



Class Afloat News

Around the world in 300 Days

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LINKING CLASSROOMS AROUND THE WORLD TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SAILING AROUND THE WORLD

The Canary Islands...



Andrew Schuman
11/6/97
Terrific Tenerife!

Tenerife is one of the seven islands that make up the Canary Islands. We arrived there from Gran Canaria via jet foil after a smooth 90 minute ride at 40 knots. At sea-level, Tenerife is like any other Canary Island. The uniqueness of Tenerife becomes evident as you rise in altitude. Tenerife is a volcanic island, and once upon a time it was actually three separate

islands until a large eruption joined the three into one. Throughout the centuries, the towns of Tenerife have fallen victim to the power of the volcanoes and have been rebuilt several times.

The highlight of our tour was a trip up to the top of the tallest peak, El Tiede. As we rose to an altitude too high to support the life of the pine trees, we could look out towards the ocean and see a beautiful swirl of clouds over the lowlands. We continued further upward. Soon, what had been sparse vegetation turned into none at all. The weather

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive.”

Robert Louis Stevenson

remained sunny but became extremely cold. We also visited some bizarre rock formations along the way.

On our descent we were treated with a quick downpour which created a gorgeous rainbow and with it a great photographic opportunity. We also visited the symbolic dragon tree which is huge and roughly 500 years old. At 19h30, we caught a three hour ferry ride home during which we watched Dennis the Menace and Casper in Spanish. We got home late and the day was long and tiring but well worth it.

Concordia and her crew were delayed leaving the Canary Islands and will not make a stop in St. Lucia as scheduled.



EXTRA! EXTRA!

11/1 Had Captain's inspection during the morning, deck clean-up in the afternoon

11/2 Went to Tenerife—the largest of the Canary Islands, toured the main port called Santa Cruz, visited Tiede

11/4 Classes in the morning, some students prepared for the SATs, the marine biology class went snorkeling on the reef

11/5 Some students took college admission tests, in evening had high winds and heavy rain

11/6 Provisioned ship, students had afternoon shore leave, prepared to go back to sea after extended stay in the Canary Islands

11/8 November is Sea Appreciation Month aboard the *Concordia*, to start it off each student wrote a message and put it in a bottle, each day a student will throw his/her bottle into the sea

11/9 Another beautiful day at sea, our first 'message in a bottle' was sent today

11/10 Learned about the history and culture of Cape Verde in preparation for our next stop, had story time in the evening with Mr. Hughes

11/11 Remembrance Day service (Canadian Holiday) held at Colors and we observed a moment of silence at 11h00, beautiful day at sea, saw dolphins playing and flying fish surfing the waves near the bow

Student Journals



Daniel Grund
11/6/97
Baggy Wrinkles

Onboard the *Concordia*, we have something called baggy wrinkles. They are used to keep the sails from rubbing against the metal stays and ripping. Over the last few months, we have been making them hour after hour, day after day. To make them, first we cut a line into small parts then shred these small parts into even smaller parts. We tie those little strands onto a ten foot long string. Hundreds of these strands have to be individually tied onto that string. You might guess that doing baggy wrinkles is not a favorite activity onboard the *Concordia*.

Upon reaching the Canaries it was decided that all one hundred had to be completed right away. So a new 'holiday' was created. Sunday, October 26th became Baggy Wrinkle Day. Every student onboard had to complete their own 10-foot-long baggy wrinkle. Nobody could go to bed until they completed theirs. It took 4 hours of numbing, monotonous work. Though tedious, it was extremely satisfying after they were all completed.



Charlie Moon
11/6/97
Trapped in Paradise

As I sit here writing, the chalkboard in front of me says for all to see: Canary Islands—Trapped in Paradise Count: 21 days. But who is counting? That is three weeks, almost a month. What was supposed to be eight days of sun, surf and exams has turned into permanent residency. We know the locals by name, have the fastest route from McDonald's to the ship planned out and make daily pilgrimages to El Corte Ingles (a big department store). By now we have tried every flavor of ice cream at Baskin Robbins, visited almost every museum, and snorkeled enough to draw topography maps of the beach by memory.

I called home a few days ago to voice my discontent at still being here. The response was people from Europe love the Canary Islands for holidays. I said, I don't care Mom, I want out of here. It is not that I dislike the Canaries, it is just that I like the ocean more. We have become accustomed to life of ever changing scenery, and seeing the same bench, the same lamp post, the same ferry come and go at the same time every day has become painfully mundane. There is a rumor we will leave today. I have heard it before. But maybe it is time to finally say good bye to the cockroaches I have tried to keep off of the ship for these past nights.



Melissa Reichle Rieley
11/3/97
Mug Up

Last night was our first official mug up of the year. You may ask yourself what is a mug up. Well, it is a time when the student crew gets together and has hot chocolate and snacks and talk and have fun. At 8h30 we all meet up on the bow with pillows and sleeping bags in hand. We all get snugly and get ready to watch some planned games by the Entertainment Committee.

As we were served steaming hot chocolate we watch a game called the Oreo race. The object of the game was to stick the side of the Oreo with the cream on your forehead then without using your hands and by using your face muscles you need to get the cookie from your forehead to your mouth. Four people race to eat the cookie first. I burned so many calories watching that game just from laughing.

Afterwards everyone was allowed to share in the wealth of cookies and we all laid back and relaxed and listened to our two singers onboard, Dan and Dani sing two songs from the Phantom of the Opera. They were extraordinary. After the beautiful duet, Grant read us some inspirational stories and other personal learning stories from his handy book, Don't Sweat the Small Stuff. He closed with the famous fable of the lion and the mouse, and then sent us to bed. The mug up was a blast and it really brought the students together and I am looking forward to the next one, which only means more laughs and fun to come.

Q&A

Q. What was your favorite stop so far?

Jamie G., Hamilton, Indiana

A. This is actually not an easy question, because I have had so much fun in so many places. One place that always comes up though, is Scotland. In Scotland we experienced more than could have been expected. I had fantastic ideas about Scotland because of everything we heard about it. It was



astounding to see them all be true. The loch certainly could contain a monster. The cool, misty, and heather-covered highland is just what

you would expect. I could certainly see a castle perched on any rock I saw. On the other hand, France was more than a person should be capable of feeling. To see the infinite tan beaches, dramatic cliffs and scenery from the painters perfect landscape was wonderful. But today I feel that Scotland was the best place we have visited this semester.

Nicholas Lennon

Q. What is it like going to the bathroom when it is really rough out?

Ryan M., Dunbarton Elementary School, Dunbarton, NH

A. It is funny that you asked about going to the bathroom on a ship because actually doing anything in the head (bathroom) is challenging.



I can imagine that you might think it is worse than it is. Personally, I don't usually have too much trouble but when the guys

onboard heard your question they said to tell you "very carefully." Often it feels as though a chair is pulled out from under you because when you go to sit down if the ship suddenly moves in the other direction you lose your footing and end up on the floor or in the shower. Going to the bathroom is only one of the everyday things that on ship becomes a totally new experience.

Eliza Priest

Q. Do you have to pass a physical test to be allowed to go aloft?

Elaine D., Longworth, TX

A. To go aloft everyone has to pass a physical test. We have to be able to do one chin-up. If a person were to fall off the footrope (the rope that you stand on when furling or ungasketing a sail from the yard) they would have to be able to pull



themselves back up. At first none of the girls could do a chin up but slowly more and more are going aloft. We have a work out program

set up that will prepare more people for the chin up test. Hopefully, by Jamaica everyone will be up on the yards.

Jennifer Mitchell

Q. Has anyone had a hat blow off?

Ashley H., Hamilton, Indiana

A. This question fits me perfectly. When the questions were distributed I was shocked. I, too, am from Indiana...Carmel, Indiana to be exact. It is cool to hear from a local. To answer your question, yes, I have had a hat fall overboard. That hat was very special. I got the hat from Abercrombie, Fitch and Co. last Christmas. It became my



hat and I became its head. We were meant to be together. A good broken-in hat is always good to have. This hat was perfect. It was

faded and it had a couple of random holes here and there.

The traumatic episode started one night on night watch. The first-mate, Wojciech, called for sail maneuvers. We hoisted the main staysail, forestaysail, inner and outer jib. The bosun, Piotor, asked me to help with sheeting in the fore staysail. As we sheeted in, a gust of wind picked my hat up off my head and rested it on the edge of the rail. For some reason I thought I had more time then I actually did. I finished sheeting in, and as I reached down to seize it we hit a huge swell and it tumbled in to the rough waters. It was 3 a.m. and my head was cold.

But I have moved on. Since then I got a new polo hat. I tried to bleach it, but it was eaten away by the bleach. Now I have a new hat again. One student's dad sent her a couple of Concordia University hats that say *Concordia*. This hat is very good and it will be with me for a long time.

Grant Kirsh

Current Events

Cape Verde: A Closer Look

by Amy Austin

Cape Verde consists of a group of nine populated and six unpopulated islands, located in the Atlantic Ocean due west of the most western point of Africa. After many centuries of conflicts between the French, English, and Dutch the archipelago became a permanent colony of Portugal in the mid nineteenth century after the slave trade was abolished, but obtained its independence in 1975.

When the islands were first discovered in the fifteenth century they were uninhabited. This most likely is due to the fact the land is almost incapable of supporting wild life. Due to passing wind currents, the weather conditions can be quite harsh. Long lasting droughts usually end with violent rains that cause severe flooding. Only ten percent of the land typically is suitable for agricultural purposes.

Since food products that come from the land are unreliable, a large group of Cape Verdeans spend their lives "harvesting" another type of




"crop." This group, mainly consisting of men, are known as "artisans." Artisans are fishermen who carry on the traditions of fisherman generations before them. Over the centuries fishing has become a craft on Cape Verde.

Many conditions control how much money the fishermen make during a season. Were the waters too rough? The sun too strong? Too many tourists? Due to all of these conditions, artisans are generally very poor. They wear their garments until they are mere rags that can no longer protect them from the wind and rain. Many jokes are made about the smell of an artisanal after a day's work.

Although the fisherman and lobstermen provide their fellow

countrymen with about 75% of their total protein intake, they are seldom shown the respect they deserve. Whenever the government or outside agencies make efforts to combat poverty, which is rampant throughout Cape Verde, the fisherman in their traditional villages are usually the last to feel the positive effects. Lobstermen, especially, risk their lives everyday by using improper equipment in order to ensure the survival of their families. Presently, there are many groups who are trying to raise awareness of this part of Cape Verdean culture and the various contributions it makes.



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Send us your questions!

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Ship's Log

11/12/97 Day 83

TIME: 0800 GMT
MILES SAILED SINCE COPENHAGEN: 4570 nm
MILES SAILED IN LAST 24 HRS: 181.5 nm
POS: 17°10'N, 023°09'W
SAILS: r, tg, lt, ut, c, m, mgt
SPEED: 9
WIND: ESE 13 kts
AIR TEMP: 22°C
SEAS: moderate swell
BAROMETER: 1018 mb, steady

KEY:
kts=knots
mb=millibars
nm=nautical miles
ft=feet
°C=degrees Celsius
WX=weather