SINGAPORE'S PAST AS A TRADING POST

You will learn: How trade plays an important role in Singapore's maritime growth and development.

A   LET'S LEARN ABOUT MARITIME SINGAPORE

WHAT IS TRADE?

Trade or trading is the buying or exchanging of goods and services for money. Sometimes, goods and services can be directly exchanged without money, which is also known as barter trade. Today, more than 80% of the world's trade is carried out by sea.

Long before Singapore became a British trading post in 1819, it was already an active trading place during the 1300s.

Temasek

We know this is because digs done at Fort Canning found old coins (money) and many goods from different countries, like pottery from China and glass beads from India.

This shows that Singapore was popular for people from other countries to come sell and buy goods. Many maps used by early mariners and traders, such as Manuel Godinho de Erédia from Portugal and Wang Dayuan from China, also showed Singapore — then known as Temasek — located along the sea routes they sailed.

Singapore's excellent location along the Maritime Silk Road meant it was easy for traders to stop by with goods. When Singapore was set up as a free port in 1819, it allowed goods to be traded freely without anyone having to pay heavy fees.

Ships from all over the world came not only because Singapore was easy to reach and a free port, but also because it had a natural, deep-water harbour so larger and heavier ships carrying more goods can stop to load and unload.

The creation of the Suez Canal in 1869 was another important moment in maritime history for sea trade and Singapore. The Suez Canal is a narrow, man-made passage of water that allowed ships from Europe to sail shorter distances to reach ports in Asia. Before the opening of the Suez Canal, European ships going to Asia have to sail around Africa in a big loop. With this new passage, ships can now take a much shorter route.

When sea trade increased, so did businesses and jobs. Singapore's economy grew, along with its population. Many early settlers came to seek a new life, eventually staying on to contribute to Singapore's growth and development into the thriving Global Hub port and bustling maritime nation that it is today.
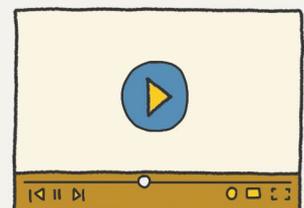
THINK ABOUT THIS: How do you think Singapore would have developed if it had not been a free port with a strategic location along important maritime routes?
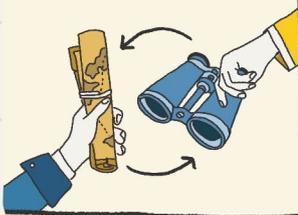
B   FIND OUT MORE

INTERESTING VIDEOS YOU CAN CHECK OUT ON THE INTERNET:

- A Thriving Singapore Before Stamford Raffles, From Orang Laut To Craftsmen
- 1330 – Singapore's Early Settlements & Trade
- 1819 – 24 Trading in 19th Century Singapore
- 1869 – The Opening of the Suez Canal

TRADING GAME

(FOR 3 OR MORE PAX)

In this game, the aim is to own and trade goods, and see how happy you are with your trade.

YOU WILL NEED:

1 A watch or timer on your phone
2 A pen and a piece of paper to note down your happiness scores

HOW TO PLAY:

1 Have each player look around for any 3 items to use as goods to trade. They can be books, toys, clothes . . . even food!

2 Get each player to copy this chart on a piece of paper:

HOW HAPPY AM I?	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3
	Item 1: /10	Item 1: /10	Item 1: /10
	Item 2: /10	Item 2: /10	Item 2: /10
	Item 3: /10	Item 3: /10	Item 3: /10
Total:			

3 Put all the players' items in the centre of the room, and have each player close their eyes and pick 3 items randomly.
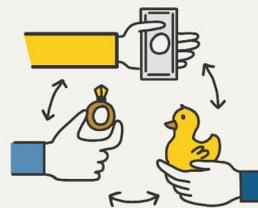
4 **ROUND 1: No trade (2 minutes)**

All players to open their eyes and look at the 3 items they have picked. These are the goods you, as a player, own. Write down a score for each item in the chart to show how happy you are with it. Score it high if it is something you like, and low if it is something you do not like.

5 **ROUND 2: Restricted Trade (6 minutes)**

You can start trading your goods — but there are restrictions! You can only choose one person to trade with. Start trading with your chosen trading partner. Keep in mind that you can choose not to trade if you do not want to. When the time is up, write down the happiness score of each item you have after this round of trading.

6 **ROUND 3: Free Trade (6 minutes)**

In this free trade round, you can start trading as many or as little goods as you want, with anyone that you want. Everybody gets to trade with everybody. When the time is up, write down the happiness score of each item you have after this round of trading. If you end up with more than 3 items, you can add extra scores to the score chart.

7 Calculate your scores. What do you notice about your happiness scores across the 3 rounds? Which player ended up happier with the items they currently have than the items they had in the beginning?

CHAT ABOUT THIS:

How does being able to choose the items you want to trade, and the number of trading partners you can trade with, affect your happiness level?

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME SINGAPORE
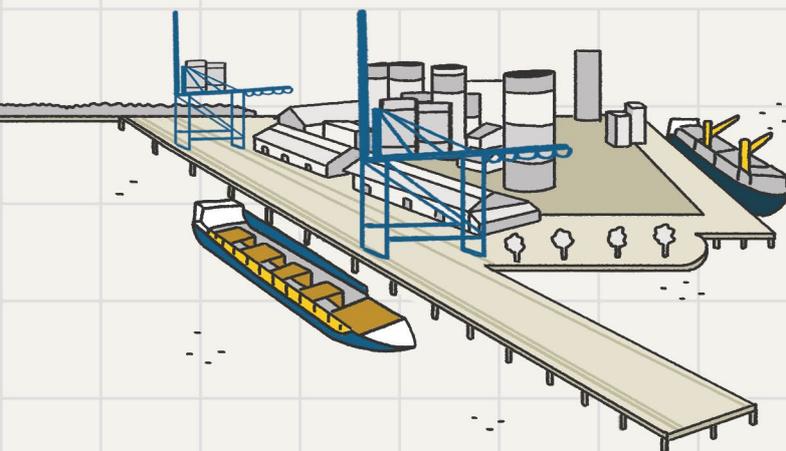
You will learn:
How Maritime Singapore has changed and developed over the years.

A LET'S LEARN ABOUT MARITIME SINGAPORE

HOW DID SINGAPORE GROW INTO A MODERN MARITIME NATION SINCE BECOMING A FREE PORT IN 1819?
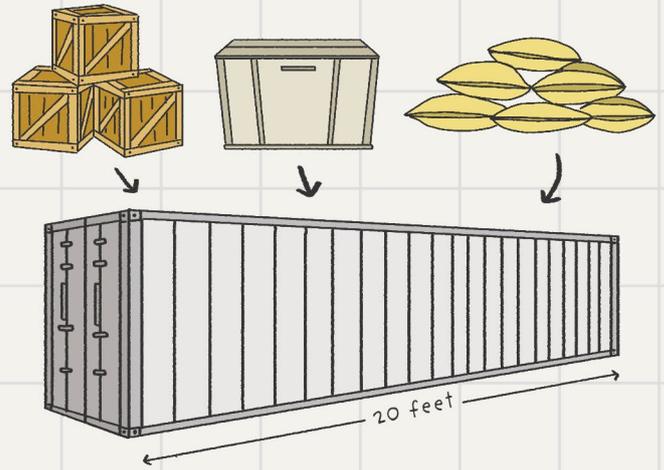
In the early days, when ships arrived, many small wooden lighter boats carried goods to and from ship decks to the warehouses along the Singapore River, where the main business centre of Singapore was. Labourers or coolies were also needed to help load and unload these goods.

As sea trade and shipping grew and evolved over time, Singapore needed to change to keep up with the increasing number of ships coming in. Land was reclaimed at Telok Ayer to build new roads connecting Keppel Harbour to the Singapore River, and docks were made larger to handle bigger ships and greater amounts of goods. Oil storage spaces were also built on islands like Pulau Bukom to help ships refuel, and ship repair facilities were constructed in Sembawang.
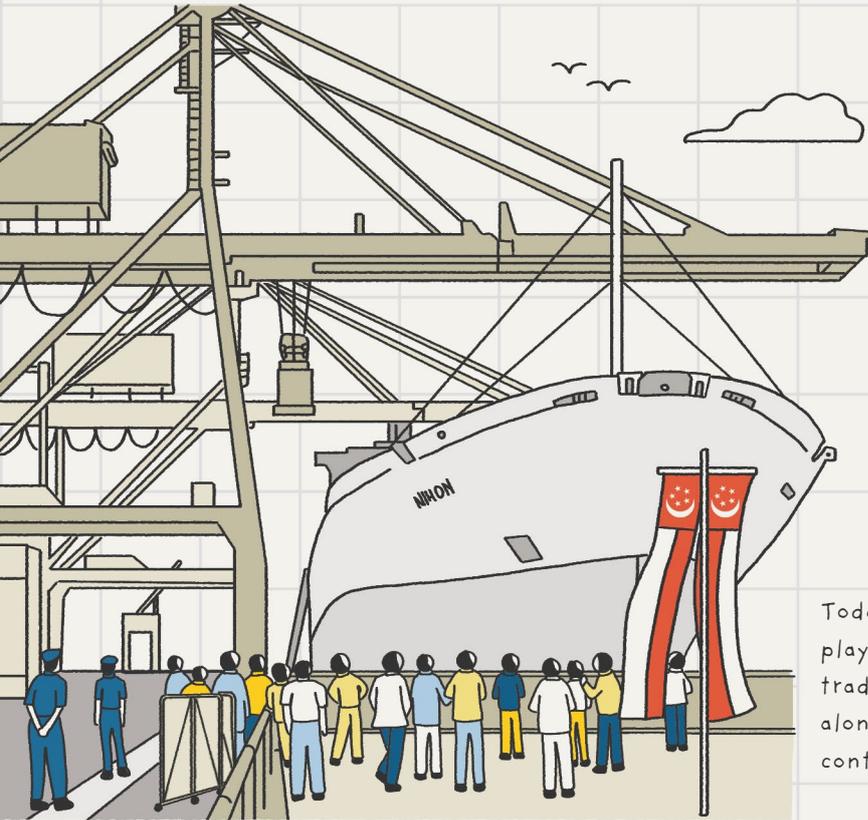
In the 1960s, Singapore built its first industrial estate in Jurong as part of its plan to grow the economy. Many industries there such as ship building and repair needed the supply of raw materials, and so Jurong Port was built in 1965 to help bring bulky cargo like cement and sand to the area.

The invention of containerisation for shipping in 1956 also made a big impact on the world and Singapore. Goods used to be carried in different ways on ships, such as in wooden crates, baskets or sacks. With containers, goods can be placed into the same 20-foot long (or about 6 metres) metal boxes that can be moved easily and quickly, from ships to trucks and trains. This completely changed the way goods are being carried across the sea, and has been used as the worldwide standard since then.

20 feet

To prepare for this new way of shipping, Singapore faced a tough decision on whether to build a container port. It was very expensive to do so, and no shipping company then had container ships sailing between Europe and Southeast Asia. Knowing how important it is to stay ahead, Singapore made the bold decision to build Southeast Asia's first container terminal at Tanjong Pagar, and in 1972, welcomed the first container ship, the MV Nihon, into Singapore.

Today, Singapore is one of the world's busiest ports, playing an important role in global trade. Maritime trade and businesses have also grown and developed alongside the ports over the years, making significant contributions to Singapore's economy and growth.
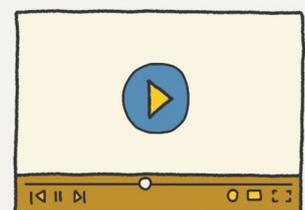
THINK ABOUT THIS: What would have happened if these important plans and decisions were not made? How would that have affected Singapore?

B FIND OUT MORE

INTERESTING VIDEOS YOU CAN CHECK OUT ON THE INTERNET:

- PSA Bicentennial Series Ep 1: The Origins of the Modern Port of Singapore
- PSA Bicentennial Series Ep 2: Singapore as a Trading Post in the 1800s
- PSA Bicentennial Series Ep 3: The Rise of the Port of Singapore
- PSA Bicentennial Series Ep 4: The Dawn of a New Era
- How a Steel Box Changed the World: A Brief History of Shipping

MAKE YOUR OWN
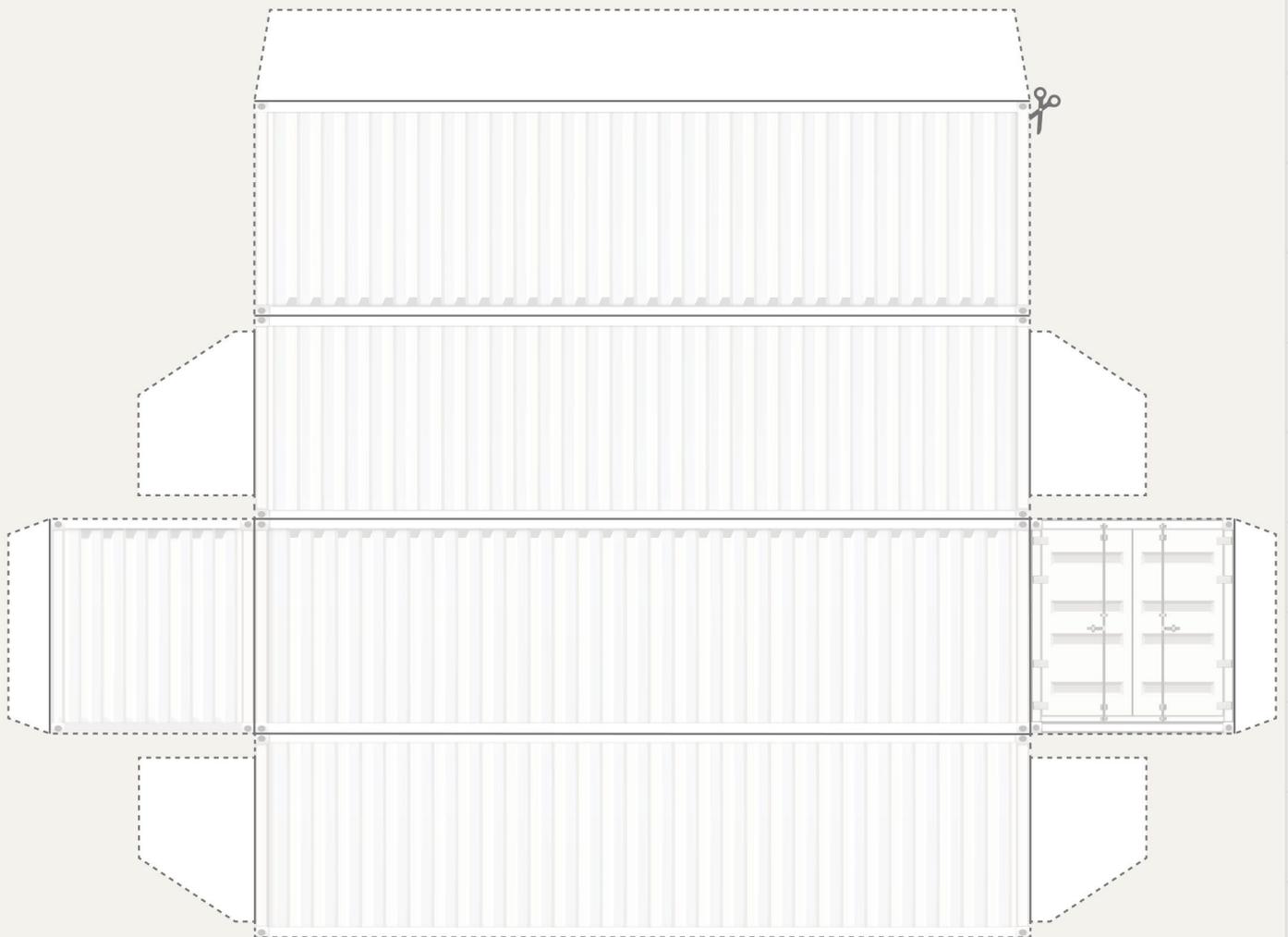## TWENTY-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNIT (TEU) CONTAINER

1 Trace this template on a piece of paper, or print it out if you have a printer.

2 Colour and design the TEU container in your favourite colours.

3 Cut along the dotted lines, and fold along the solid lines. You should end up with your own TEU container like this:

Try stacking your containers to see how high they can go, or how many items each container can carry!

CHAT ABOUT THIS: Containerisation changed the way goods are carried on ships, just as the internet has changed the way we find information. What are some other life-changing inventions you can think of that you cannot live without?

THE FUTURE OF MARITIME SINGAPORE

You will learn: How technology and digitalisation are shaping the future of Maritime Singapore.

A LET'S LEARN ABOUT MARITIME SINGAPORE

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR MARITIME SINGAPORE?

We have learned that the maritime industry plays an important role in Singapore's progress and development, especially for its economy. Maritime trade, businesses and activities have always been, and will always be, crucial for Singapore's growth.

As the world moves forward in technology and digitalisation, so must the maritime industry in order to stay competitive. Just like how technology has improved our daily lives in the way we find information or keep in touch with friends, technology can greatly improve the way maritime activities are carried out.

Plans for transforming the maritime industry include using technology to make the port intelligent and efficient, having smart fleet operations and autonomous vessels, planning strategic sea space and maritime traffic management, and ensuring a sustainable maritime environment and energy use.

For example, the future Next Generation Port at Tuas will include features such as the use of data to analyse information and predict accurate arrival times of vessels, as well as the use of drones, unmanned vehicles and automatic yard cranes in the running of the port.

Digital platforms such as the Maritime Single Window can also help ships arriving and leaving Singapore find a quicker way to get approvals with the use of a single platform, where information can be shared across various agencies and ports in charge, cutting down time spent on waiting.

The GeoSpace-Sea system is another example where digitalisation is used to gather and combine the latest geospatial information from different sources of Singapore's marine and coastal data, into one system. With such expansive and in-depth data, port, marine and coastal planning, and environmental management can be done in a more sustainable and efficient way.

This is in addition to other initiatives such as the Maritime Living Lab, where innovative projects like remote pilotage, next generation vessel traffic management, and maritime data hubs are being developed. There is also the Smart Port Challenge, a programme that encourages Singaporean and foreign start-ups to provide innovative solutions to the maritime industry.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) recently created a Maritime Digitalisation Playbook to help maritime companies use digital technology in their work, a step towards developing Singapore as a Global Maritime Hub for connectivity, innovation and talent. With innovation and technology being key areas for maritime transformation, the future of Maritime Singapore looks set to be an exciting and inventive one!

THINK ABOUT THIS: What are some other technological and digital advancements in the maritime industry that you find interesting? Do some research and find out more!

B FIND OUT MORE

INTERESTING VIDEOS YOU CAN CHECK OUT ON THE INTERNET:

- The Future of Maritime
- Maritimus: The Future of Shipping
- MPA GeoSpace-Sea
- MPA Living Lab
- MPA looks to technology to keep seas safe
- MPA introduces new initiatives to increase digitalisation in maritime industry
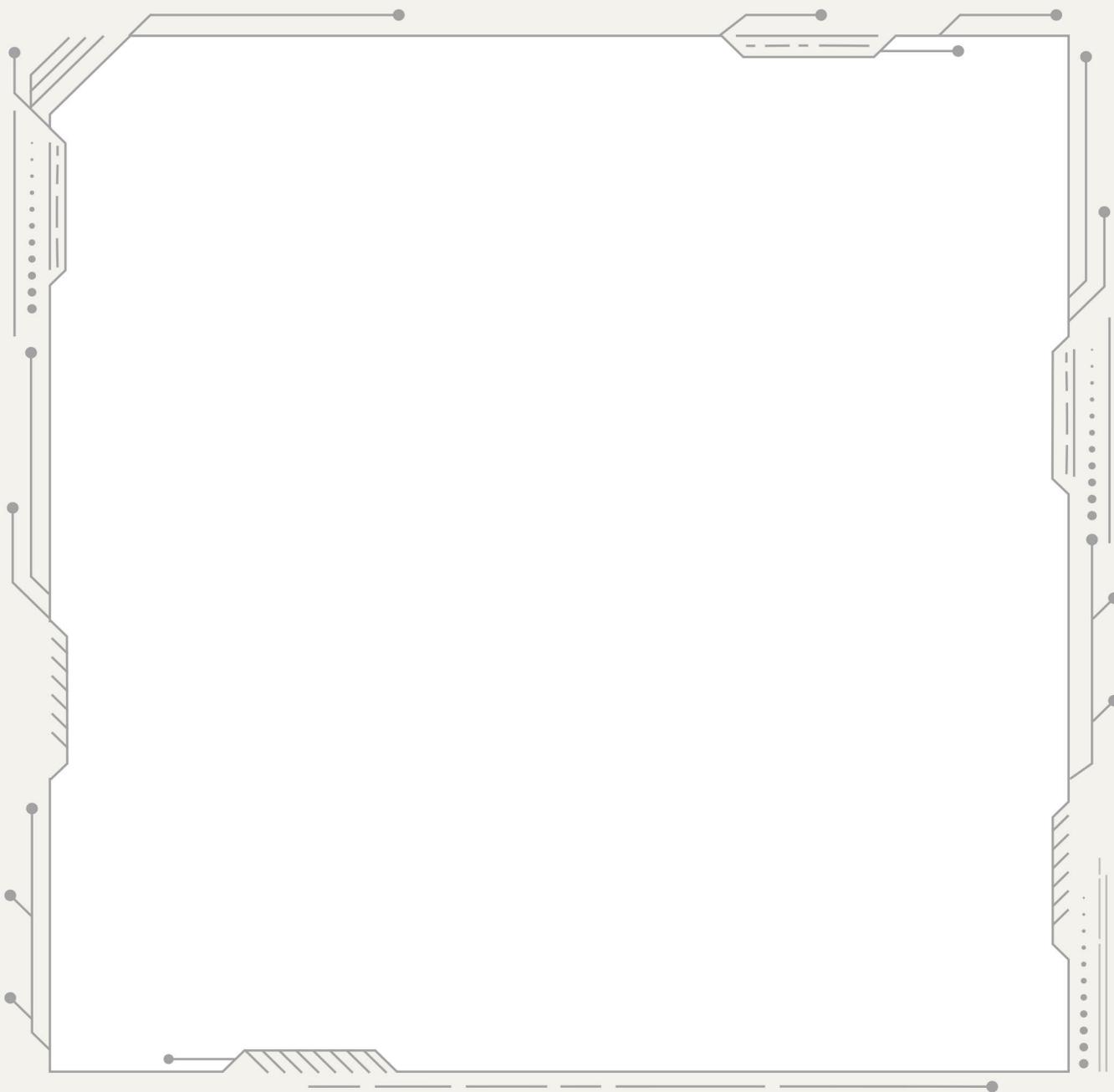- Start-ups pitch ideas to transform Singapore's maritime industry

C TRY THIS ACTIVITY!

DESIGN YOUR OWN
FUTURISTIC SHIP AND PORT OF THE FUTURE

WHAT TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL INVENTIONS WOULD YOU USE IN YOUR SHIP AND PORT OF THE FUTURE?

USE THIS SPACE HERE TO IMAGINE THE FUTURE OF YOUR MARITIME SINGAPORE:

CHAT ABOUT THIS: Share what you have drawn — how will technology and digital inventions help your future ships and ports?