

Ship's Logbook & Journal

Overview: Students make their own logbook by entering daily events about their own lives.

Ages: 5 – 9 (or any age)

Time: 10 minutes per day

Materials Required: paper, pencil and crayons

Objective: Students create their own logbooks and journals by entering the date, weather, and daily occurrences.

Instructions:

Read the following to students:

A logbook contains a daily record of a ship's progress and records all events of the voyage. The log itself usually includes information such as the date, speed, latitude & longitude, wind, air temperature, sea temperature, condition of the seas, and barometric pressure. The ship's logbook sometimes includes a "Remarks" section in which events on board are recorded, or the captain and many on board the ship keep a separate journal to record each day's events.

Many of the researchers on board the Nathaniel B. Palmer will keep a journal describing their adventures as they travel the lower latitudes of the Antarctic waters. Some of the adventures will be exciting – the scientists may discover a species of fish they were hoping to find or perhaps spot a killer whale. Other days may not be as exciting – the only real event of the day may be that the ship's oven broke and they had to eat cereal for dinner.

- Look at samples of ship's logs & journal entries.
 - Captain Cook's Journal (<http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/endeavour/index.html>)
 - Journal entries from an expedition to Antarctica by students from The College of William & Mary <http://www.wm.edu/Antarctica/journals/index.php>
 - The history of Ship's Logbooks from the National Maritime Museum of the United Kingdom (<http://www.nmm.ac.uk/site/request/setTemplate:singlecontent/contentTypeA/conWebDoc/contentId/9098/navId/005002007004>)
- Diving Under Antarctica Ice Journals (<http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/nsf/journals/>)
- Create your own logbook and journal describing your journey from now to the end of the cruise or to the end of the school year.
- Include date, weather, and a description of the day's events in words or pictures.

Follow-up Questions:

How is your day different from the researchers on board?

What kind of adventures do you have?

Do you make new discoveries?

Is your logbook different from or the same as your classmates'? Why?

As the logbook grows, look back over what you entered. What kinds of events happen over and over? What one-of-a-kind experiences have you listed?