

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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