Pirates were sailors who robbed from other ships at sea. They stole gold, silver, jewels, cloth and any other items they could sell or use. Pirates were dangerous. The most famous pirates sailed the seas about 400 years ago. One of the most famous pirates was Edward Teach. Becos of his thick black beard and his scary appearance, he was given the nickname, Blackbeard.

Life as a pirate was hard. The work was dangerous and pirates were often cold and wet. Pirates often got injured or sick. Many pirate ships were small and fast so they could chase and catch other ships. The crew of a pirate ship was large. Some pirate ships had crews as big as 100.

Pirates who did not follow rules on board the ship were punished. Pirates could be tied to the top of the mast in the cold and windy conditions. Flogging was another form of punishment. For the worst crimes, a pirate might have been marooned. This means that they were left to die on a deserted island with no food or water.
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