



ACTIVITY

## Holystoning Quotes

Read these primary and secondary source quotes about the sailor chore of holystoning: cleaning the floors of the Ship.

# Holystoning Quotes

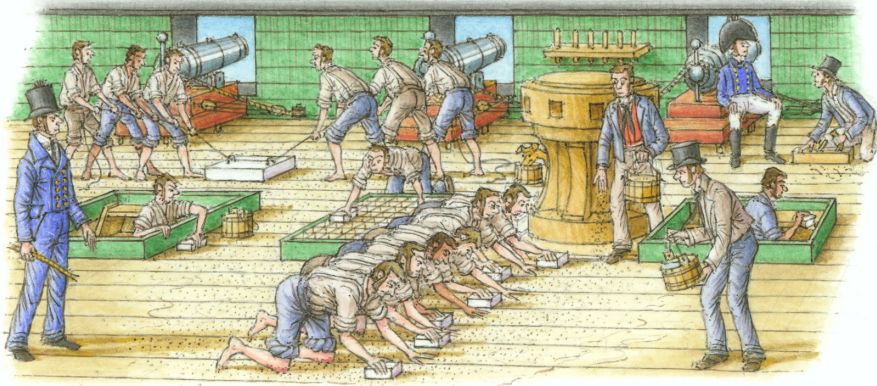
## Modern Historical Fiction Quotes:

“I hate the endless chore of holystoning. Every morning regardless of the weather, we’re on our hands and knees scrubbing while the officers stand over us telling us not to stop until the decks shine.”

- Sailor

“Look at our decks! That’s the work of our sailors, scrubbing with this stone until the decks are almost white. The surgeon suspects cleaning with this here holystone helps prevent diseases from spreading. I’m just happy that all this scrubbing keeps the men from getting into too much mischief.”

- Officer



## Historic 19<sup>th</sup> Century Quotes:

“They [the sailors] then come on deck again, pull off their shoes and stockings, turn up their trowsers to above their knees, and commence holy-stoning the deck...Here the men suffer from being obliged to kneel down on the wetted deck, and a gravelly sort of sand strewn over it. To perform this work they kneel with their bare knees, rubbing the deck with a stone and the sand, the grit of which is often very injurious.”

- Seaman William Robinson

“Today our ship has been holystoned from stem to stern. A person who has stood in the silent excavations of Herculaneum, and heard the carriages rattling overhead, can have some idea of the sounds which those rumbling stones produce on the decks of a ship. The whole ship is converted into a floating Babel, and worse indeed, unless the strokes of the gravel be comprehended in the vocal jargon of the tower. But we shall have our compensation for this in decks so clean that a handkerchief might be swept over them without soiling its whiteness.”

- Rev. Walter Colton