

## The Active II

### Self-Guided Information for Teachers

- The Active II is a replica ketch. It has been built with exactly the same measurements and features of a real ketch. This means that if it was taken out on the Port River, it would float and sail just like a real ketch.
- The Active II took 8 months to build and was built 26 years ago inside the museum.
- Ketches are small **cargo vessels** that were used in South Australia up until about 40 years ago. They were most commonly used about 100 years ago in the 1880s and 1890s.
- They carried wheat, wool, live animals, gypsum, salt, firewood and many other cargo around South Australia's ports. They were also used to carry cargo to larger vessels for the overseas trade.
- About 100 years ago there were about 70 ketches working in SA waters.

**Tell the students we are currently in Port Adelaide.**

**Ask the students if they know of any other ports in South Australia.**

- The ketches travelled all around South Australian waters and were called the Mosquito Fleet because when you looked out at the horizon from the beach, they looked like a swarm of mosquitos.
- Ketches were the semi-trailers of the sea. We no longer use ketches to transport cargo because we transport goods by air, rail and road.
- Life was hard on the ketches and the pay was not very good.
- The crew was made up of a skipper and 1 or 2 ketch deck hands. The deck hands were usually 14 year old boys who worked hard on the ketch to get sea time. They would have to do lots of jobs, cooking, loading and unloading cargo, cleaning and hoisting and lowering the sails. This would then the boys an opportunity to get sea time and eventually qualify as crew on overseas ships.
- Ropes and pulleys were used to load and unload the cargo (show). It was hard work lifting the heavy sacks and loads. The cargo was lifted and placed into the hull of the ketch (show).

**Ask students to find the following on the ketch:**

- *Where would you sleep?*
- *Where is the fresh water stored?*
- *Which direction is the front of the boat?*
- *Where would you cook your meals?*
- *Where would you go to the toilet?*



**Give students 10 minutes to explore / play on the ketch.**

**Ask students to be seated back on the 'wharf.'**

**(Go through each question and select a student to go on the ketch and show the answer)**

**Ask the students to answer your questions:**

– **Where would you sleep?**

*2 cabins – one for ketch hands and other for the captain.*

*The ketch hand sleeping cabin has a rope on one bed, this is because when one ketch hand was sleeping, the other one would be working.*

*The captain's cabin is larger and has 2 beds, because sometimes he might have a guest onboard.*

Do you think the captain and ketch hands would sleep well?

– **Where is the fresh water stored?**

**Ask: Why was fresh water important?**

*Fresh water was firstly needed for drinking and cooking.*

*It was also used by the crew, filling buckets and using the water to have a shower*

– **Which direction is the front of the boat?**

**Ask students to point to which direction they think it is and then point to correct direction.**

*We know that it is the front of the boat because it has 2 lights at the front. These lights could be seen by other ships, so there was less chance of an accident occurring.*

*The green light is the starboard side (right) and the red light port (left).*

*There are some ways to remember this:*

*"Theres a little bit of Port left in the bottle," or "The word left has 4 letters and so does the word port."*

*The captain would steer the ship from the back of the boat, so he could see what was happening in front of him. You can also see the rudder is at the back, steering the boat in the right direction.*

– **Where would you cook your meals?**

*The boat is made out of wood, so you would have to be very careful with open flames. All food would be cooked in the kitchen.*

*The ketch hands would cook and serve the meals.*

*A kitchen on a boat is called a galley.*

– **Where would you go to the toilet?**

*There was no toilet on the boat. The men would go to the toilet over the side of the boat. It was called the leeward side of the ship (sheltered side).*

**Ask: Who went in the hull? What did you notice about the floor?**

*The ketch had a flat bottom. This was so that it could sail up onto the sandy shores and when the tides went out, it would sit on the sand and the cargo unloaded and loaded. When the tide came back in, it would raise the ship so it could sail back out into the sea.*

**Ask: Is cargo transported the same way today?**

**Do men have to be big and strong to work on a wharf?**

**What causes these changes in transport to happen?**