

### **Tacking and Wearing Activity**

In a ship with three masts and square-rigged sails turning around was a very difficult and dangerous manoeuvre. The illustrations above, taken from *Naval Warfare in the Age of Sail* by Bernard Ireland (Ted Smart Books 2000) and show in theory how it was done.

The kit to use is easily made. A large arrow to show the way the wind is blowing made from card or balsa. The ship is made from a piece of thin balsa wood, with three cocktail sticks acting as masts. Square and triangular sails are cut out of a piece of paper and simply threaded over the cocktail sticks. As the ship changes position relative to the wind, the sails are rotated on the masts exactly as they would have been on board.

This exercise is probably for more able children, but can be simplified and made easier to understand with bigger models and perhaps a cooling fan providing the wind.