

ACTIVITY PAGE

Dare the Wind:

The Record-Breaking Voyage of Eleanor Prentiss and the *Flying Cloud*

Below are listed a variety of activities. Nonfiction picture books can be used with a wide range of ages and are excellent for English Language Learners (ELLs) to build content knowledge along with language. Choose what is appropriate for the needs of your students along with varied groupings.

Geography and Math

- Maps – Use a string and a scale of miles to figure the distance from New York to San Francisco around Cape Horn. Then compare the distance using the Panama Canal.
- Math – Figure the speed of the *Flying Cloud* in miles/day and miles/hour.

Reading and Language

- Character – Use a character chart to identify three character traits for Ellen. Record textual evidence.
- Figurative Language –
 - Find similes, alliteration, sensory language;
 - Discuss what it means to “have saltwater in your veins” and “read the sea.” Consider some other things you can “read” such as faces, the sky, etc.
Create an expression to tell about yourself that compares to “saltwater in your veins.”
 - Sensory language: Describe a place you’ve been using your senses.
- Writing – Imagine you are Ellen. Write a journal entry for a day on the trip.
- Vocabulary - Generate a list of various boats, ships, and water going vessels. Categorize or sequence them in various ways, such as speed, safety, history, culture, etc.

Social Studies:

- Imagine you are headed to California in 1851 as part of the Gold Rush. Compare and contrast the dangers of traveling from Massachusetts to San Francisco by land versus by sea. Which would you choose? Why?