

The HB Ocean Adventure Schools Programme is a Galway Stopover Volvo Ocean Race 2008-2009 Legacy Initiative. It introduces teachers and students in primary and secondary schools throughout Ireland to the sport of sailing, the marine environment, Ireland and its history with the sea, a variety of geography lessons and marine careers.

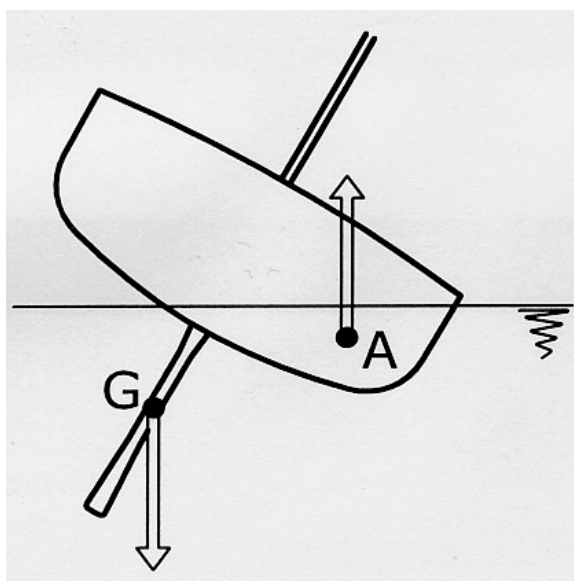
Green Dragon crossed the finish line off Rio de Janeiro at 18.59.40 GMT on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Green Dragon now have 39.5 points after securing fourth place on this epic leg. There are still plenty of opportunities to gain more points with 65 points still available during the 'In Port Races' and the next 5 legs. Since arriving in Rio the boat has been craned out of the water and the mast removed. The team removed the keel for a full check, and the boat has been switched from 'offshore mode' to 'inshore mode'.

### OCEAN FACTS & CLASSROOM TASKS...

- A structural **keel** is a large beam around which the hull of a ship is built. The keel runs in the middle of the ship, **from the bow to the stern**, and serves as the foundation or spine of the structure, providing the major source of structural strength of the hull. Learn more about these facts at [www.letsdoitschools.com](http://www.letsdoitschools.com)

*The keel is generally the first part of a ship's hull to be constructed, and **laying the keel**, or placing the keel in the cradle in which the ship will be built, is often a **momentous event in a ship's construction**—so much so that the event is often marked with a ceremony, and the term lay the keel has entered the language as a phrase meaning the beginning of any significant undertaking.*

*Keels provide extra stability by providing a weight low enough to significantly lower the centre of gravity. A purpose of the keel is to provide **ballast**. This ballast keeps the sailboat from capsizing when it is heeling, i.e. tipping due to the force of the wind against the sails.*



- **Rio de Janeiro (River of January)** is the second largest city of Brazil and South America, behind Sao Paulo, and the third largest metropolitan area in South America. Rio de Janeiro is famous for its natural settings, its Carnival celebrations, samba and other music, and hotel-lined tourist beaches, such as **Copacabana** and **Ipanema**. Some of the most famous landmarks in addition to the beaches include the giant statue of Christ, known as 'Christ the Redeemer' on top of the Corcovado mountain. Check out the Green Dragon compete at the 'In Port' race this Saturday at [www.volvooceanrace.org](http://www.volvooceanrace.org)

*Rio has a tropical climate. The temperature occasionally reaches over 40°C (104°F) in inland areas of the city, and extreme maximum temperatures above 30°C (86°F) can happen every month. In the main tourist areas (south side, where the beaches are located), the temperature is moderated by the cool sea-breezes from the ocean.*

