

Michelin makes giant sails to make shipping greener

7th October, 2021



Most people associate the company Michelin with car tyres, tour guides and stars for quality restaurants. However, the French tyre maker is now helping ships to be more environmentally friendly. The company has tested

giant sails that it hopes will make shipping greener. Shipping currently produces a lot of carbon dioxide as oil tankers, container ships and giant cruise ships rely on fossil fuels to move around the world's oceans. Experts say the industry produces around 940 million tons of CO2 annually, and that it is responsible for about 2.5 per cent of the world's greenhouse gasses. Michelin's engineers say their revolutionary new sails could reduce the amount of CO2 produced by the shipping industry by 20 per cent.

Michelin is using the ancient technology of sails to tackle the most urgent problem facing the world today - climate change. Boats have used sails for 5,000 years to cross oceans or travel along rivers. The new Michelin sails are different. They are inflatable. This means a ship's crew can fill the sails with air to inflate them to full size. The sails can be deflated quickly if a ship needs to sail under a low bridge. The sails Michelin tested are 280 square metres in size. The company hopes to start manufacturing and selling them in 2022. A company spokesperson said: "Our aim is to contribute to the de-carbonization of maritime transport." He added that the good thing about wind is that it is a free fuel.

Sources: cnn.com / robbreport.com / slashgear.com

Writing

All ships should have sails to make them greener. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

people / company / tyres / stars / sails / oil tankers / experts / greenhouse gas / ship / technology / problem / ocean / crew / bridge / company / manufacturing / transport

True / False

- 1) Michelin makes tyres and operates restaurants. T / F
- 2) Michelin is making green, blue and red sails for ships. T / F
- 3) The shipping industry causes around 2.5% of greenhouse gasses. T / F
- 4) Michelin's sails could cut CO2 from shipping by 20%. T / F
- 5) The article says sails are ancient technology. T / F
- 6) Boats have been using sails for 15,000 years. T / F
- 7) The new sails cannot go under bridges. T / F
- 8) A Michelin spokesperson said wind power is not free. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. associate | a. specialists |
| 2. helping | b. making |
| 3. experts | c. cut |
| 4. annually | d. sailors |
| 5. reduce | e. assisting |
| 6. ancient | f. power source |
| 7. crew | g. link |
| 8. manufacturing | h. representative |
| 9. spokesperson | i. yearly |
| 10. fuel | j. very, very old |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of travel guides?
- c) What do you think of boats with sails?
- d) Are there other ancient technologies we could use today?
- e) What do you think of inflatable sails?
- f) Do you think the sails will be successful?
- g) What do you think of wind energy?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the engineers at Michelin?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. car | a. fuels |
| 2. be more environmentally | b. produced |
| 3. oil | c. metres in size |
| 4. fossil | d. facing the world today |
| 5. reduce the amount of CO2 | e. tankers |
| 6. tackle the most urgent problem | f. a low bridge |
| 7. cross | g. tyres |
| 8. if a ship needs to sail under | h. about wind |
| 9. 280 square | i. friendly |
| 10. the good thing | j. oceans |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the company Michelin?
- How important is shipping?
- How can we make ships more environmentally friendly?
- What do you think of oil tankers having sails?
- What are the good and bad things about sails?
- Does the world need so many luxury cruise ships?
- How worried are you about CO2?
- What other things could use sails?

Spelling

- stars for itlyqau restaurants
- carbon dodxiie
- oilsfs fuels
- peessnribol for about 2.5 per cent
- their uelnryvoitaor new sails
- CO2 produced by the shipping yursdnit
- nacniet technology
- cross canseo or travel along rivers
- fill the sails with air to nlftaie them
- nfgiauntmucra and selling them
- Our aim is to ctiterbnou
- the de-carbonization of maritime orsarntpt

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. b	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Fishing

You think fishing is the greenest industry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries are not so green. Also, tell the others which is the dirtiest of these (and why): tourism, forestry or nuclear power.

Role B – Tourism

You think tourism is the greenest industry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries are not so green. Also, tell the others which is the dirtiest of these (and why): fishing, forestry or nuclear power.

Role C – Forestry

You think forestry is the greenest industry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries are not so green. Also, tell the others which is the dirtiest of these (and why): tourism, fishing or nuclear power.

Role D – Nuclear Power

You think nuclear power is the greenest industry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries are not so green. Also, tell the others which is the dirtiest of these (and why): tourism, forestry or fishing.

Speaking – Green industries

Rank these with your partner. Put the greenest industries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • Fishing | • Teaching |
| • Forestry | • Tourism |
| • Nuclear power | • Farming |
| • Cars | • Wind farms |

Answers – True False

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.