

## The Cutty Sark



Do you have an atlas? An atlas is a big book of maps. An atlas is useful. It can help you understand where different countries are. You can find out how far away different countries are. Look in an atlas now. Can you find a map of Scotland? Look

for the town of **Dumbarton**. It is near Glasgow. It is on the river Clyde. In the rest of the story I will mark the places in **green**. Look for them in your atlas.

The *Cutty Sark* was built in Dumbarton. On **23<sup>rd</sup> November** 1869 the *Cutty Sark* was put in the water for the first time. She was a tea clipper. Away she sailed to her new home port. Her home port was **London**.

A tea clipper was a fast sailing ship. It was a ship made for a special race. It raced every year. Every year it went to **China**. In China it loaded up with



tea. Then it sailed home as fast as it could. There were other tea clippers. They sailed to China too. They loaded up with tea. Whichever one got home first made most money. Why? Because people in England wanted the best tea. The best tea was from the new season's crop. The old tea from last year was not so tasty any more. "Hooray," people said. "Here is the first tea clipper back from China. We will buy our tea now. It will be better than the old tea." They would pay a high price for the new tea. Then the other clippers arrived. They had new tea too. But most people had already bought theirs. The second, third, fourth clippers had to sell the tea more cheaply. Only people with less money would wait for them.

Find the **Suez Canal** in your atlas. This canal was opened in the year the Cutty Sark was launched. Can you see that the canal made a short cut? Ships could go through the canal. China was not so far away now!

The Cutty Sark is the only tea clipper left today. She does not sail to China any more. She does not sail anywhere. She lives at **Greenwich**. People can go on board. They can see what a sailor's life was like on a Clipper. But even in Greenwich the Cutty Sark has had adventures. Twice she has caught fire. People have quarrelled about her. They could not agree about the best way to look after her. It is expensive to look after an old ship. It has cost over 46 million pounds to put her on display.

Look at the picture. The Cutty Sark has been raised up. She is on a special platform. Visitors can see the whole ship. They see right underneath.

Do you know how to make a good cup of tea? Ask someone to show you how to do it!

