



History from Home

RAZZLE DAZZLE SHIP DESIGN



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Razzle Dazzle Ships

Dazzle camouflage, or “razzle dazzle” painting, was a style of ship camouflage used by the British and United States armed forces during World War I and World War II to conceal the true direction of ship movements against enemy aggressors, most notably enemy submarines. The dazzle-type design created by British marine artist Norman Wiltkinson uses complex patterns and geometric shapes of contrasting and intersecting colors to disrupt and confuse the true course of ships, therefore making the rangefinding capabilities of enemy submarines less effective. Ships carrying Marines used these unique designs in everything from small auxilliary ships to the large *Essex*-class aircraft carriers.

Did you know that many razzle dazzle designs were painted to look like zebra stripes? A zebra's stripes are a defense mechanism by confusing their prey...it makes one or two zebras appear to be a whole herd!

Directions:

1. Read how “razzle dazzle” ship design helped service members survive at sea during World War II in the paragraphs above.
2. Use the following page to get ideas of design for your “razzle dazzle” ship. Think about an Easter egg that is being dyed. Sketch out a few ideas using a separate piece of paper.
3. Once you have settled on your design, use the final page in this packet to draw your “razzle dazzle” design. Be as creative as possible! There are two ship hulls to design on the page.
4. Share your designs to our education email (nmmckids@gmail.com) to get your design featured on our social media!

Materials:

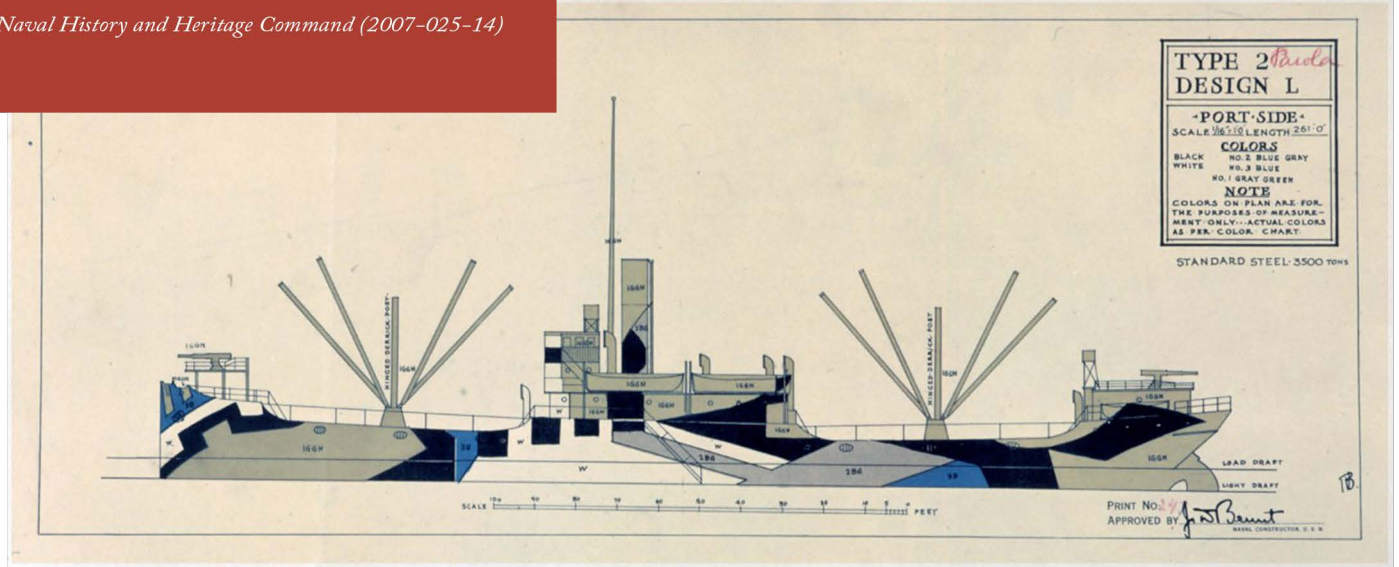
- Razzle dazzle examples
- Razzle dazzle coloring sheet
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- Scratch paper to sketch ideas
- Ruler



Razzle Dazzle Ship Ideas

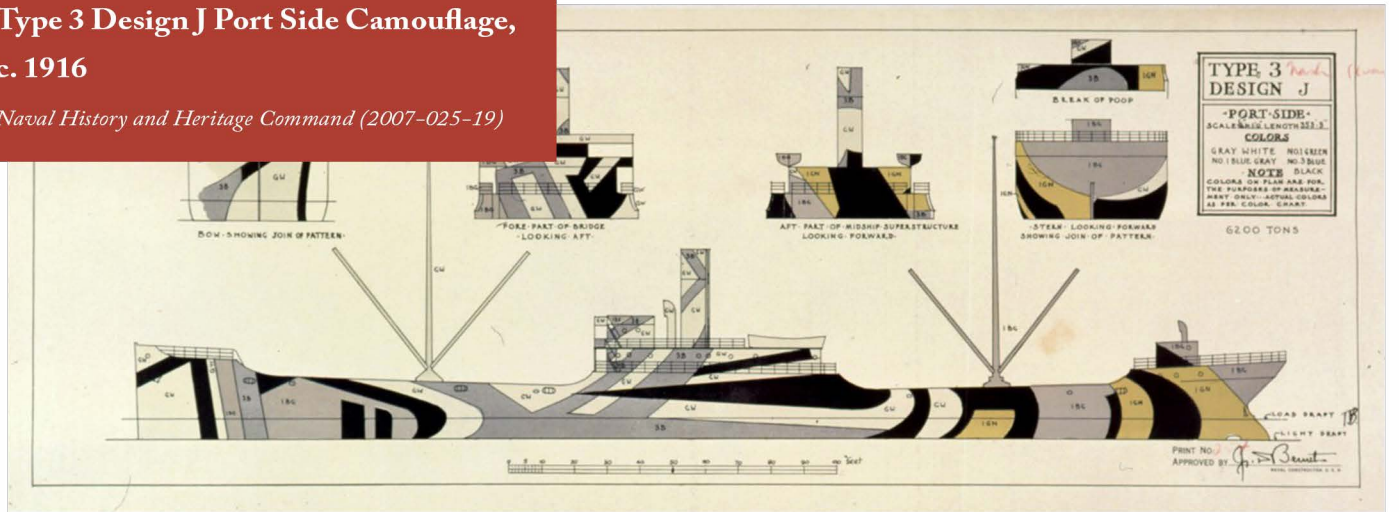
Type 2 Design L Camouflage, c. 1916

Naval History and Heritage Command (2007-025-14)



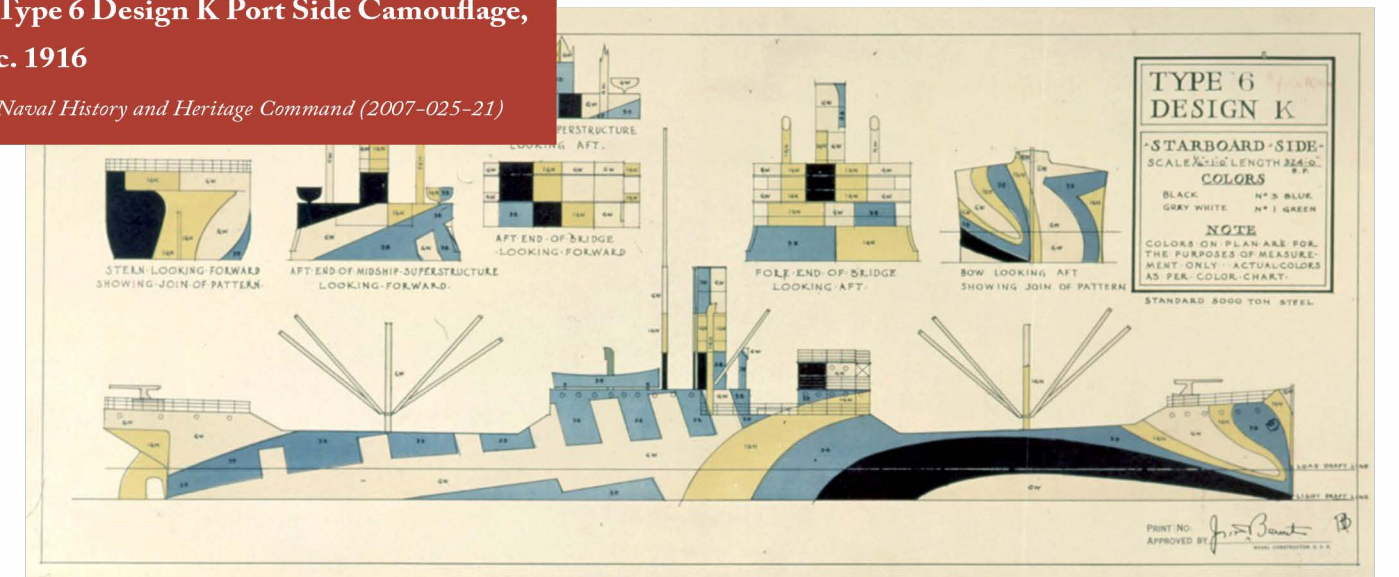
Type 3 Design J Port Side Camouflage, c. 1916

Naval History and Heritage Command (2007-025-19)



Type 6 Design K Port Side Camouflage, c. 1916

Naval History and Heritage Command (2007-025-21)



Design Your Razzle Dazzle Ship

