

# SHIPBUILDING AND OUTFITTING

## Itinerary for a Teacher-Led Tour

Shipbuilding was one of the earliest industries in New England. It was important because of the dependency upon ships for transportation of people and goods. Since wood was in abundance and we were a maritime nation, shipbuilding was a natural thing to do. The *Charles W. Morgan* is currently undergoing a major restoration in the Museum's Shipyard. Be sure to visit and learn about the restoration. The *Charles W. Morgan* is open to visitors throughout the restoration process.

## Shipyard

Visit the *Thames Keel*, *Charles W. Morgan*, and *Restoring an Icon* exhibit

- Why is the keel called the "backbone of the ship"?
- What is the name of the vessel under restoration? What was its function?
- List four of the different types of wood used in the *Morgan's* construction.
- Name two of the problems that are being fixed in the restoration.
- Do any of the tools look like ones you have seen before?
- What is being worked on today?

## Scale Model

Look back in time at Mystic of the 1860s.

- Locate present day Mystic Seaport.
- How many different shipyards can you find in the model?
- What kind of ship was the *David Crockett*? Where did it sail to?
- What does "Mystic Built" mean?

## Small Boat Shop

Here you will see traditional small boat building techniques.

- What kind of boat are they building here?
- Can you find a piece of wood that has been tied up in a knot?

## Chandlery

The official outfitting store for ships and crew.

- Name four things that can be purchased for your ship?
- How much did it cost to outfit a whaling ship for a voyage?

## Ropewalk

- What natural fibers were spun into yarns for rope?
- Notice how long this building is. Now try to imagine it four times longer. That would be the original length of this rope walk.
- Why do you think it would be necessary to have this building so long?
- Name two uses for rope on a ship?

## The Ships

*L. A. Dunton, Joseph Conrad, Charles W. Morgan*

- What job did each of the ships do?
- Which one is not a wooden ship?
- What are the similarities and difference between the *L.A. Dunton* and the *Charles W. Morgan*?

## Related Demonstrations

See "Today's Activities" sheet for times and locations of demonstrations related to Shipbuilding and Outfitting.

## Vocabulary

<b>keel</b>	the first step in building a ship it is the backbone of the vessel. It runs the full length of the ship.
<b>trunnel</b>	a ship's fastening made of locust wood.
<b>oakum</b>	tared hemp that is used to caulk the planks of a ship.
<b>knee</b>	crooked pieces of wood that secure the beams and the shipside together.

## Questions

- Why do you think shipbuilding came to a stop in Mystic?
- Where did "Mystic Built" ships sail to?
- How long did it take to build the *Charles W. Morgan*? How long will this restoration take?

## Further Reading

Peterson, William. *Mystic Built*.

Madsen, Betsy R. & Maria Burnham. *Dubbing, Hooping, and Lofting: ShipbuildingSkills*.

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