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Thousands of cargo ships sail around the world every day, loading and unloading in busy ports, to transport the things we need. It can be dangerous and difficult work, and an accident involving one ship can cause delays for many other ships. We rely on sea transport much more than we realise!



Information Report/Recount

Sea Transport

Carmel Reilly



Sea Transport

Carmel Reilly



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Sea Transport

From One Part of the World to Another

Every day, people buy and use things that come from faraway places. Computers, clothing, toys, cars and many kinds of food come from overseas. But how do all of these goods get from one part of the world to another?

While planes can carry some goods between countries, most items are transported by sea in large ships called **cargo ships**. Different kinds of cargo ships carry different kinds of **products** (things made to be sold). There are **tankers** and **bulk carriers** to take large amounts of liquid or dry goods, refrigerated ships to transport cold products and ships that only carry vehicles. The most common type of cargo ship is the container ship, which can transport many kinds of items in large **containers**.

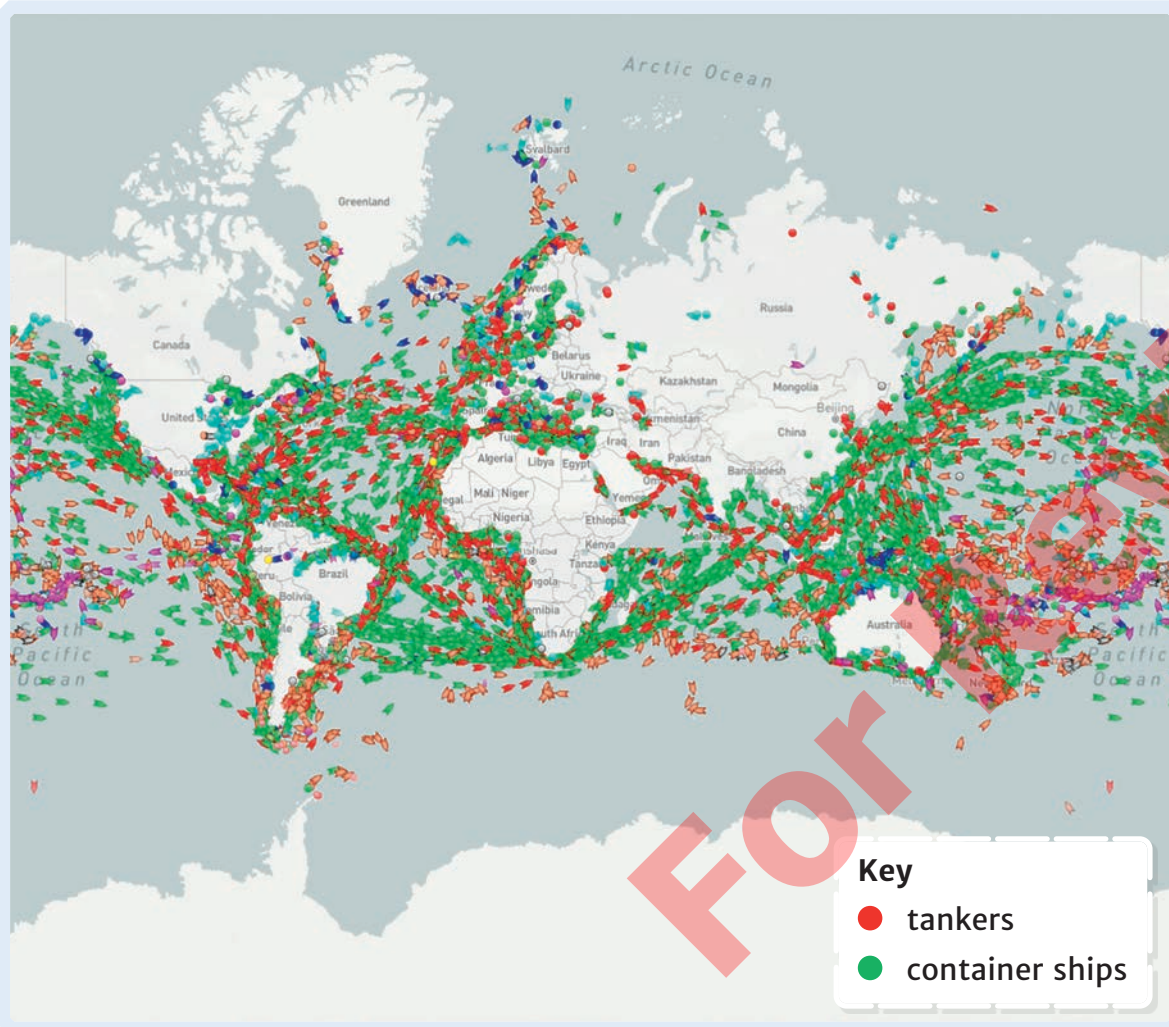


a container ship



a tanker

There are thousands of cargo ships at sea. They are constantly on the move, sailing between **ports** all over the world to pick up and drop off goods. Their ability to transport products easily and cheaply is what makes sea transport so popular.



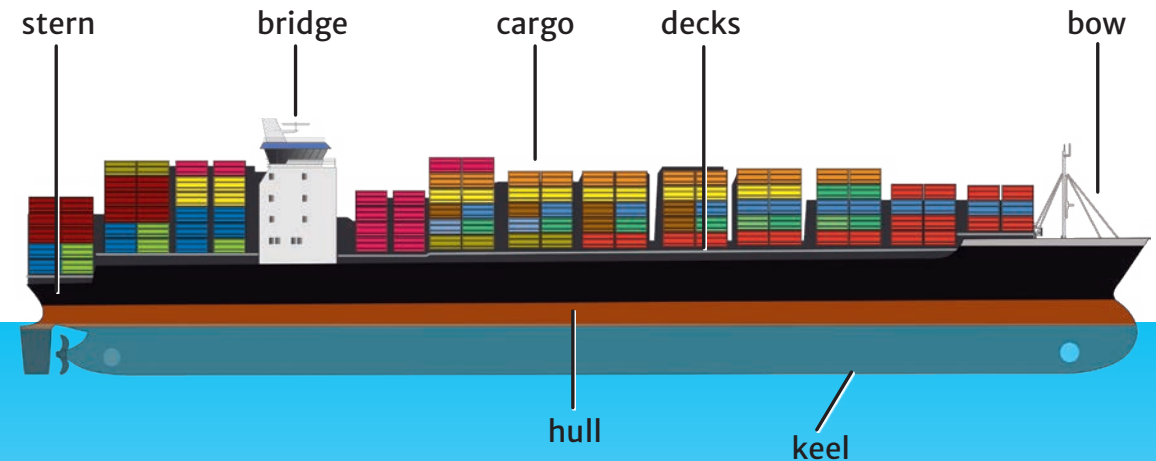
This map shows every ship on the ocean at one time.

Ships and Their Cargo

Cargo ships carry almost 90 per cent of the goods that are sent around the world. The most common types of cargo are food, vehicles, furniture, electronics, minerals, iron and steel, clothes and toys. Most cargo is sent between companies from different countries, while a small part of cargo is made up of things that people have ordered online.

With so many different kinds of cargo, many different kinds of ships are needed to carry it.

The Different Parts of a Container Ship



Tankers and Bulk Carriers

Tankers and bulk carriers are ships that carry large amounts of unpackaged goods. Tankers can transport liquids, such as chemicals and oil, or gases. Bulk carriers transport dry goods, such as grain or woodchips. The products these ships carry are loaded directly into the **hold**, which is a large space in the ship's **hull**, or base. In many cases, these ships have been made to transport only one thing, such as **petroleum** or fruit juice, and they will only ever carry that product.



Grain is loaded into the hold of a bulk carrier in Ukraine.

Roll-on Roll-off Ships

There are some cargo ships that are only used to transport vehicles. These are called **roll-on roll-off ships**. They were given this name because vehicles can be driven straight on and off them at a **dock**. These ships can carry cars, trucks, tractors and even heavy machinery, such as bulldozers and cranes.



Brand new cars are lined up to be driven onto a roll-on roll-off ship.

Roll-on roll-off ships have wide hulls with a number of **decks**, or levels. These allow them to fit in as many vehicles as possible. The largest ships have 12 decks, and can carry more than 6000 cars at one time.

