

In the past

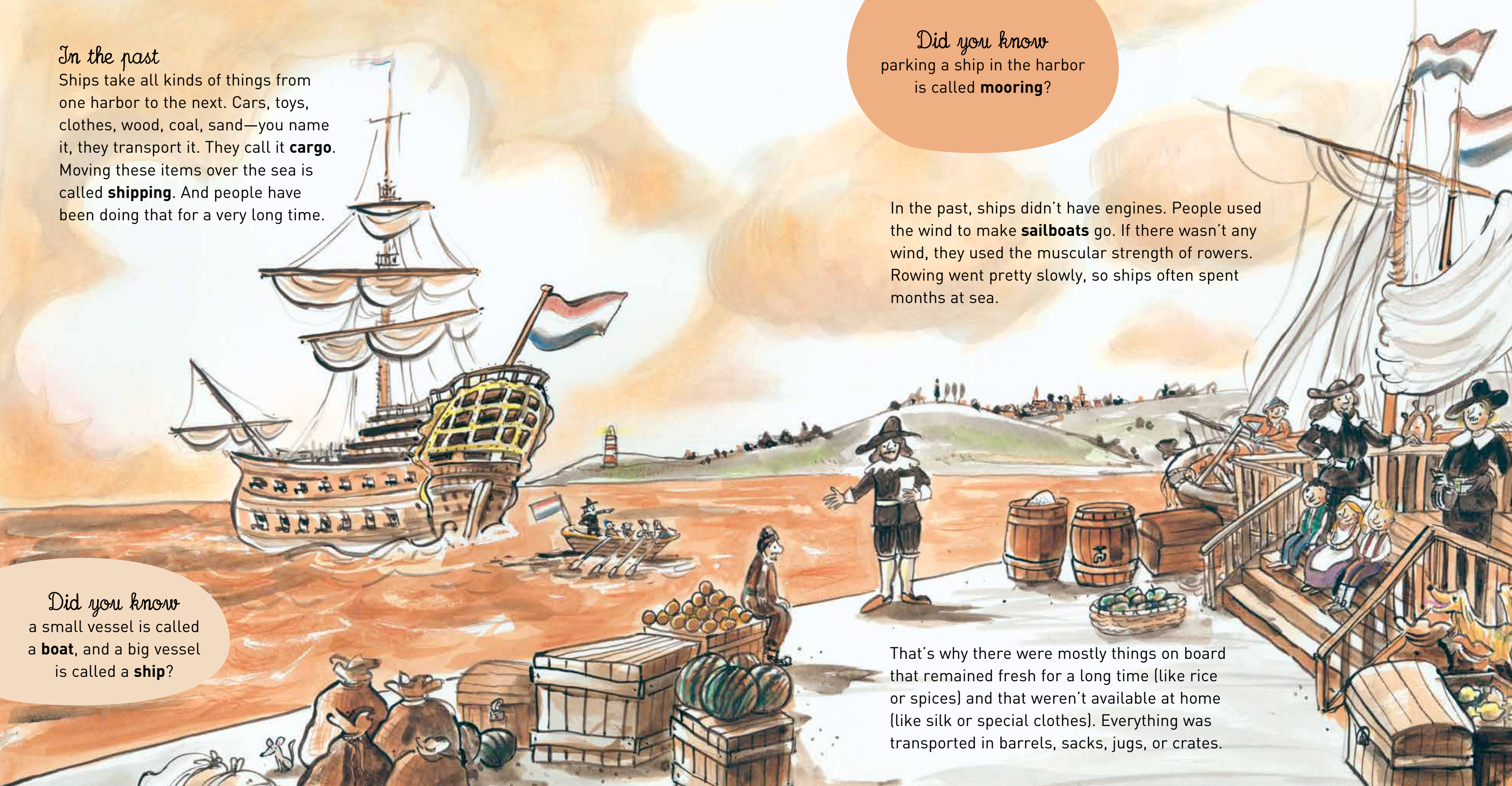
Ships take all kinds of things from one harbor to the next. Cars, toys, clothes, wood, coal, sand—you name it, they transport it. They call it **cargo**. Moving these items over the sea is called **shipping**. And people have been doing that for a very long time.

Did you know
parking a ship in the harbor
is called **mooring**?

In the past, ships didn't have engines. People used the wind to make **sailboats** go. If there wasn't any wind, they used the muscular strength of rowers. Rowing went pretty slowly, so ships often spent months at sea.

Did you know
a small vessel is called
a **boat**, and a big vessel
is called a **ship**?

That's why there were mostly things on board that remained fresh for a long time (like rice or spices) and that weren't available at home (like silk or special clothes). Everything was transported in barrels, sacks, jugs, or crates.



Kinds of ships in the harbor

The biggest ships in the harbor are **cargo ships**. They're also called **container ships**. A **container** is a big metal crate filled with things. One container ship can hold thousands of metal crates full of lots of cargo.



An **inland vessel** transports cargo across rivers. Big container ships don't fit in tight and shallow waters, so inland vessels take over the job.

Oil tankers move . . . oil, of course! Oil is used as fuel for cars, **planes**, and ships. But you can also make plastic out of it.



A **passenger ship**, or **cruise ship**, doesn't move things; instead it moves people. These floating hotels are enormous and have all kinds of stuff on board: movie theaters, shops, swimming pools, restaurants . . .



Bulk carriers are ships that transport goods that are difficult to move in containers. Ores, grains, and pit coals, for example, are transported in **cargo holds**: big storage tanks on board.

Tugboats are small but have a strong engine. They need that, because these powerhouses help big seagoing vessels safely enter and exit the harbor.



Did you know the container is an important invention? Containers can be stacked on top of each other like blocks. That way, a lot of cargo can be moved at the same time.

