



Journey to a New Life Vocabulary List

Please note: this is a complex activity. Students will not encounter all of these words.

Technical terms (for instance the parts of the boat or instruments used on the ship), are defined within the context of the interactive story.

Fictional: an invented story; in this case, the story is considered fictional because we do not know for sure that these events occurred in this order to these characters. However, the story is based on true, historical events.

Jostling: to come into close contact with, sometimes colliding or brushing against each other.

Indenture: a contract binding one person to work for another for a certain period of time.

Orphan: a child whose parents have died.

Apprenticeship: a period of time during which one person learns a craft or trade from another.

Provisions: needed materials and supplies, such as food and drink, tools, weapons, etc.

Sheriff: similar to the police. An officer of the government who was responsible for administering justice and keeping the peace.

Departs: leaves or goes away.

Parchment: strong, tough paper, originally made from the skin of a goat or sheep.

Harbor: a small, sheltered bay or inlet, protected from the open seas, where boats can anchor and take on or discharge cargo and people.

Schooner: a type of sailing ship that is speedy and has at least two masts.

Horizon: the line in the distance where the sea meets the sky or land.

Common: inferior or lacking quality (In this story, Master Cornwallys says the crew is common, meaning that they lacked the manners and habits of more refined gentlemen such as himself).

Navigator: the person on the boat responsible for sailing in the right direction and keeping the ship on course.

Ship's Mate: a member of the crew, usually an officer below the captain, who takes charge when the captain is off duty.

Rudder: a flat piece of wood attached to the back (stern) of a boat used to turn the boat to the left (port) or right (starboard).

Stern: the back of the boat.

Hatch: an opening in the deck of a ship.

Boorish: being rude or insensitive.

Scowl: to frown and express a negative emotion like anger.

Port: the left side of a ship as one faces the front (bow) of the vessel.

Bow: the front of the vessel.

Quarters: living accommodations on a ship.

Bowsprit: a spar (tapered piece of wood) that projected from the front (bow) of a ship.



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Yards: a long spar tapered at each end that supported and spread the head of a sail; also called a yardarm.

Ordinary: a tavern or eating house.

Ruffians: bullies or brutal persons.

Ration: when food or water is scarce, to plan how much can be eaten before the food runs out. Can also be the amount of food one is given in this type of situation.

Planks: boards the size and shape of those found in wooden floors and boats.

Masts: the part of a ship that holds the sails.

Mainmast: on a sailing ship, the mast that holds the principal sail. Since the mainmast is usually the second mast from the bowsprit, it would be the middle mast on a three-masted ship.

Foremast: the mast nearest to the bow (front) of a ship.

Mizzenmast: the mast that is aft (near, toward or in the stern [back] of a ship) of the mainmast; on a three-masted ship, it would be the mast nearest the stern (back) of the boat.

Yardarms: spars, or long wooden poles, that support the sails.

Tempest: a heavy storm.

Colonize: to settle in a foreign place, or to invade and take over the sovereignty of another country, usually with the permission and financial support of a government or other organization.

Jesuits: a Roman Catholic order of priests.

Traverse board: a device used to keep a record of the course steered and the approximate distance covered by a ship.

Quadrant: one quarter of a circle.

Astrolabe: an instrument used on ships to find its latitude (how far north or south you are in the world from the equator around the earth's middle).

Log line: a cylinder and rope with knots used to determine the approximate speed of a ship.

Musket: an early kind of rifle.

Pirate: a person who sails the sea in order to rob people on other boats.