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A BOOK OF BOATS AND SHIPS

MALYSH PUBLISHERS

Moscow
There are many different kinds of boats and ships. When you see one sailing by, you don’t always know just what it is called, or what it is for. Yet, each boat and ship has been built for a very special purpose. We shall tell you about eight of them.
This is a tanker. Its hold is like a row of huge, empty barrels. It was built to carry oil across the sea. As oil is pumped into its hold, the tanker settles deeper and deeper into the water, until the deck is just a little above the surface.
The tanker is the longest of all the ships. Tankers now being built are often too big for the old ports, so they have to be unloaded at sea.
If you ever see a caravan of vessels crossing the sea or sailing down a river, you might wonder what makes them go, for none of them have engines.
Here are two barges, a dredge, and a floating crane. A little tugboat is chugging along way up ahead. It doesn’t look very powerful, but it is, for it is pulling all the rest. That’s a tugboat’s job.
This is a refrigerating trawler. It takes its name from the trawl it tows along the sea bed. The trawl is a huge fishing net attached to the trawler by steel cables.

The fish that get caught in the trawl are raised up onto the deck, sorted and then stored in the huge freezers in the ship’s hold. These freezers keep the fish fresh until the ship reaches port.
This research ship is equipped with large radio antennae and instrument panels. This round kind of antenna is called a radar dish, because it does look like a dish. The ship’s antennae pick up radio signals sent to Earth by spaceships.
The men in the Soyuz spaceship know that the ship down below is a good helper. If ever a spaceship from another planet sends a signal to Earth, the ship’s radio antennae will receive it.
This is an icebreaker. It is a sturdy ship built for breaking a passage through ice-bound waters.

If a ship is trapped in an ice field, and if the ice begins to crush it, an icebreaker comes to the rescue. It breaks up the ice, frees the ship, and opens up a clear lane of water for it.
This cruise ship has a swimming pool, a badminton court, all sorts of indoor games, a gym, a cinema, a lending library and a restaurant.
When you stand on deck and look down over the rail, you can sometimes see dolphins skimming along beside the ship.

Going for a Black Sea cruise on a beautiful white liner like this is a wonderful way to spend a holiday.
You will never see a submarine sailing along like any other boat or ship. It usually surfaces when it docks in port.

A submarine slips through the water close to the sea bed. No sharks or whales, or even octopuses will ever go as deep as a submarine will.
The wind used to fill the canvas sails of sailing ships and carry them across the seas long before there were steamboats, motor, or atomic-powered ships.

And yet, even now, when there are so many of these mighty vessels, there is no more beautiful sight than a ship in full sail.