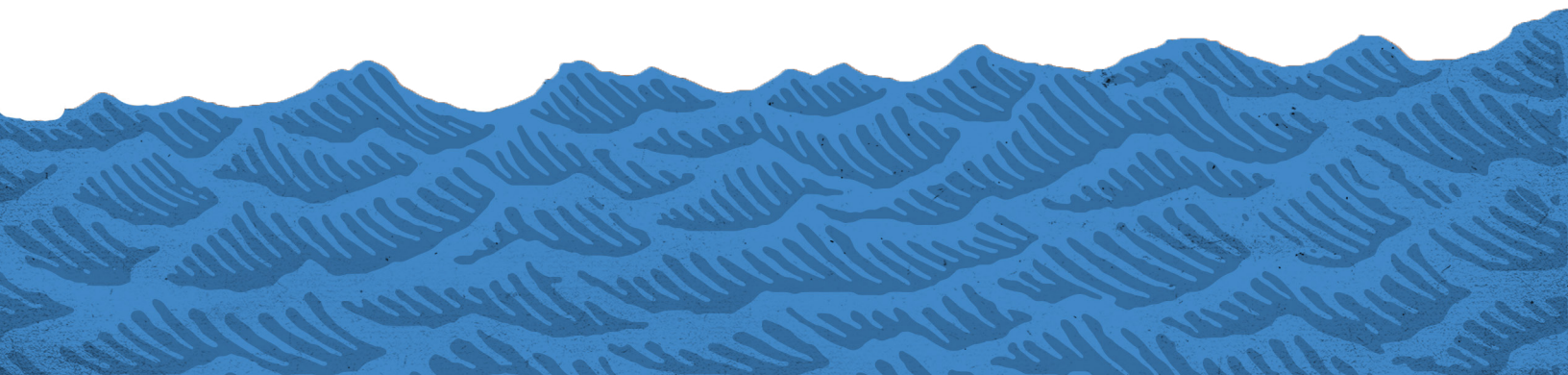


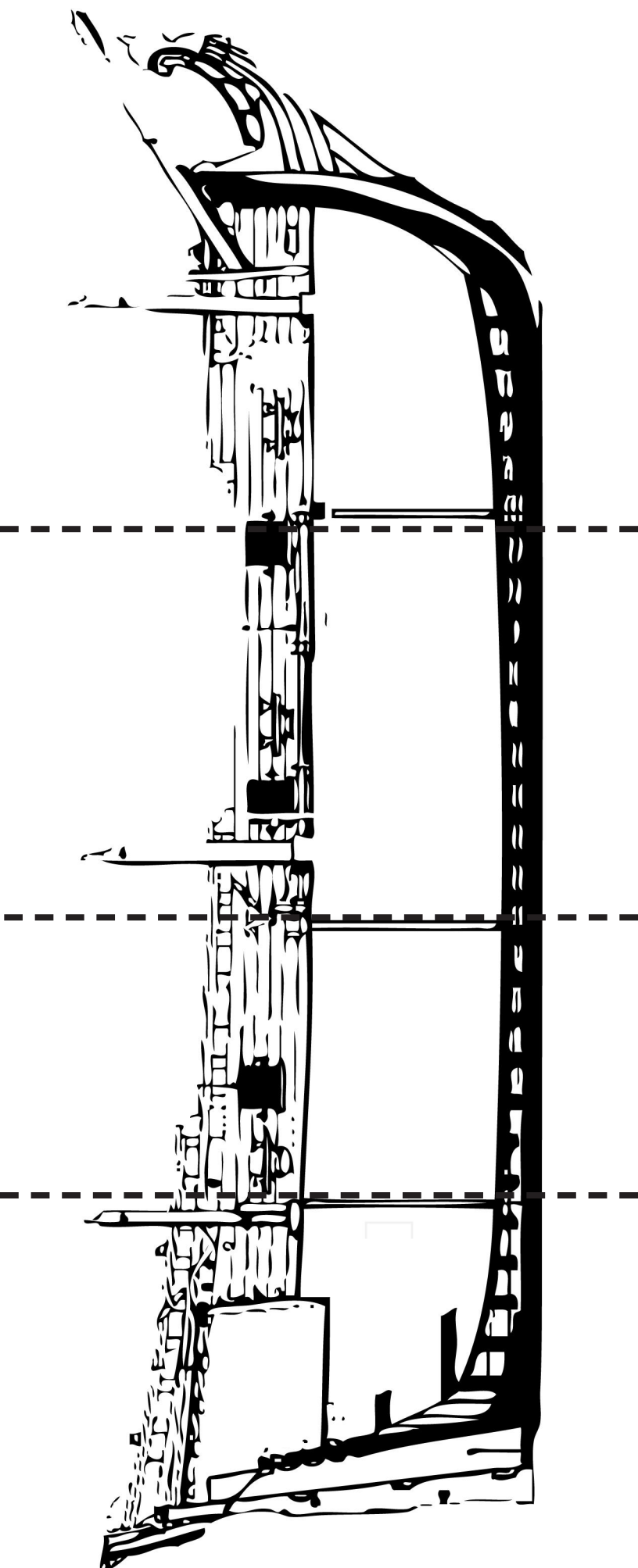
La Belle
The Ship That Changed History

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TheStoryofTEXAS.com

Extend Learning: Design and Build a Kit

1. Visit [La Belle: The Ship that Changed History: Excavation and Preservation](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/la-belle/educational-resources/for-educators) online to view a video about *La Belle*. Observe the picture of timber with markings excavated from the site. Picture located at <http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/la-belle/educational-resources/for-educators>. Ask and discuss:
 - **What do you think the markings mean?** Answers will vary.
 - **Have you ever put something together using instructions?** Students may share experiences of building models or assembling toys. If available show a set of instructions for assembling something that uses lettering to match parts together.
 - **How do you think the markings could help someone put the ship together?**
The markings indicate instructions for assembling the ship. They identify how to connect the timbers. *La Belle* was designed as a kit that could be transferred to another location and built. La Salle was originally going to take the *La Belle* kit to North America for assembly, but then he decided to build the ship in France and use it to carry cargo. Each timber of *La Belle* is marked with Roman numerals followed by one of four letters: T for *Tribord* (starboard), B for *Bâbord* (port), A for *Avant* (front), or D for *Derrière* (back).
2. Explain that students will design a kit to show how marking pieces makes it easier to construct, take apart, and reassemble something. Students work in pairs or independently.
 - Provide students with wood skill sticks.
 - Students design a structure to build.
 - Build the structure and mark the pieces.
 - Record the directions, or marking system, showing how the pieces connect. Refer to the example to see how students can mark their pieces.
3. Students take their structures apart, and switch their kits with a partner. Build the new structure using the directions provided, and then check completed structures with partners.

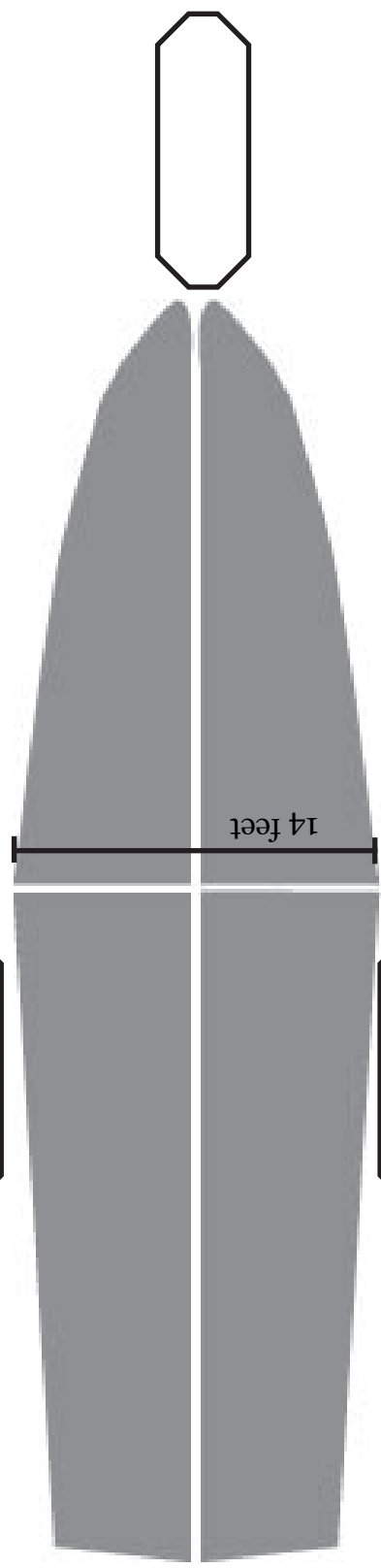




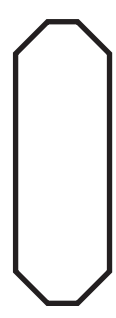
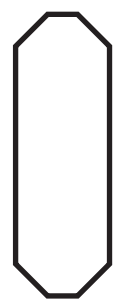
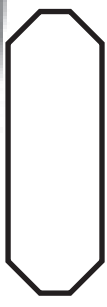
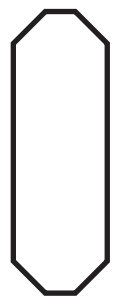
Look Inside La Belle

54 feet

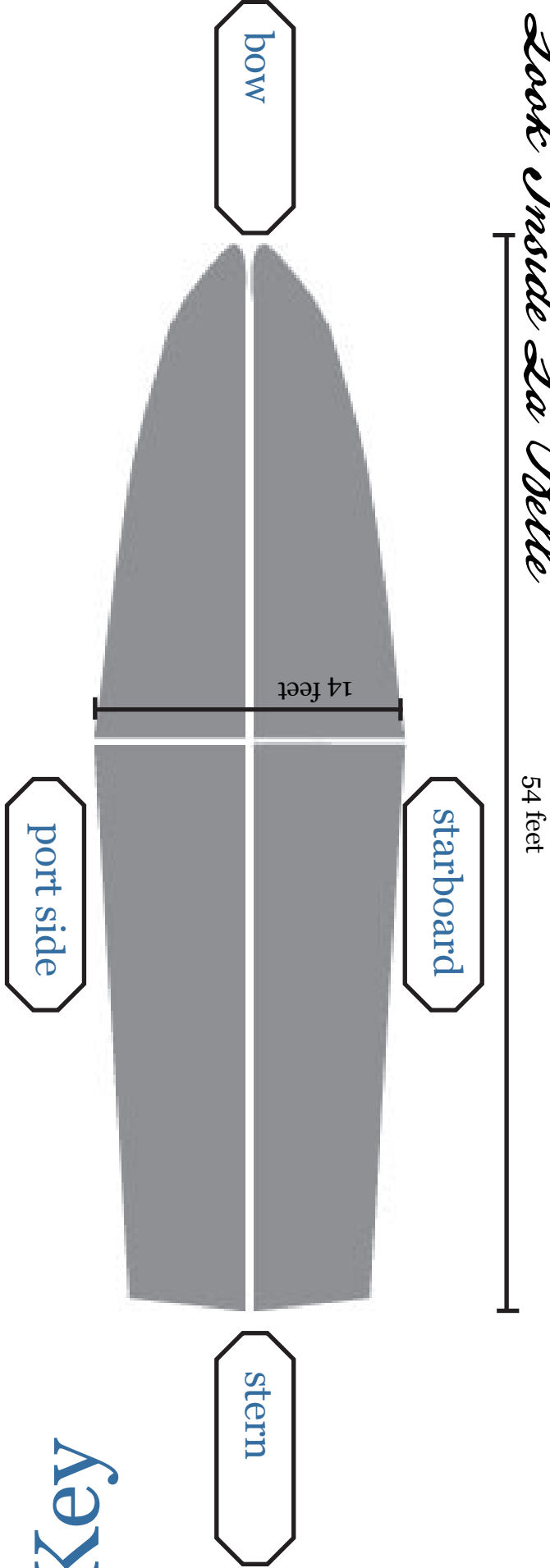
FOLD



14 feet



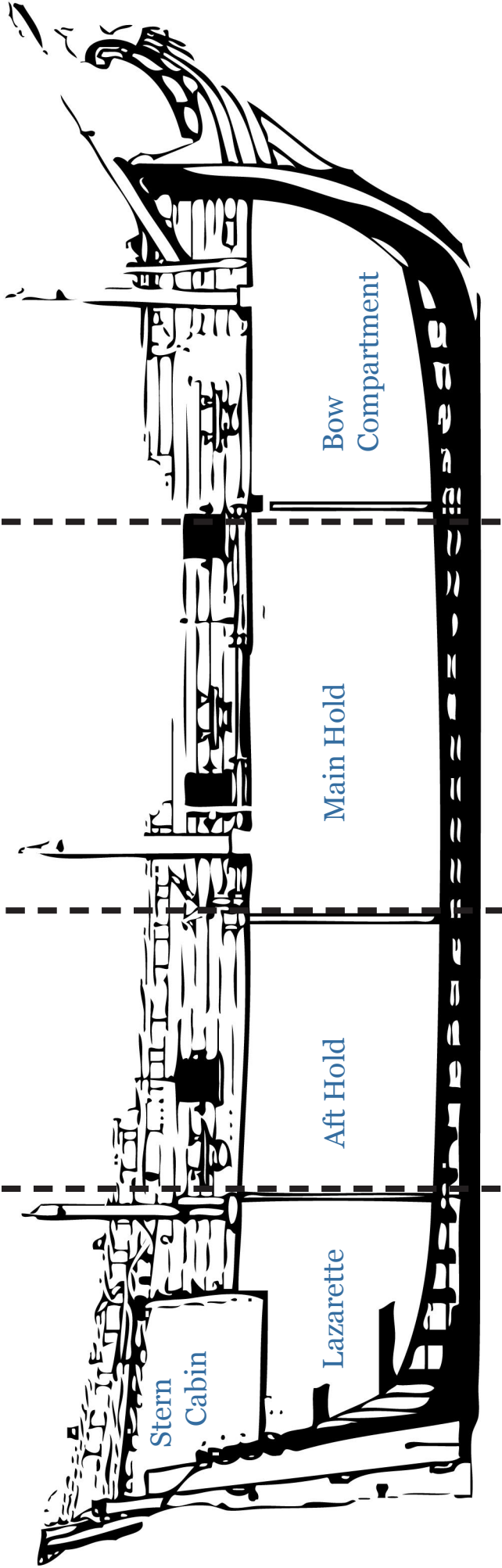
Key



Look Inside La Belle

54 feet

FOLD



Look Inside La Belle

Description Cards



1. Cut out each card.
2. Read to discover where these rooms were located in the ship's hull.
3. Glue the cards under the flap on the drawing of *La Belle*.

Bow Compartment

The bow compartment was located at the front of the ship and stored extra anchor rope. It also served as the crew's sleeping quarters.

Stern Cabin

The stern cabin was the small compartment located in the back of the ship. It contained a hammock and served as the captain's quarters.

Aft Hold

The aft hold stored supplies like cured meat, water, and wine. It was used by the crew for shelter from bad weather and to play board games.

Main Hold

The main hold was located between the aft hold and the bow compartment. It stored cargo. Goods were stored in barrels and boxes.

Lazarette

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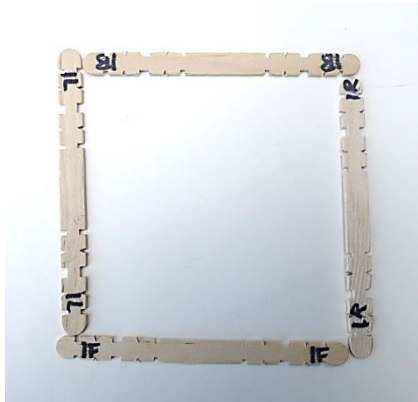
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Make Your Own Kit

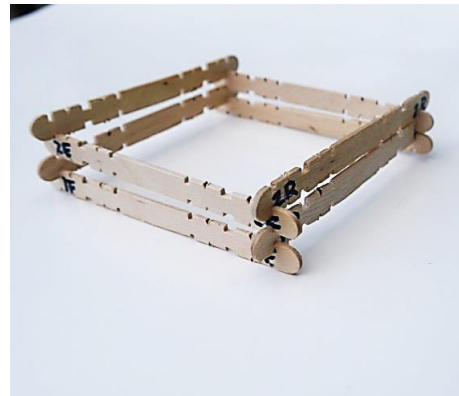
1st Row – 4th Row

1F – 3F	Front
1R – 3R	Right side
1L – 3L	Left side
1B – 3L	Back
3CL	Center left
3CR	Center right
4C1	First in center
4C2	Second in center
4C3	Third in center
4C4	Fourth in center

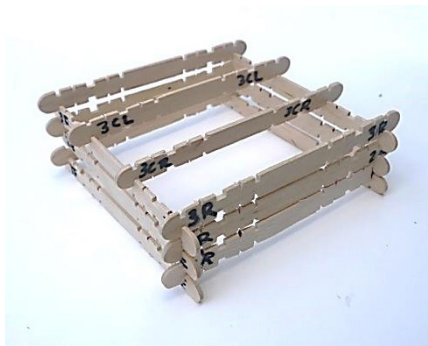
Row 1



Row 2



Row 3



Row 4

