

Use the text to help you answer the questions about the life of a pirate.

## Life of a Pirate

Pirates are sailors who rob from other ships at sea. While there are still pirates today, the most famous pirates sailed the seas about 400 years ago. They attacked other ships, stealing gold, silver, jewels, cloth and any other items the pirates could sell or use. Pirates were dangerous.

Many pirate ships were small and fast so they could chase and catch other ships. Some had as many as 100 pirates on board, so they could be very crowded! Many of the ships they attacked were larger and slower than pirate ships. They did not stand a chance against a fierce pirate crew. Life as a pirate wasn't easy. The work was dangerous and the conditions on board a pirate ship were tough. Pirates were often cold and wet. Pirates often got injured or sick. One of the reasons pirates were became sick was because of the food they ate. Pirates didn't have much fresh food on board. The meats they ate were salted so they could last a long time at sea. Pirates also ate hard biscuits, bone soups and anything else they could steal from other ships.



1. Why were pirate ships usually quite small?

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2. Why did pirates often get sick?

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3. Give two reasons other ships didn't stand a chance against pirates.

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4. List three foods pirates ate.

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5. What do you think the hardest thing about being a pirate would have been? Explain.

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pirates	treasure
ships	gold
danger	sailing



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### Life of a Pirate **Answers**

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1. Why were pirate ships usually quite small?

Pirate ships were usually small so they could catch and capture larger ships

2. Why did pirates often get sick?

Answers may vary. Pirates often got sick because they didn't have fresh food and the conditions were cold.

3. Give two reasons other ships didn't stand a chance against pirates.

Answers may vary. Pirates had larger crews and faster ships.

4. List three foods pirates ate.

Pirates ate bone soup, hard biscuits and salted meats.

5. What do you think the hardest thing about being a pirate would have been? Explain.

Answers will vary.