

1<sup>st</sup> July

### Memory verse

**One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. Psalm 145:4**

Don't forget to practice your memory verse in different ways such as sign language! At the end of today's lesson is a speaking exercise. You could use your memory verse.

### Map Work<sup>1</sup>

The first man to sail round the world on his own left **Nova Scotia** on **July 1<sup>st</sup>** 1895 in his 35ft boat, the *Spray* (right).

He sailed 1,200 miles in two weeks before he saw another human being. A Spanish ship pulled alongside and her crew passed down a bottle of wine to Captain Joshua Slocum, alone in his tiny boat in the middle of the ocean.



A week later he arrived in the **Azores** and the islanders were so kind to him that he stayed with them for four days before putting out once more into the Atlantic, on his way to **Gibraltar**. He had eaten too much during the four days, and was very sick, but he reached his destination in good time. He had sailed the Atlantic in 34 days.

Captain Slocum was born in Nova Scotia. The sea was in his blood and while still a youth he sailed to China and to Australia. He became a captain when he was only 25 years old and before his fiftieth birthday he had visited all the distant corners of the world and had been shipwrecked twice.

He was living ashore in semi-retirement when he heard about the *Spray*. It had been lying in a field for seven years and Captain Slocum had to rebuild the boat completely in readiness for his long voyage.

When he reached Gibraltar the men of the Royal Navy gave him a great welcome, but they advised him to turn back and make his trip round the world in the opposite direction! The seas around the North African coast, they told him, were full of pirates.

So once again he sailed out into the Atlantic. In the middle of a gale he realised he was being chased – by a pirate ship! Luckily the storm broke the pirates' mast and Captain Slocum's fine seamanship took him out of danger.

In forty days he reached **Brazil** and prepared for the most dangerous part of his voyage, through the Magellan Straits to the Pacific. He would have to pass **Tierra del Fuego**, inhabited by hostile savages. As he was sailing alone he covered the deck with carpet tacks every night while he slept. If the Fuegians in their fast canoes climbed onboard while he slept he hoped the tacks on their bare feet would give him plenty of warning.

One night, while the *Spray* rode at anchor, a party of natives did climb aboard, but the tacks sent them jumping straight back into their canoes!

He eventually reached the Pacific and sailed to Australia through weeks of rough, stormy weather, calling at **Samoa** on the way. On one stage of his journey he went for more than ten weeks without seeing another human being.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today* Volume 2, available on the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>.

From **Australia** he sailed to the **Indian Ocean**, thence to the islands of **Rodrigues** and **Mauritius** before reaching the Atlantic again after calling at **Cape Town**. When the *Spray* finally dropped anchor at **Newport, Rhode Island**, Captain Slocum had circled the globe in just over three years, covering a distance of 46,000 miles.

### Some things to make

By now we have read about quite a few intrepid sailors, Captain Beech (10<sup>th</sup> May), Thor Hyadal (April 28<sup>th</sup>), Vancouver (May 19<sup>th</sup>), Alain Bombard (May 25<sup>th</sup>), Drake (June 17<sup>th</sup>), Captain Cook (June 25<sup>th</sup>) – can you remember which of them sailed right round (circumnavigated) the world? Now you can add Captain Slocum to the list. Look up his route in your Atlas. It might be interesting to compare the various routes the circumnavigators took. Slocum's would certainly seem the most unusual. Copy or trace an outline map of the world from your atlas and mark on the various routes.<sup>2</sup> Making your own sailing boat would be fun.<sup>3</sup>

### Something to read

Perhaps the best sea adventure story for boys and girls is Arthur Ransome's *We didn't Mean to go to Sea*. Reading it would go well with today's real life sea story. You could request it from your local library if you do not have a copy.<sup>4</sup>

### Something to read from history

For us to know about the experiences of such men as Captain Slocum, they had to note down what happened to them *at the time*. Recollections years later are much less trustworthy. Also they had to write down things that might have seemed insignificant at the time. We never know what is going to happen that will make something we have done that is mundane suddenly seem extraordinary. A Ship's diary is called a logbook. In most countries it is a legal requirement for a ship's captain to keep a record or log of events including speed, wind, weather conditions, location and so on. All very ordinary – but important if something subsequently goes wrong and needs investigating. Another word for a diary is a journal. Both can describe a similar kind of record but a journal can mean something less personal than a diary and nearer to a logbook. Here is an extract from a famous journal:

Journal of George Whitefield (1714-1770) Sunday **1<sup>st</sup> July** 1739

Preached at seven o'clock in the morning to a much increased audience in my brother's field. Breakfasted at Gloucester; preached at eleven in the morning, read prayers in the afternoon, preached again in the afternoon at Randwick Church, about seven miles from Gloucester. The church was quite full, and about 2000 were in the churchyard, who, by taking down the window that lay behind the pulpit, had the conveniency of hearing. Many wept sorely.

After this service I hastened to Hampton Common, and to my great surprise, found no less than twenty thousand, on horseback and on foot ready to receive me. I spoke with greater freedom than I had done the day before. About twelve at night, I reached Gloucester much fresher than when I left it in the morning. Surely Jesus Christ is a gracious master. They that wait upon Him shall renew their strength.

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2 .You can find instructions for making a paper globe here: <https://joachimesque.com/globe>; it might be possible to mark the routes on it.

3 There is a simple sailing raft to make here: <https://redtri.com/how-to-make-your-own-sailboat/> that looks as if it would sail well, although perhaps not right round the world. Older children could make it for younger children to play with.

4 Or you can read it here: <https://www.fadedpage.com/showbook.php?pid=20180428>.

Can you imagine what twenty thousand people would look like! Even the two thousand that crowded into the churchyard at Randwick is hard to visualise.<sup>5</sup> I cannot find a place called Hampton Common anywhere near Gloucester but there is a huge open space at Minchinhampton Common about five miles from Randwick so I assume that was the place. It would definitely have held 20,000 people!



George Whitefield was an evangelist who travelled thousands of miles preaching mostly in the open air all over Britain and in America. He was greatly used by God to awaken people to a knowledge of their need of a Saviour from sin and thousands professed conversion to Christ as a result of hearing him preach. In America he was responsible for founding an orphanage, collecting money for the orphans as he travelled around preaching.

Imagine having a voice that could be heard by 20,000 people! Benjamin Franklin in his autobiography explained:

He [Whitefield] had a loud and clear voice, and articulated his words and sentences so perfectly, that he might be heard and understood at a great distance, especially as his auditories, however numerous, observ'd the most exact silence. He preach'd one evening from the top of the Court-house steps, which are in the middle of Market-street, and on the west side of Second-street, which crosses it at right angles. Both streets were fill'd with his hearers to a considerable distance. Being among the hindmost in Market-street, I had the curiosity to learn how far he could be heard, by retiring backwards down the street towards the river; and I found his voice distinct till I came near Front-street, when some noise in that street obscur'd it. Imagining then a semi-circle, of which my distance should be the radius, and that it were fill'd with auditors, to each of whom I allow'd two square feet.<sup>6</sup> I computed that he might well be heard by more than thirty thousand. This reconcil'd me to the newspaper accounts of his having preach'd to twenty-five thousand people in the fields...

One of Whitefield's best known sermons is that entitled "The Almost Christian"<sup>7</sup>  
Here is an extract:

Let us not take some Pains all our Lives to go to Heaven, and yet plunge ourselves into Hell at last. Let us give GOD our whole Hearts, and no longer halt between two Opinions: If the World be GOD, let us serve That; If Pleasure be a GOD, let us serve That; but if the LORD He be GOD, let us, Oh let us serve Him alone.... Let me therefore, to conclude, exhort you, my Brethren, to have always the Unspeakable Reward of an entire Obedience set before you; and think withal, that Degree of Holiness you neglect, every Instance of Piety you pass by, is a Jewel taken out of your Crown, a Degree of Blessedness lost in the Vision of GOD. Oh! do but always think and act thus, and you will no longer be labouring to compound Matters between GOD and the World; but on the contrary, be daily endeavouring to give up your selves more and more unto Him; you will be always Watching, always Praying, always aspiring after farther Degrees of Purity, and Love, and so consequently always preparing

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5 .There is a useful tool here <http://www.gkstill.com/Support/crowd-density/625sm/Density6.html> which shows you what various crowd densities look like with a tennis court as a frame of reference.

6 This is 0.185 square metres per person. I calculate the maximum according to Prof. Dr. G. Keith Still, *Crowd Safety and Crowd Risk Analysis* to be 1.6 square metres per person.

7 You can read it in full here:<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/evans/N03637.0001.001/1:3?rgn=div1;view=fulltext>.

yourselves for a fuller Light and Enjoyment of that GOD, in whose Presence there is Fullness of Joy, and at whose Right Hand there are Pleasures for evermore! Amen! Amen!

### Something to do

**Clear** speaking helps us communicate. Go outdoors and experiment with observing how far away you can be heard when speaking quietly. Can you increase the distance by changing only the speed of your speech? Can you speak more clearly and so be heard without speaking any louder? Notice that Franklin says Whitefield's listeners were very quiet. If there is a lot of traffic noise where you live you may not be able to do the experiment outside at all, in which case try it indoors.