Graham Walters Breaks Two Rowing Records

What has Graham Walters achieved?

- **Graham Walters has rowed across the Atlantic Ocean in 96 days.**

- **He rowed from the Canary Islands, off the west coast of Africa, to Antigua, an island nation that is in North America.**

A carpenter from Leicestershire has rowed across the Atlantic Ocean. He has also become a record-breaker.

Graham Walters, 72, broke two world records. He has become the oldest person to row any ocean solo and the oldest person to row an ocean more than once!
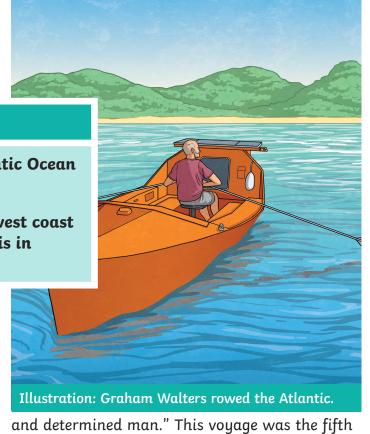
Graham had set himself the challenge to row across the Atlantic Ocean. He did this to raise money for Help for Heroes. It's a charity that supports veterans with illness, injuries and wounds.

He set off from Gran Canaria, part of the Canary Islands, on 25th January. After 96 days, covering a distance of 3000 miles, he arrived on the island of Antigua, in the Caribbean sea, on 29th April.

However, the journey wasn't all plain sailing. Not far from the finishing line, he was almost blown off course by strong winds. This would have added days to his voyage.

At this point, Graham sent an alert to the Antiguan coastguard. They then towed him into harbour, allowing him to reach the finishing line. The Guinness Book of Records then checked that the records had been broken.

Graham has so far raised over £4000 for Help for Heroes. He had set himself a target of £500. David Martin, head of fundraising at Help for Heroes, said, "Graham is clearly a remarkable

Illustration: Graham Walters rowed the Atlantic.

and determined man." This voyage was the fifth time that Graham had rowed across the Atlantic. However, he says that this journey will be the last time he rows across an ocean.

Graham rowed in a boat called the George Geary, named after his grandfather, who played cricket for England. Using his carpentry skills, Graham made it in his back garden 22 years ago.

The boat, though, will not be coming home to the UK with Graham. He plans to leave it in a museum in Antigua for people to view.

Glossary

carpenter	A person who makes or repairs wooden objects.
veterans	Ex-members of the armed forces.
voyage	A long journey involving travel by sea.
fundraising	To raise money for a charity.