



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



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Sailing Competition

Quest for the Cup

This summer in San Francisco Bay, four teams from around the world have set sail hoping to claim the oldest trophy in international sport — the America's Cup.

The 34th America's Cup Finals will take place Sept. 7 to 21 between the current cup-holder, Oracle

Team USA, and an international opponent. Teams from Italy, Sweden and New Zealand competed in July and August for the right to challenge the Americans in the Cup Finals.

The Mini Page spoke with an official at America's Cup headquarters to learn more about the sport of sailing and the historic event now underway in one of America's most famous waterways.



San Francisco Bay. The gray area around the bay is the city of San Francisco.

image courtesy America's Cup

photo courtesy USGS



photo by Gullian Grenier, © Oracle Team USA

Oracle Team USA will defend its trophy against the international winner of the America's Cup Challenger Series.

Oracle Team USA's skipper, or leader, is Jimmy Spithill, who is Australian. This will be Spithill's fifth America's Cup competition and his third Finals.

Older than the Olympics

In 1851, 45 years before the first Modern Olympic Games, U.S. sailors aboard the schooner (SKOO-ner) *America* defeated 15 other boats in a 53-mile race around the Isle of Wight off the southern coast of Great Britain. The trophy was named after this first winner.

American yachts (yahts) kept the America's Cup in 24 challenges from 1870 to 1983. That year, an Australian boat became the first international challenger to win. Since then, teams from New Zealand, Switzerland and the U.S. have won the cup. An American team reclaimed the cup in 2010 by defeating the Swiss off the coast of Spain.



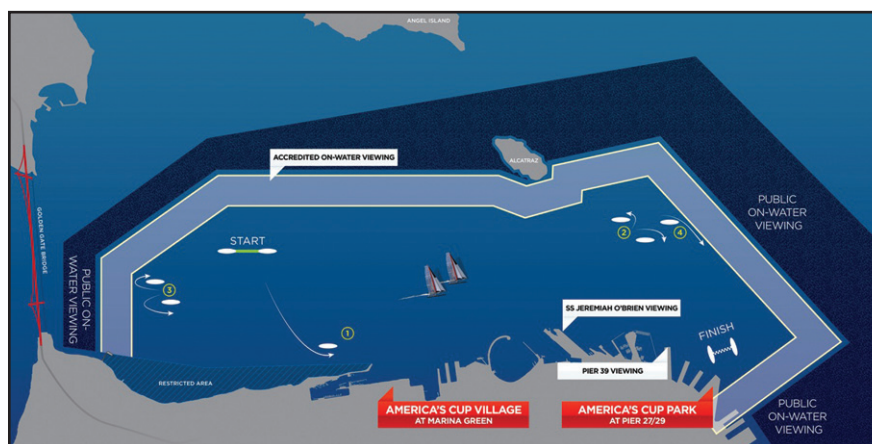
image courtesy America's Cup

This 1851 painting by artist Fitz Hugh Lane shows the schooner *America* winning the first America's Cup race in Britain. A schooner is a sailing ship with two or more masts, where the forward mast is smaller than the rear.

The Race Course

This year marks the first time that an America's Cup competition has been held so close to a city. Spectators will be able to watch the racing from along the shore or from the water on their own boats.

The course is between 6 and 10 nautical miles long. The first team to win nine of 17 races in the Finals will win the trophy.



The America's Cup Park and America's Cup Village are places to watch the races and enjoy entertainment. Afterward, the area will become San Francisco's new cruise ship terminal.

Image courtesy America's Cup

Learn Some Sailing Language, Mate!

America's Cup sailors use specific words to describe parts of their boats and the work they do.

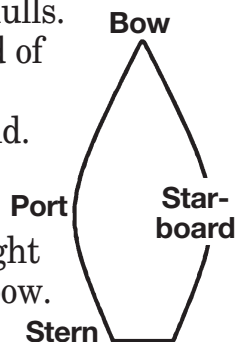
- **Hull:** the main body of the boat; a catamaran has two hulls.

- **Bow:** the front end of a boat.

- **Stern:** the back end.

- **Port:** the left side, when facing the bow.

- **Starboard:** the right side, when facing the bow.



- **Helm:** to control the direction the boat is heading. The helm is also the location where the boat is controlled, often using a large steering wheel.

- **Tack:** the direction a boat is heading; "tack" can also mean a change of direction.

- **Mast:** a vertical column in the middle of the boat.

- **Wing:** the larger, main sail.

- **Jib:** the smaller, forward sail.

- **Hydrofoils**, or "foils": small, wing-shaped blades attached below the hull that lift it above the water, allowing the boat to go faster. A boat is "foiling" when it is out of the water with only the foils in contact with the water's surface.

- **Nautical mile:** measurement of distance in water that is slightly longer than a land mile; 1 nautical mile = 1.15 land miles.

- **Knot:** speed of a boat; 1 knot is 1 nautical mile per hour.

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Ready Resources

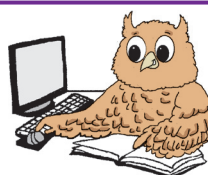
The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- americascup.com
- startsailing.org
- training.ussailing.org/Learning/Getting_started.htm
- cleverpig.org

At the library:

- "America's Cup" by S.L. Hamilton
- "Eyewitness: Boat" by Eric Kentley



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TM
Basset Brown
The News
Hound's

America's Cup TRY 'N' FIND

Words that remind us of the America's Cup are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: BOW, CATAMARAN, CHALLENGE, COURSE, CUP, HELM, HULL, HYDROFOIL, INTERNATIONAL, NAUTICAL, PORT, RACE, SAIL, SAN FRANCISCO, SCHOONER, SKIPPER, STARBOARD, STERN, TACK, TEAM, TROPHY, YACHT.

THIS IS ONE
BIG CUP!



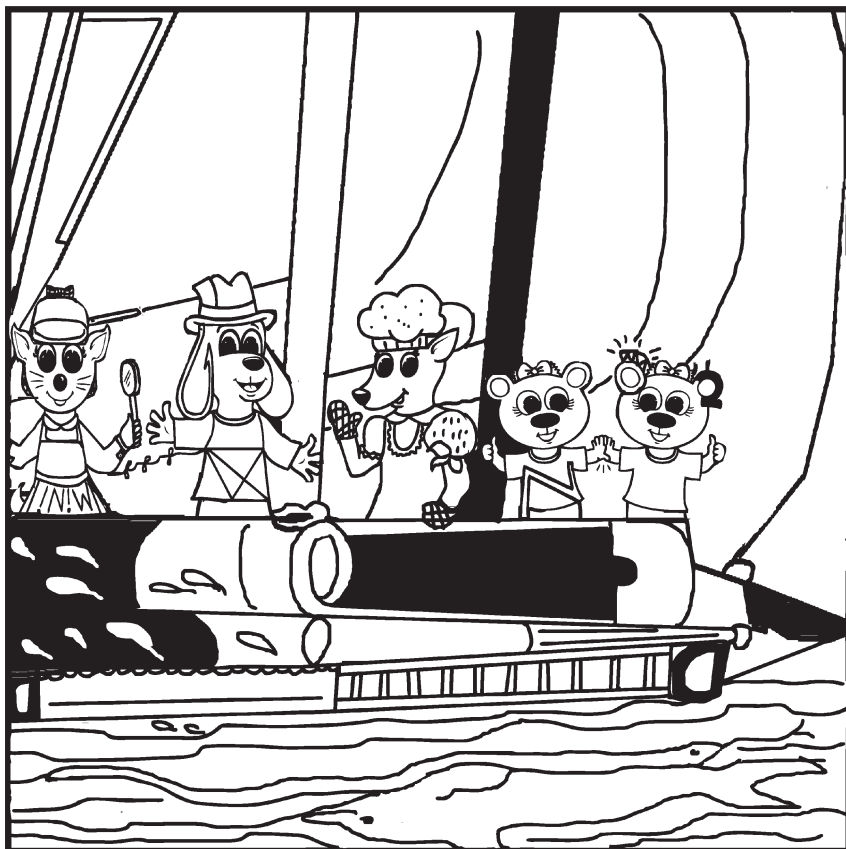
O	C	S	I	C	N	A	R	F	N	A	S	W	S	D
L	T	J	C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	L	K	R
I	A	T	M	H	E	T	N	B	M	Q	B	A	I	A
A	C	H	R	P	O	S	A	R	O	A	V	C	P	O
S	K	C	A	O	L	O	R	M	E	W	E	I	P	B
H	X	A	C	R	P	L	N	U	A	T	P	T	E	R
E	V	Y	E	T	Y	H	U	E	O	R	S	U	R	A
L	I	O	F	O	R	D	Y	H	R	C	A	A	C	T
M	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	R	E	T	N	I	S

Mini Spy . . .



Mini Spy and her friends are out sailing! See if you can find:

- snake
- number 7
- ladder
- word MINI
- ring
- muffin
- fishhook
- safety pin
- letter Z
- pot
- kite
- dolphin
- baseball bat
- saw
- strawberry
- number 2
- letter D



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Couscous Salad



You'll need:

- 1 (5.8-ounce) box couscous
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 large nectarine, chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cups fresh spinach, chopped
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 (15.5-ounce) can chickpeas, drained

What to do:

1. Cook couscous according to directions; allow to cool.
2. In a small bowl, combine lime juice, olive oil, honey, salt and cumin. Whisk to blend.
3. In a large bowl, mix couscous with nectarine, spinach, bell pepper and chickpeas.
4. Add dressing and stir to distribute evenly. Serves 6 to 8.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Shawana Kemp



photo by BittenbyZebra

Shawana Kemp is the leader of the soul music band Shine and the Moonbeams. Their most recent CD for kids has the same name as the group.

Shawana grew up in New York City. She has performed in several musicals and toured with the Monty Python Broadway musical "Spamalot."

"I just loved singing," Shawana says. When she was a child, "it was how I used to soothe myself. I remember singing on the steps when people hurt my feelings."

She went to a high school for the performing arts and took voice lessons there. She studied classical choral music and has a graduate degree in musical education.

Shawana has worked as a teaching artist specializing in conflict resolution in the New York City public schools. She wrote songs to help her students learn to handle their emotions. This inspired her to write more songs for kids.

Shawana has also been a voice actor for the Nickelodeon TV series "As Told by Ginger."

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Gus Goodsport's Report

Supersport: Russell Wilson



Height: 5-11 **Birthdate:** 11-29-88
Weight: 206 **Hometown:** Richmond, Va.

No, you don't have to be tall to play quarterback in pro football. Russell Wilson proved that to everybody last year, including those people who thought he was too short to succeed at the position.

A third-round draft pick, Wilson is one of the best NFL QBs who can run, pass — and win. In 2012, he passed for 3,118 yards and 26 touchdowns, gained an additional 489 yards rushing with four touchdowns and led the Seattle Seahawks into the playoffs.

Wilson starred at Wisconsin and North Carolina State, where he graduated in three years. He played pro baseball before focusing strictly on football.

Wilson spent part of the offseason conducting football camps for underprivileged youth. He also has a charity to help young people in need.

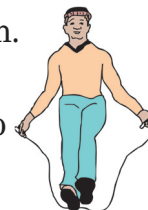
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MIGHTY FUNNY'S

Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?



Sue: Why did the sailboat crew member decide to jump rope?

Sidney: He wanted to be the skipper!

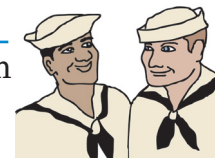


Stuart: How do America's Cup sailors clean their clothes?

Solomon: They toss them overboard to be washed ashore!

Steven: How do retired sailors greet each other?

Simon: "Long time, no sea!"



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America's Cup

A new era on the waves

In this America's Cup, teams will sail the AC72, a **catamaran** (CAT-uh-muh-ran). A catamaran is a boat with two parallel hulls that are identical in size. They are connected by a platform that sits above the water, allowing waves and air to pass between the two hulls.

While earlier America's Cup boats could not compete in rough conditions with high winds and waves, the AC72 catamarans can slice right through them.

The AC72s also use **hydrofoils** — small wings that are lowered into the water and can lift the hulls above the water. This allows the boats to reach speeds of 50 mph or more — sometimes more than twice the speed of the actual wind.



photo by Abner Kingman, courtesy America's Cup

The Luna Rossa team from Italy uses hydrofoils to increase speed during a Challenger Series race. The Golden Gate Bridge is in the background.

Eleven sailors are aboard each boat. Each person has a specific job. They work together as a team to achieve the best speed and direction.

And the trophy goes to ...

Do you have any trophies? The America's Cup has been awarded 33 times in 162 years. It is older than any other trophy in international competition.



photo courtesy America's Cup

Here are some other famous sports trophies you may know about, and the year they were first awarded:

Next week, The Mini Page is about Constitution Day.

The Major League Soccer champion:
2008



Wimbledon women's and men's tennis singles champions trophies: 1886, 1887

The Vince Lombardi Trophy for the winner of the NFL Super Bowl: 1967



Youth movement

Tim Jeffery of the America's Cup Event Authority says the 2013 races are meant to interest younger sailors with higher speeds and exciting competition. He says: "Dare to dream! There are lots of opportunities out there to sail, and you don't have to own a boat to do it."

The America's Cup and U.S. Sailing have partnered to create the Start Sailing Initiative for boys and girls of all ages and skill levels, including beginners.

The Mini Page thanks Tim Jeffery of the America's Cup Event Authority for help with this issue.

The Mini Page Staff

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