

# Flat Stanley Goes To Texas A&M University





Hi Lucas. Flat Stanley's first day in Texas was overcast but warm. This is our backyard. Most of the trees you see are post oaks. The wildflowers are still blooming but soon it will be too hot for them to survive.

We live in Bryan Texas and work at Texas A&M University. Flat Stanley will go to work with me and have an adventure in nautical archaeology. Do you remember that Uncle Alston and I are archaeologists? We do archaeology on the land and nautical archaeologists do archaeology under water.





Here we are at the Texas A&M University Institute of Nautical Archaeology. Flat Stanley was very excited to see the different ships that nautical archaeologists excavate underwater.

Flat Stanley got a little sea sick at first but soon got over it and felt fine the rest of the day.



Even though Flat Stanley did not have his diving gear, he was still able to hold his breath long enough to help excavate a really neat shipwreck called the Belle, an ancient 17th century wooden ship that was discovered in Matagorda Bay, Texas.



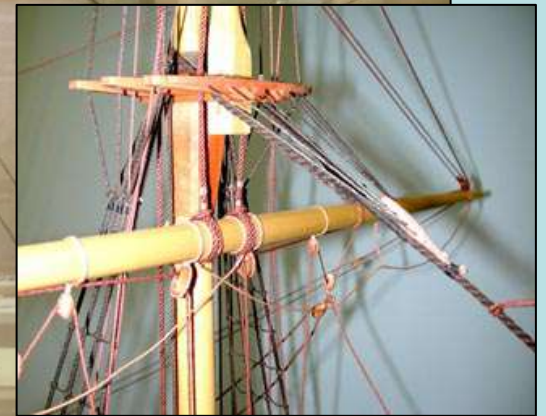
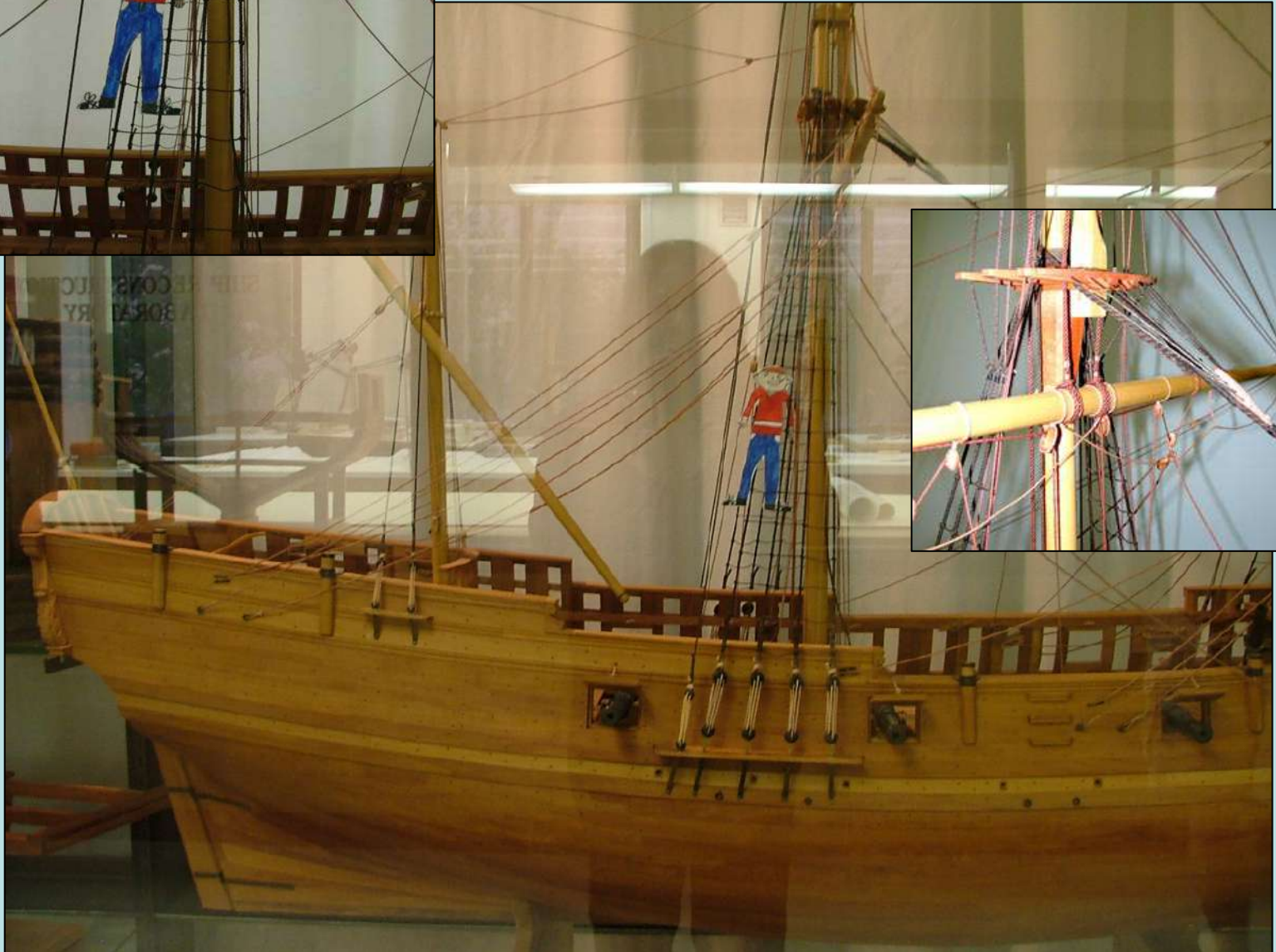
Flat Stanley watched archaeologists raise the Belle out of the water and then reconstruct the ship. Those long pieces of wood are the hull of the ship. Flat Stanley thought that reconstructing an ancient ship hull was like putting together a jigsaw puzzle.



This is what Belle looked like in 1684 before it sunk in Texas.



Flat Stanley got to explore a model of Belle.  
He bravely climbed up the rigging (ropes)  
attached to the mast (pole that supports sails).



Flat Stanley got to man one of Belle's cannons.  
**FIRE AWAY!**







This is the real bronze cannon from the Belle that the archaeologists excavated. Below are pictures of the model cannon and carriage that Flat Stanley got to fire.





Flat Stanley got to sit in some Chinese junks. A junk is a flat-bottomed ship.





This one is called  
**CHUNG-YEN-PAN.**  
Can you pronounce that?

This one is called LAO-HO-K'OU CH'IU-TZU



This one is called MA-YANG PAN-KAN



At the end of the day Flat Stanley found a sunken treasure. The chest was so big and the lock was so strong that he decided to wiggle his way into a crack to see what was inside. I guess he will have to tell you what was in there when he gets back to Washington.



For more information about Belle go to these cool web sites. There are some fun lesson plans that your teacher might be interested in using for a class history project. Have fun!

<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/belle/>

[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/teachers/programs/2616\\_lasalle.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/teachers/programs/2616_lasalle.html)