

Know the Ropes

Rigging—the arrangements of sails and lines—varies on different ships, depending on the purpose for which the ship is designed. The *Victory*, perhaps Nelson’s most famous ship, was a full rigged ship of the line, or battle ship. Other sailing ships since Nelson’s time have been rigged to serve as cargo ships and fishing ships. Some ships have been used for multiple purposes.

There are two general categories of ship rigging, square rigged and fore and aft rigged. On fore and aft rigged ships, the sails run parallel with the center of the ship from bow to stern. Ships with square rigging carry sails that run perpendicular, or athwart.

Below are some ship rigging designs that were common in the century that followed Nelson’s death. Unscramble the letters and write the name of each type of rigging.



1.

lfu

degrig

hpis



rufo



tadmes



scerhoon

2.



3.



rigb



4.

qubrae



5.

Write the circled letters in sequence to find the name of Admiral Nelson’s daughter.



Credit: Rig silhouettes by Graham McBride, Courtesy Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Silhouettes taken from the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic’s InfoSheet ‘Sailing Ship Rigs’: <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mma/AtoZ/rigs.html>

Answers: 1. full-rigged ship, 2. four-masted schooner, 3. brig, 4. barque, 5. Horatia