



### Lesson 3.1

## Circumstances on board



Life on board was very structured. Each day began with prayer. At 8 o'clock everybody went to work. There was always something to do, such as cleaning, making repairs and keeping watch.

Once the crew boarded the ship they were divided into watches. Almost every watch lasted four hours. The duration of the watch was measured by an hourglass, or glass. Each glass lasted half an hour. After each half hour the hourglass was turned over while simultaneously ringing the ships bell so all members of the crew knew half an hour had passed.

### ① Heavy circumstances

A voyage with a trade ship to Western Africa, the West Indies and back could last up-to two years.

The circumstances on board could be very rough.

Can you name four reasons why?

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1 ..... | 3 ..... |
| 2 ..... | 4 ..... |

### ② Bad weather

What do you consider bad weather?

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

What kind of weather would be especially bad for The Unity? (think carefully)

Why?

- .....
- .....
- .....



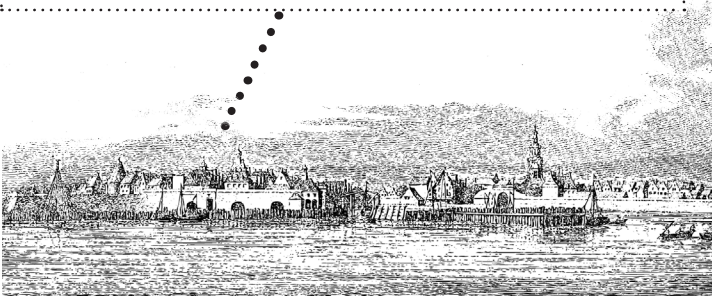
### ③ Surgeon

The surgeon on The Unity was Petrus Henricus Couperus.

What was his duty?

The surgeon registered everything carefully in his logbook. Why is this so important?

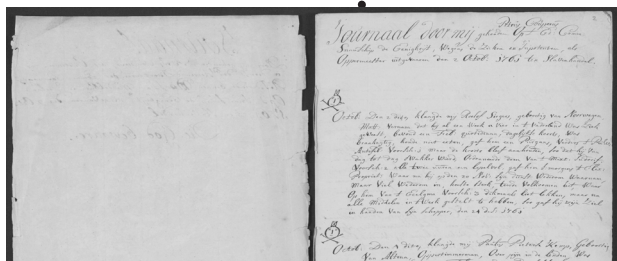
The surgeon 'observe thefe worms engendered within' one of the boys. What was wrong with him?



#### ④ Passed away

What happened to a crewmember who passed away aboard?

- He was buried on land
- He was given a seamen's burial.
- He remained on the ship



#### Food on board

The food on board was not varied; the cook brought as many items as possible to prepare the food from home. During the voyage this could be supplemented with products from various countries.

The cook brought the following:

*Ships bread, Flower, Peas, Groats, Stockfish, Barrels of (cured) meat, 'Meij' Cheeses, Salt, Butter.*

#### ⑥ Menu

Create a weekly menu for the crew. Don't think of what would be for breakfast, lunch or dinner, but write down what the crew would eat during the day.

Monday .....

Tuesday .....

Wednesday .....

Thursday .....

Friday .....

Saturday .....

Sunday .....

#### ⑤ Life on board

From our perspective life on board was not very healthy. How do you think the following things were done/taken care of?

- Wash yourself.  
.....
- Wash clothing.  
.....
- Fresh air.  
.....
- Sedating a patient for surgery.  
.....
- Amputate an arm or leg.  
.....
- Warming or keeping the deck dry.  
.....
- Obtaining medicine.  
.....
- Extinguishing fires.  
.....
- Set a broken leg.  
.....
- Prevent scurvy  
.....