

# Pesky Pirates!

## Who Are Pirates?

A pirate is someone who attacks or robs ships.

## What Did Pirates Steal?

We know that pirates liked to steal gold and silver.

In the past, pirates also stole food, candles, soap, spices, cocoa, cotton, wood and cannons.



## Famous Pirates

Edward Teach was the most famous pirate ever.

He was known as 'Blackbeard' because of his thick black beard.

He had a wooden peg leg.

### Food

Dried beans

Hardtack biscuits



### Drink

Beer

Rum

Grog



## Did You Know?

The skull and crossbones flag is called the Jolly Roger.



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# Pesky Pirates!

## Who Are Pirates?

A pirate is someone who attacks or robs ships. Pirates have been around for thousands of years. There was a 'Golden Age' of piracy a few hundred years ago, where more than 5000 pirates sailed the seas, looting ships in different parts of the world.



## What Did Pirates Steal?

Pirates are well known for stealing treasure, such as gold and silver. But in real life, pirates also stole many other things. They often took food, such as rice and fish, so that they didn't go hungry. They also stole things like candles, soap, spices, cocoa, cotton, wood and cannons.



## Famous Pirates

Edward Teach was the world's most feared pirate. He was known by the nickname 'Blackbeard' because of his thick black beard. He had a wooden peg leg.

Mary Read and Anne Bonny were the most famous women pirates. They worked together to capture ships in Jamaica.

## What Did Pirates Eat and Drink?

Pirates went to sea for a long time. Fresh food, such as meat and cheese, would go off very quickly. Spices and herbs were used to make rotten food taste better. Pirates also ate dried beans and hardtack biscuits (which were not very nice!).

Pirates drank beer rather than water because their water used to turn green! Rum was also a very popular pirate drink and would keep much longer than water. Grog was a mixture of water and rum.

## Did You Know?

The skull and crossbones flag at the top of a pirate ship is called the Jolly Roger.



# Pesky Pirates!

## Who Are Pirates?

A pirate is someone who attacks or robs ships. Pirates have existed for thousands of years but the 'Golden Age' of piracy was in the 17th and 18th centuries. During this time, more than 5000 ruthless pirates used to loot ships around the world, particularly in seas around the Caribbean and the coast of Africa.



## What Did Pirates Steal?

Pirates are well known for stealing treasure, such as gold and silver. In reality, pirates also stole many other things. They often ransacked ships for food, such as rice and fish, so that they didn't go hungry.

Pirate ships were well-used, so pirates would sometimes raid other ships for materials such as ropes, wood and sails to carry out essential repairs. In addition, they stole other useful items like candles, soap and cooking pots.

Trade ships carried goods to sell. Pirates would attack these ships and take goods that they could sell on, such as spices, cocoa, cotton and wood. They would also take valuable weapons and tools, such as cannons and gunpowder, from other ships they encountered.

## Famous Pirates

### Blackbeard

Edward Teach was one of the world's most notorious pirates. He was known by the nickname 'Blackbeard' because of his distinctive black beard. He had a wooden peg leg.



William Kidd was a famous pirate who came from Scotland. He was caught when new laws came in that banned piracy.

### William Kidd

# Pesky Pirates!

Although most pirates were men, some were women. Mary Read and Anne Bonny were the most famous women pirates. They worked together to capture ships until they were caught in 1720.



**Anne Bonny and Mary Read**

## What Did Pirates Eat and Drink?

Pirates went to sea for a long time. For the first few weeks at sea, they would have had plenty of fresh food to eat, such as meat, vegetables and cheese. But after many weeks and months, the food would have gone off and become mouldy. Spices and herbs would have been used to disguise the taste of rotten food. They also used to eat hardtack biscuits, dried beans and salted beef.



Pirates usually drank beer rather than water because, after a while, their water would turn green! Rum was also a very popular pirate drink and would keep much longer than water. Grog was another drink enjoyed by pirates – a mixture of water and rum.

## Did You Know?

It is believed that pirates wore eyepatches to help keep one eye focused to night vision for seeing below the deck.



Although pirates in stories and films often bury their treasure, it was quite unusual for real pirates to do so.

The skull and crossbones flag often seen on pirate ships is called the Jolly Roger. Pirates would fly the Jolly Roger flag to warn other ships that they were planning to attack.



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# Questions

1. What does a pirate do? Tick **one**.
  - A pirate teaches children.
  - A pirate works on land.
  - A pirate robs or attacks ships.
2. Tick **two** things that pirates used to steal.
  - wood
  - animals
  - food
3. What was the other name for the pirate Edward Teach? Tick **one**.
  - Blackleg
  - Blackbeard
  - Blackhand
4. What did pirates drink? Tick **one** answer.
  - beer, rum and milk
  - cola, beer and rum
  - beer, rum and grog
5. What is the flag on a pirate ship called? Tick **one**.
  - The Jolly Sailor
  - The Jolly Roger
  - The Jolly Pirate

# Answers

1. What does a pirate do? Tick **one**.
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# Questions

1. How many pirates were there during the 'Golden Age' of piracy? Tick **one**.

- over 50  
 over 500  
 over 5000

2. Name **three** things that real pirates used to steal.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who was the world's most feared pirate? Tick **one**.

- Edward Teach  
 Edward Learn  
 Edward School

4. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

Mary Read and Anne  
Bonny

because their water used  
to turn green!

Spices and herbs

were the most famous  
women pirates.

Pirates would drink beer  
rather than water

were used to make rotten  
food taste better.

5. Complete this sentence:

The skull and crossbones flag at the top of a pirate ship is called the \_\_\_\_\_

Union Jack

Black Treasure

Jolly Roger

# Answers

1. How many pirates were there during the 'Golden Age' of piracy? Tick **one**.

- over 50  
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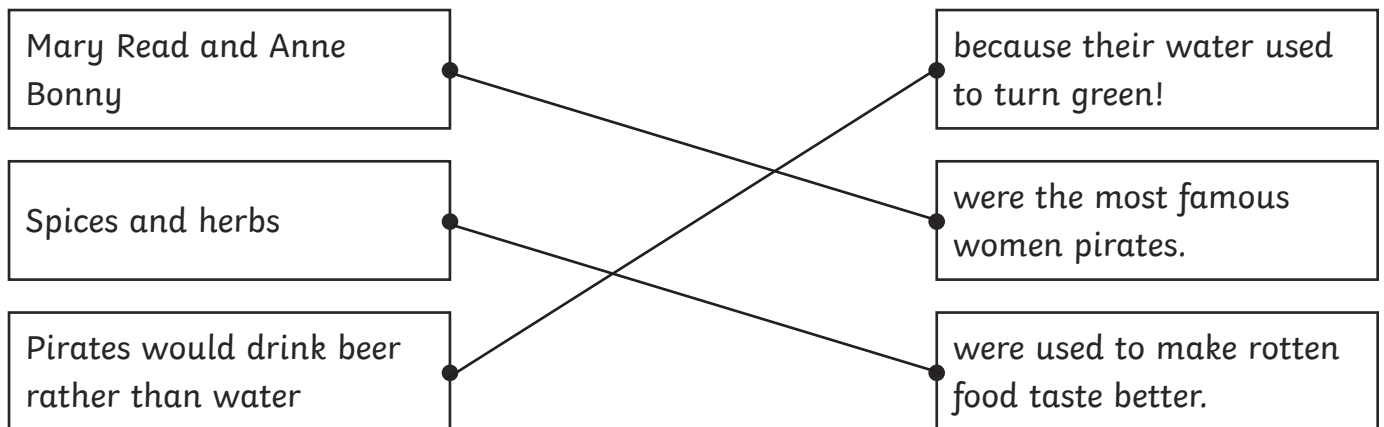
2. Name **three** things that real pirates used to steal.

**Answers may include: food, such as rice and fish; candles; soap; spices; cocoa; cotton; wood; and cannons.**

3. Who was the world's most feared pirate? Tick **one**.

- Edward Teach  
 Edward Learn  
 Edward School

4. Draw a line to complete the sentences.



5. Complete this sentence:

The skull and crossbones flag at the top of a pirate ship is called the **Jolly Roger**.



# Questions

1. When was the 'Golden Age of piracy? Tick **one**.

- 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries
- 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

2. What things did pirates steal from trade ships?

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3. Draw a line to match these facts to the correct pirates.

William Kidd

was a famous woman pirate.

Mary Read

had a wooden peg leg.

Edward Teach

came from Scotland.

4. Find a word in the text that means the same as 'to cover up'.

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5. Name three things that pirates would have eaten or drunk once their fresh supplies had gone off.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why do you think that pirates needed to keep one eye focused to night vision by wearing an eyepatch?

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# Answers

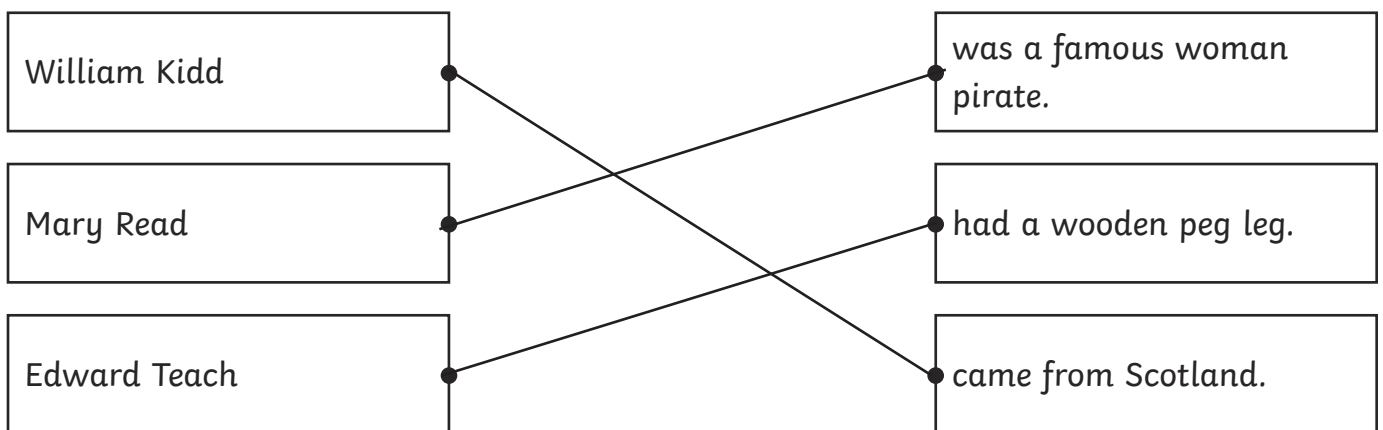
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- 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

2. What things did pirates steal from trade ships?

**Answers may include: spices, cocoa, cotton and wood.**

3. Draw a line to to match these facts to the correct pirates.



4. Find a word in the text that means the same as 'to cover up'.

## Disguise

5. Name three things that pirates would have eaten or drunk once their fresh supplies had gone off.

**Answers may include: spices and herbs, hardtack biscuits, dried beans, salted beef, beer, rum, grog.**

6. Why do you think that pirates needed to keep one eye focused to night vision by wearing an eyepatch?

**Accept answers that are similar to the following: the lower decks would have been very dark (there would have been no light apart from candlelight) so this meant that pirates would have needed to see well in darker conditions.**