



In March 2021, the Ever Given megaship was stuck in the Suez Canal for six days.

Almost 200,000 tons of **cargo** were on the ship, which meant that people could not get things like IKEA furniture, fruit and vegetables, or electronics in time. After the accident, people finally saw how big these ships were.

Megaships very quickly increase the number of things which they can carry. The number doubles every few years, and transportation companies do it because it makes **transport** cheaper. It brings more problems, too.

Bigger ships need deeper water, larger equipment, and more space in **docks**. These ships go slower which means that customers wait longer for things. When the weather is bad, megaships have bigger problems at sea. It happens more and more often that such big ships lose their cargo in sea. Since they go slower, pirates also attack them more often.

**Difficult words:** **cargo** (things which a ship, plane, or other vehicle carries), **transport** (when you take things from one place to another), **dock** (a place in a port to load and unload things and to repair ships).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *cargo*, *transport*, *dock*
2. What happened to the Ever Given megaship in March 2021?
3. According to the article, why do transportation companies continue to build much bigger ships?
4. What are the disadvantages of these megaships?
5. What problems do customers have to put up with when their goods are transported by these megaships?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Do you think the advantages of using megaships outweigh the disadvantages?
2. Have you experienced delayed deliveries? What were the most common reasons? Have you experienced one that is related to the article?