



# Black John - the Bogus Pirate



## Ship Ahoy!

"Avast there, Mateys! Have you ever wondered how a sailing ship harnesses the wind to move through the water? Then gather round and I'll tell you!"

By John Joyce

A sail works, just like the wing of a bird or an aircraft, by creating a curved surface. Because the surface is curved, it takes air longer to flow over the outside of the sail, than the inside. This makes the air pressure on the outside of the sail (or the top of a bird or aircraft's wing) less than on the other side. This difference in air pressure literally 'sucks' the sail or wing towards it, pulling the boat forward through the water, or the bird or aircraft up into the sky.

Oldest evidence of sailing boats dates back over 7,000 years to around 5,500 BC with the discovery of painted discs in modern Kuwait, showing sailing boats with simple squares of papyrus attached to a mast. The Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all used sailing boats, which evolved into the fast tea

clippers, of which *The Cutty Sark* is one of the most famous.

*Cutty Sark* was built in Scotland in 1869 and worked as a tea clipper between England and China until the opening of the Suez Canal shortened the travel time of steamships, which came to

dominate the trade routes. The *Cutty Sark* can still be visited at Greenwich London, where she is on permanent display. In her day, she logged a maximum speed of 17.5 knots (32 km/h) and was recorded as having travelled a staggering 363 miles (672 km) in one 24 hour period at sea. She was named *Cutty Sark* after the nickname of a witch in Robert Burn's 1791 *Tam O'Shanter*.

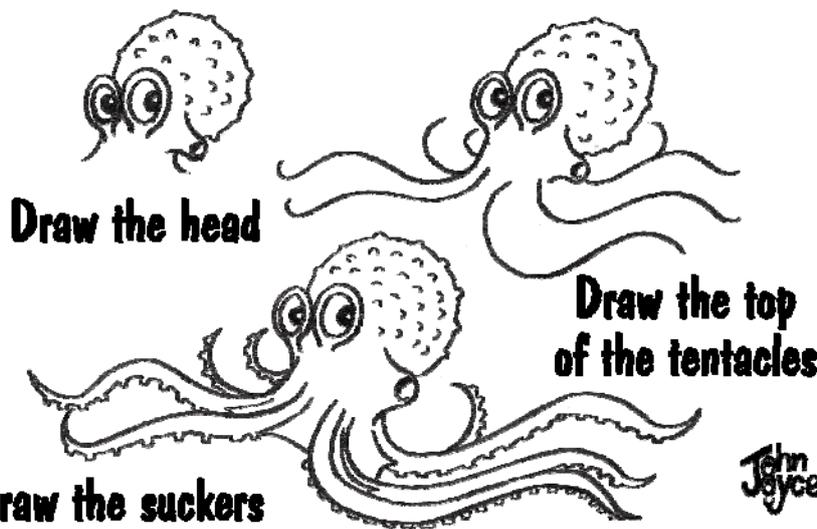
The fastest recorded speed for a sailing boat – and the first sailing boat to ever sail faster than 60 knots – belongs to the *Vestas Sailrocket 2*, skippered by Australian Paul Larsen who recorded a staggering 65 knots (121 km/hour) in 2012.

The oldest working sailing ship in the world is the iron-hulled *Star of India*, built in 1863 and still sailing. She has been awarded the title of 'California Historical Landmark' and United States 'National Historic Landmark'. Her home port is at the Maritime Museum of San Diego, California, USA.



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## HOW TO DRAW AN OCTOPUS



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