

Shipshape Vocabulary:

Ballast: Heavy material, such as iron, lead, or stone, placed low in the hold to lower the center of gravity and improve stability.

Beam: The width of the hull.

Bow: The forward part of the ship.

Capstan: A spool-shaped vertical cylinder turned with levers or bars and used for moving heavy loads, such as hoisting anchors.

Frame: Timbers that come off the keel or centerline and form the structure of the walls of the ship.

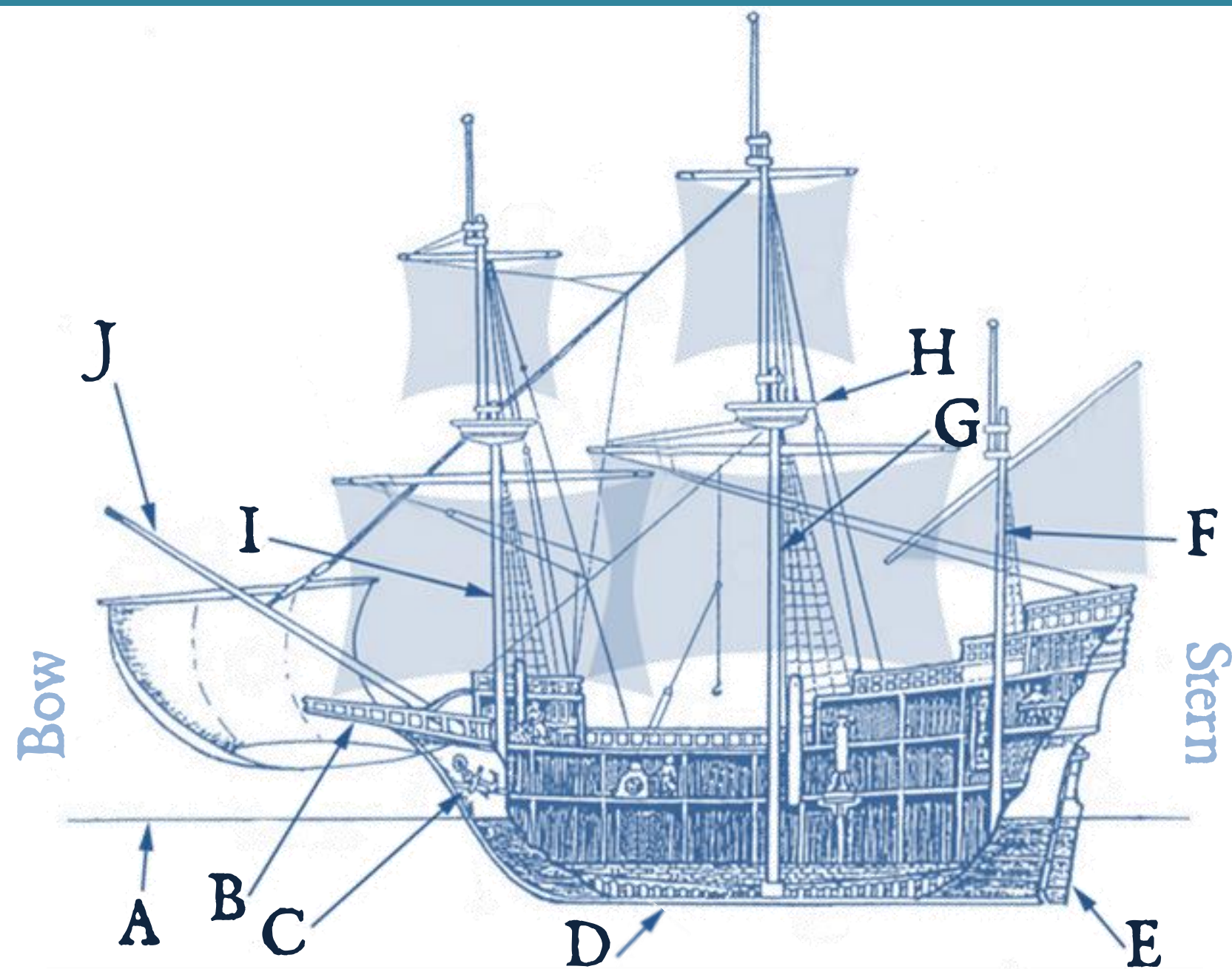
Keel: The main backbone of the ship, a timber running the bottom length of the hull that the frames attach to.

Oakum: Caulking material made from old rope fiber that is soaked in tar before being driven into planking seams to seal them from water.

Planking: The outer lining, or shell, of a hull.

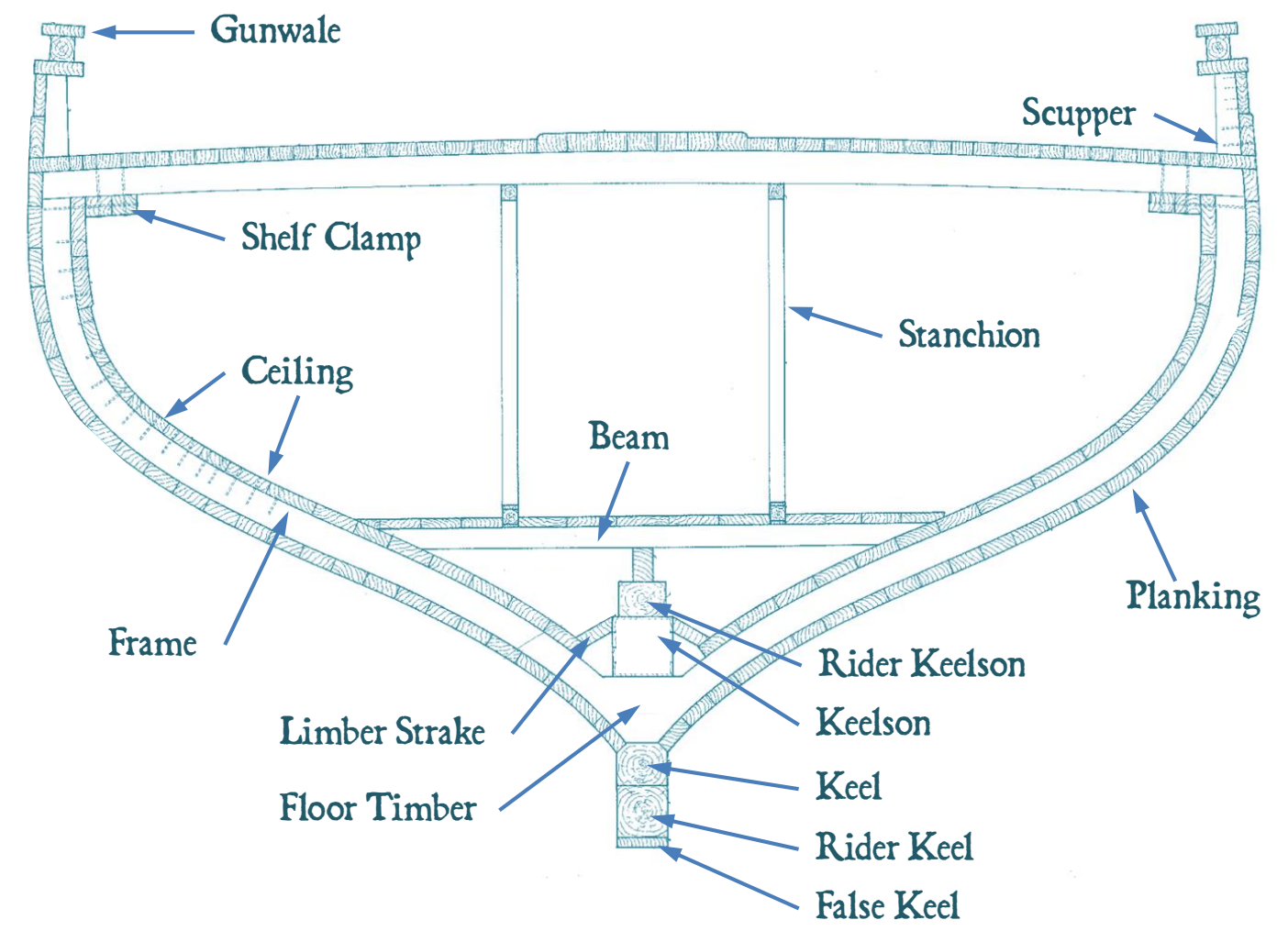
Scupper: A hole or channel cut in a vessel's side to drain off deck water.

Stern: The back portion of the ship.



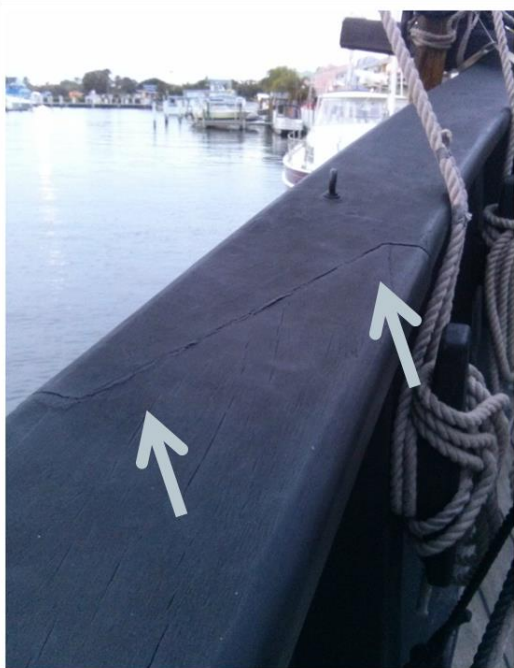
- A) Waterline
- B) Bowsprit
- C) Anchor
- D) Keel
- E) Rudder
- F) Mizzen Mast
- G) Mainmast
- H) Crow's nest
- I) Foremast
- J) Bowsprit Mast

Common parts of a wooden ship, seen in cross-section



For more information go to:
www.flpublicarchaeology.org/werc
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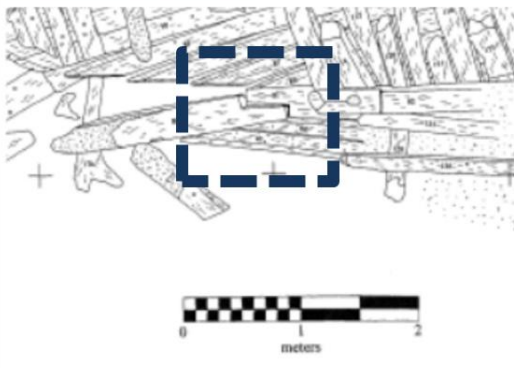




Scarf Joint:
A method of joining two wooden timbers together when a longer length of timber is needed.

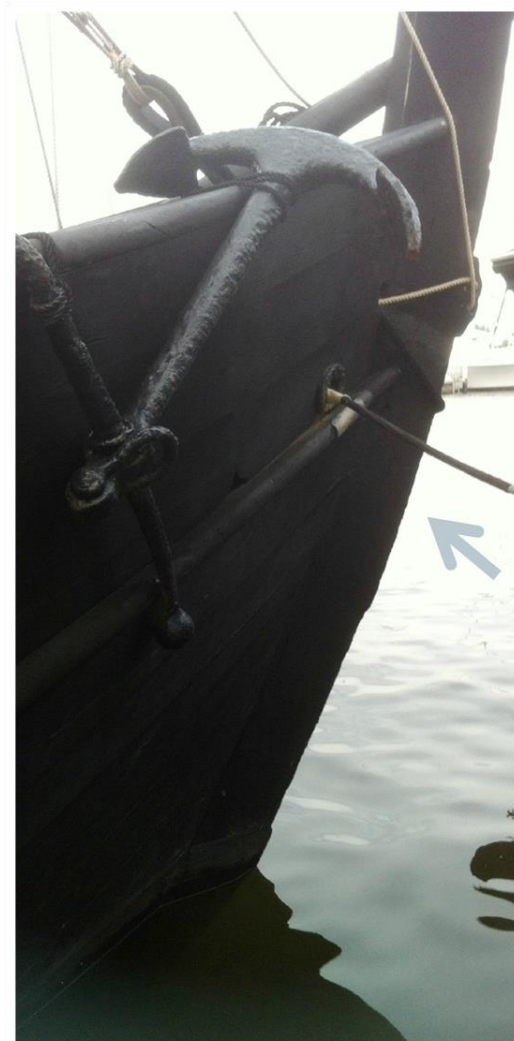
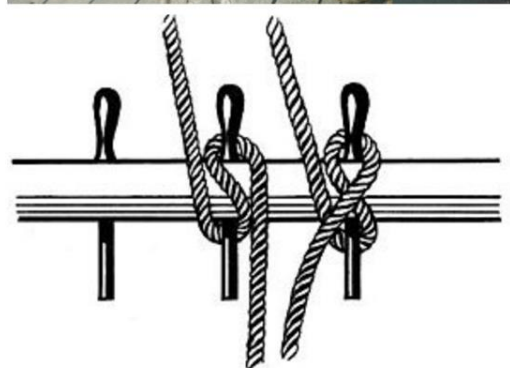
Left: Scarf joint on the gunwale (the top edge of the side wall) of Pinta.

Bottom: Scarf joint from the stem or front-most timber of the Emanuel Point Shipwreck seen from above in the drawing and from the side in the photo. (Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research)



Belaying Pins:
A wooden peg used on sailing vessels to secure lines of running rigging (ropes used for raising, lowering and controlling the sails).

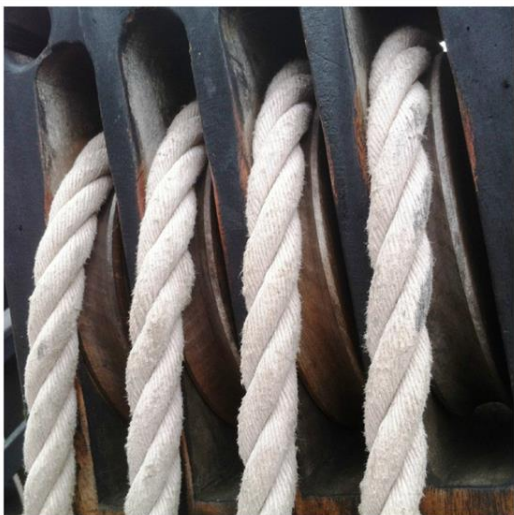
Top: Images from the deck of Pinta.



Stem:
The front-most part of a ship. The stem is the curved timber that stretches from the keel below, up to the gunwale (top edge) of the boat.

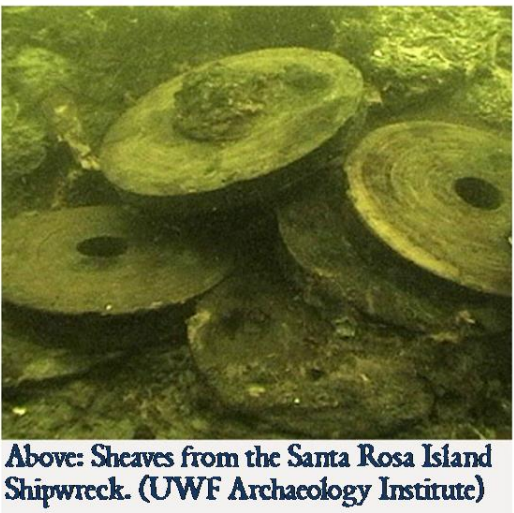
Left: Stem of Nina.

Bottom: Stem from the Emanuel Point Shipwreck. (Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research)

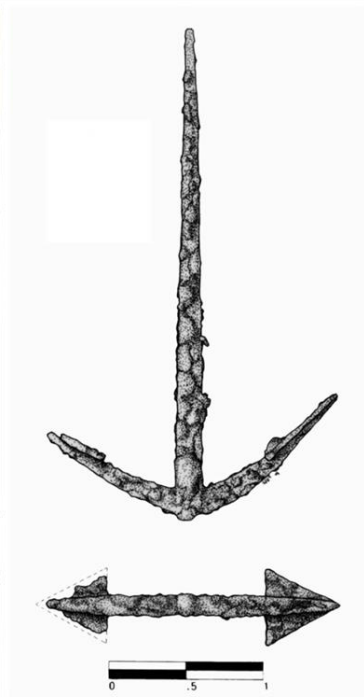


Sheaves:
A wheel or roller with a groove along its edge for holding a rope or cable. Multiple sheaves can make up one tackle block.

Top: Tackle blocks and sheaves on Pinta.



Above: Sheaves from the Santa Rosa Island Shipwreck. (UWF Archaeology Institute)



Above Left: Anchor on the bow of Pinta.

Above Right: Anchor from the Emanuel Point Shipwreck (Illustration by James W Hunter)

Below: The "cathead" (arrows) is a large wooden beam at the bow that supports the anchor.



Metal Fasteners:
Metal bolts or pins made of materials such as copper, iron, or bronze would have been used to fasten ships' timbers together. These artifacts are important for trying to figure out how old a shipwreck is.

Treenails:
Wooden pegs used to fasten wooden planks together. These rust free fasteners expand in water to create a tight connection.

