



Miguel Powery, *Riding High*, 2007..

**Inspiration Artist: Miguel Powery**

**Age Range: Primary**

**Subject Areas: History**

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# MARITIME HERITAGE



**NATIONAL  
GALLERY** | CAYMAN  
ISLANDS

**DART**



# In This Packet

In this lesson, students will learn about Cayman's seafaring history and how the islands have become culturally tied to the sea.

This packet includes images of artwork by local artists who have been inspired by our maritime heritage. Kids will enjoy fun activities as they learn, then create their own ocean-themed sails.

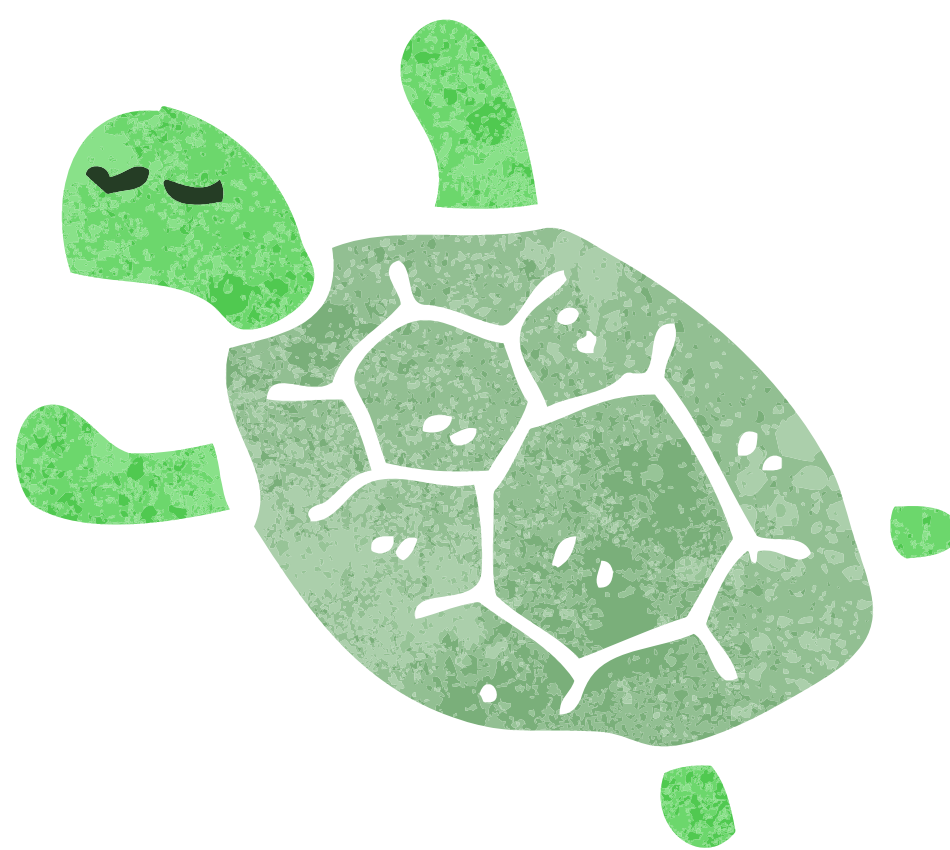
Chris Christian, *Reflecting*, 2007



# Early Years

The first recorded sighting of the Cayman Islands was by the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, who sighted Cayman Brac and Little Cayman on 10 May 1503. He named the islands 'Las Tortugas' because of how many turtles he saw in the waters. 'Las Tortugas' means 'The Turtles' in Spanish.

Columbus and his crew didn't stay in Cayman. In fact, historians don't believe anyone came to live in Cayman permanently until the late 1600s! Until then, the Cayman Islands were used as a stopping point for passing ships to rest and fish for turtles.

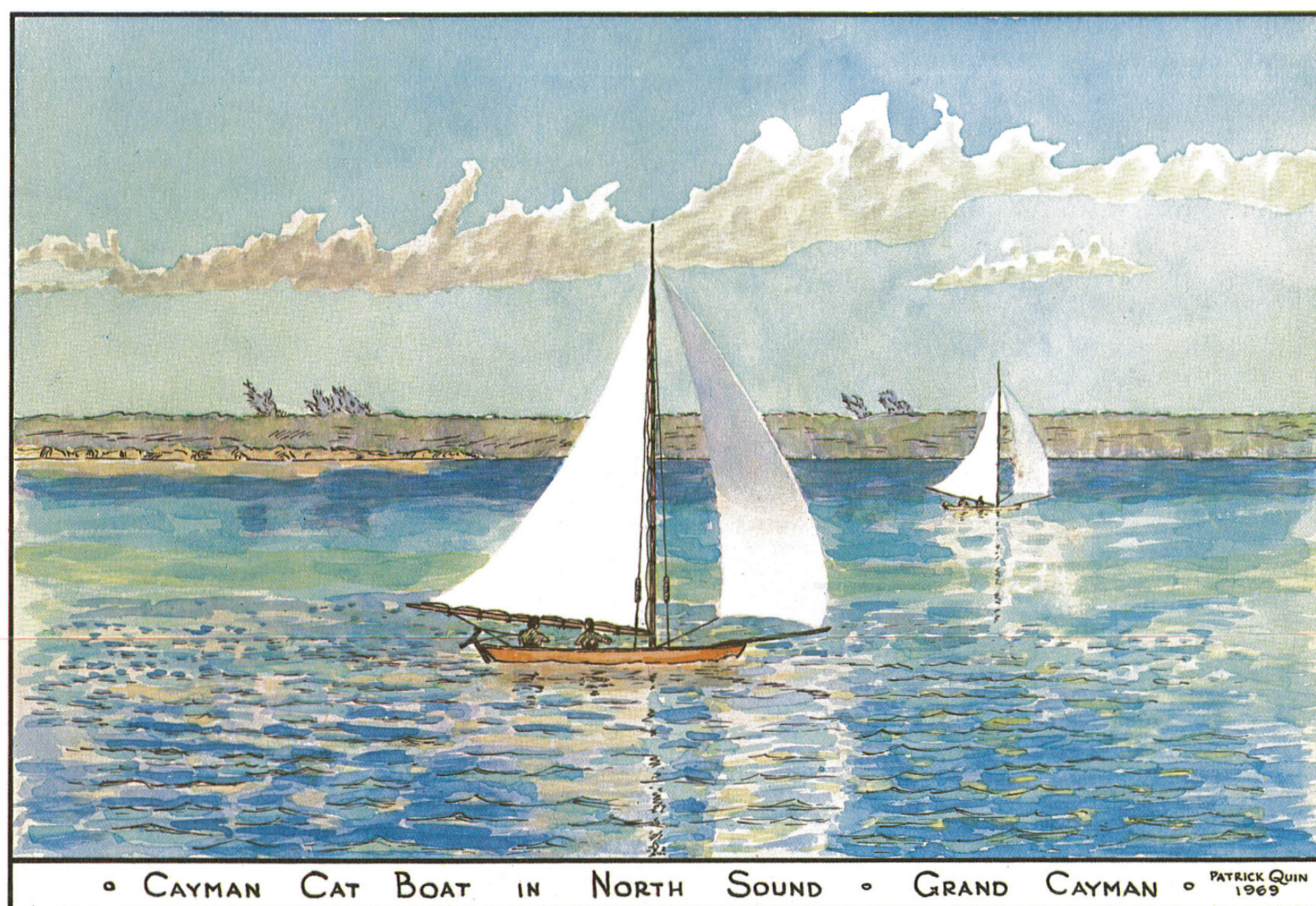


The islands are surrounded by reefs that were difficult for ships to see, especially at night. Many ships were wrecked on these reefs.

Early Caymanians gathered the materials and goods from these wrecked ships to support life on the small and isolated islands. This was called 'wrecking'.

As small islands with little to rely on, Caymanians took to the sea for their living. They became expert shipbuilders, navigators and sailors. They sailed all the way to Jamaica, Cuba and to the islands near Honduras and Nicaragua to fish and search for turtles.

These turtles could be used in many ways: for food, or to make jewellery, decorations and utensils.



Patrick Quin, *Cayman Catboat in North Sound*, 1969

In 1904, Daniel Jervis of Cayman Brac built a special type of boat called a 'catboat'.

Catboats were usually made out of the plopnut tree because of its natural curves. They were often painted blue to help them blend in to the water.

These boats float very well and capsize (turn upside down in the water) less than the dugout canoes people had been using before.

Catboats were used for turtling, sailing from district to district, to meet with friends, and for many other purposes. Many seafarers call them the islands' first cars!

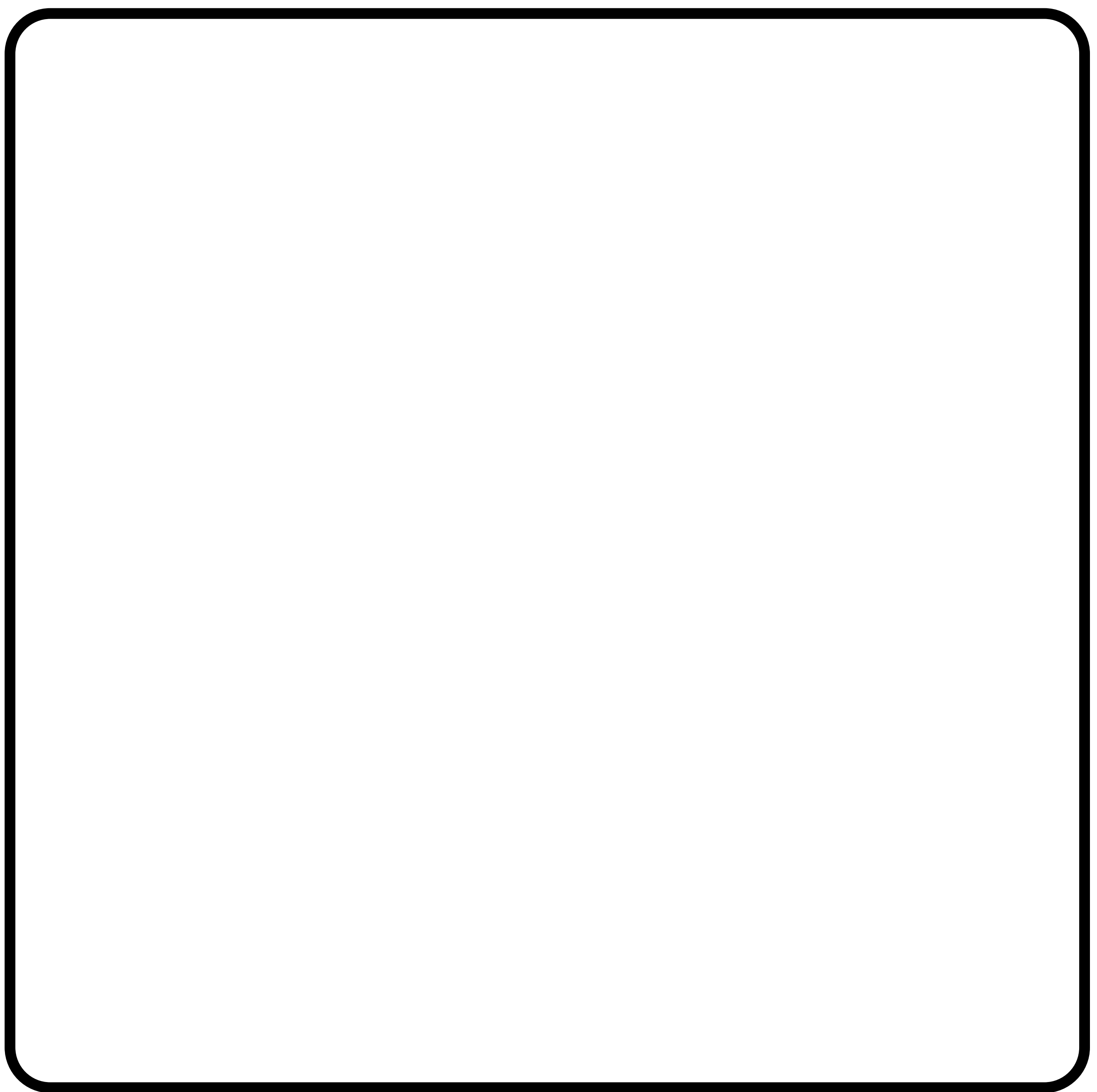


Saba, *Spirits in the Rain*, 2012.

Make your own version of Saba's painting.

Draw two catboats in the water.

Use crayons or coloured pencils to add colour if you wish!



# Colouring Sheet



COLORING4FREE.COM

Image source: <http://getdrawings.com/boat-coloring-pages-to-print>

# 20th Century

By the mid-1900s, Caymanians had become famous for their maritime skills.

Shipping companies from around the world began to give Caymanians jobs on their ships. They worked as everything from navigators to engineers to captains. Some joined these ships at as young as 17 years old to make money that could support their families.

'The National Bulk Carriers.' was one of the most popular American shipping companies that many Caymanians worked for.



Joanne Sibley, Port Scene with Container Ship, 1988.

They sailed to ports all over the world. Sometimes they were away from home for years at a time!



# Word Search

Can you find the maritime-themed words in the puzzle?

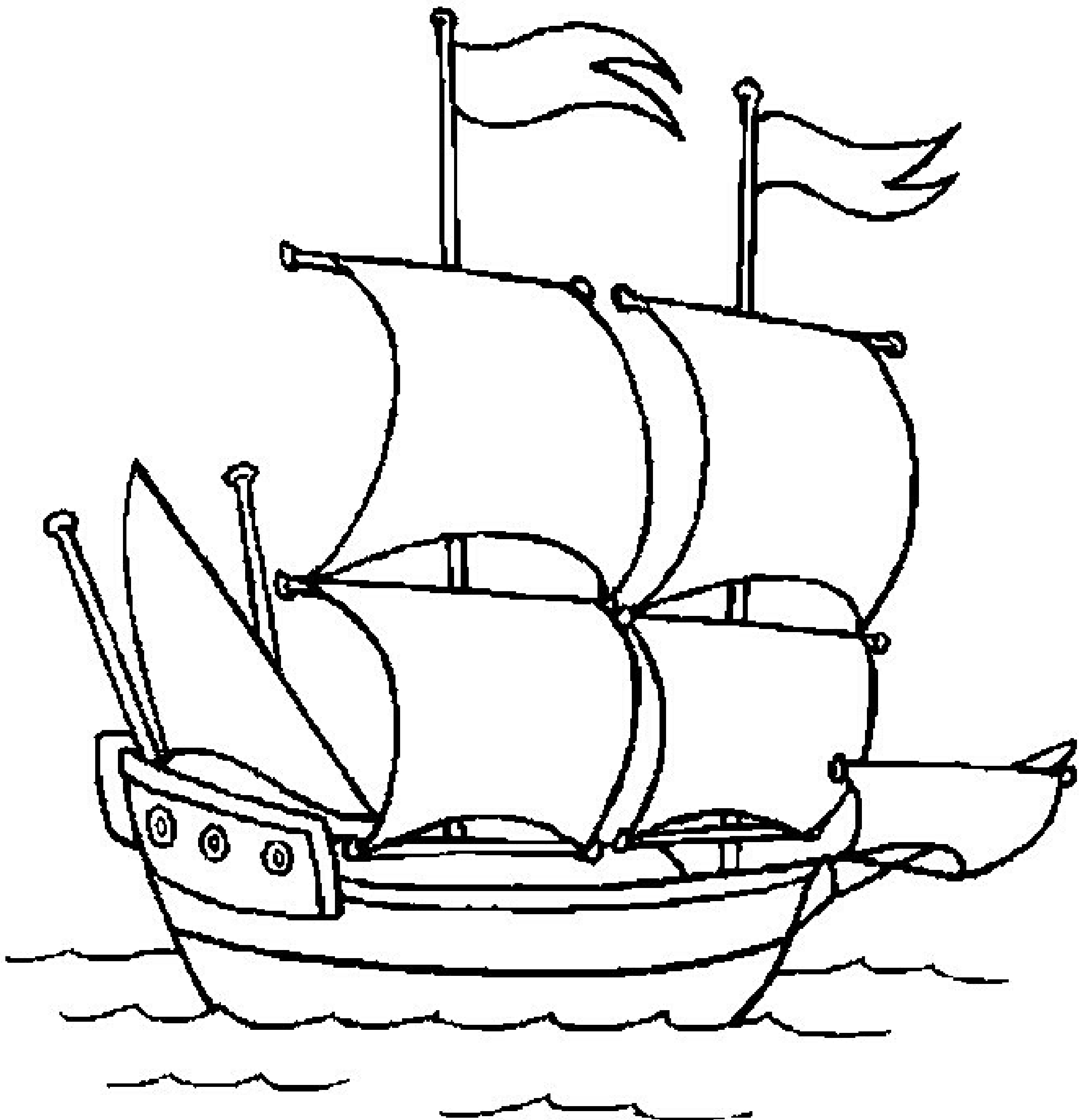
## Cayman Maritime History

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

MARITIME  
NAVIGATION  
HISTORY  
TURTLES  
FISHING  
CATBOAT  
OCEAN  
SHIP  
ISLAND  
CAYMAN  
HERITAGE  
SAILS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1092387/>

# Colouring Sheet



# Art Activity: Sailing Around Cayman

## Materials:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Plain white paper (optional)
- Stickers (optional)

Use this map to trace around the Cayman Islands. You can print this page, or simply place a piece of plain white paper or tracing paper over it. You can also try drawing it without tracing if you wish!

If you were an early turtle fisher on a boat, where would you go? Draw a star or use stickers to mark each spot. What do you think you would see at each stop? Can you draw what you think you'd see?



Image source: <http://www.omnimap.com/catalog/images/onetreas/caygrand.jpg>

# Art Activity: Maritime Sails

## Materials:

- Pencil or pen
- Coloured pencils, markers or crayons
- Paper

With a pencil, draw a large triangle on a sheet of paper to create the shape of a sail. Make sure it takes up most of your page.

Inside the triangle, draw things that remind you of our maritime heritage. You can draw one scene, or many different pictures - it's up to you! Think about what you learned in this lesson. Maybe you can include turtles, fish, catboats or ships?



Once you've sketched your ideas in pencil, go over them with a pen and colour them in using coloured pencils, crayons or markers.

Randy Chollette, *Kings of Satwa*, 2010.