



EDUCATIONAL PASSAGES

The Pacific Challenge Regatta

The Plan

To launch mini boats into the Pacific Ocean and witness them sailing around the ocean currents. Hypothetically, they will pass through the California, to the North Equatorial, to the Kuroshio, and the North Pacific currents. Ask your students.... "Where will they end up? ". not always where you think.... The boats are the meeting point for cultural exchange through classrooms located on the Pacific Rim.

The Collaborators/Participants

The Regatta was initiated and encouraged by Xiamen University in China, the University of Maine, School of Marine Sciences. Through this invitation, other Pacific Rim Institutions and Schools are invited to purchase a boat and let us help you get it launched. We are inviting up to 25 schools around the "Rim" to join in the program.

Logistics

The mini-boats have an integrated GPS that transmits the boat's position twice a day where it can be watched through the Internet. They are self-righting and sail straight downwind. Boats can be equipped with scientific sensors to monitor water and air temperature, barometric pressure, wave height, wave period, and wave length.

Course, Dates & Other Particulars

1. Launches will be coordinated in any of the Pacific Currents, but most likely in the Kuroshio or California Currents.
2. Some hypothesize that the boats will follow the Pacific Currents south to the North Equatorial Current. Others think they will "break west" passing just north of Hawaii and proceed to the South Pacific and on to the Orient.
3. Schools may launch their own boats. However, we are available help arrange launches by the Cal Maritime Academy, commercial ships, or possibly NOAA Research Vessels assuring they get started in the proper ocean currents.
4. We will "fire" the Regatta "Start Gun" in April for launches throughout 2017.

Challenges

The challenge remains that it's possible that the boat will get hung up along a lonely coast. If your boat lands on an inhabited island the chance of it being rescued, repaired, and re-launched is there. It could make landfall on an isolated shore, against a reef, or an uninhabited island, where, your voyage could come to an end. In the Atlantic, these boats are routinely making crossings but a circumnavigation of the entire Atlantic Gyre is still yet to be accomplished. Regardless of whether the mini-boat finds its way across the ocean, it will weave its way through multiple geographic, scientific and social learning paths. There will be no shortage of opportunities in marine science and international relations that will appear every day.

Why Do This?

1. It's a compelling (fun) way to jump start International Ocean Literacy with:
 - Oceanography, Climatology, Weather, and Earth Science
 - International Cultural Linkages – Transoceanic Classroom Connections
 - Geography, Map Reading and Interpretation
 - Identifying the trade winds and historic sailing routes around the Pacific Ocean
 - Introduction to naval architecture, boat design, and sail dynamics.
 - International exploration of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
 - Educators will have access to a ready-made, easy to deliver, classroom toolkit
 - Educators will have the opportunity to collaborate with one another
2. Educational Passages and the miniboats are an inclusive education portal. People of all ages and walks of life become “watchdogs”, monitoring the path of the boat moving through the ocean waters. Prior to the “big” launch, christen it with a name, add messages & trinkets to the watertight compartment, and, with our help, send her on her way. The learning opportunities and inter-cultural opportunities are endless.

Educational Passage's Role & Responsibilities

1. Provide participants with an assembled boat, GPS transmitter unit, and satellite time.
2. Coordinate and mediate the Regatta from beginning to end.
3. Help arrange launchings off ships transiting the Pacific Ocean currents.
4. Start gathering points of contact for potential points of landfall.

Participant's Role & Responsibilities

1. Initiate investigations of the Pacific Ocean currents and seasonal wind patterns.
2. Identify and propose a launch point.
3. Collaborate with federal, academic, and international consulates to aid in launch point access.
4. Potential partners include Hawaii, Taiwan, Japan, Canada, Peru, Australia and Hawaii and more...

For More Information Or To Order Your Boat

1. Contact dick@educationalpassages.com or bjanocha@washcoll.edu
2. Visit our website at www.educationalpassages.com

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Educational Passages is a non-profit 501-C3 whose objective is to advance global ocean literacy for all ages, in all countries, in all languages.