

Use the text to help you answer the questions about crew on a pirate ship.

The Crew of a Pirate Ship

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 attacked ships that were carrying valuable items like gold. Pirates were dangerous.

Crew

The crew of a pirate ship was large. This was because the pirates wanted to make sure they had enough people on board to be able to win a fight. Some pirate ships had crews as big as 100! The crew of a pirate ship included a captain, a quartermaster, a cooper and a cook.



The **quartermaster** had the job of sharing out the treasure as well as food and water supplies. The **sailing master** was in charge of sailing the ship and reading maps. The **cook** made food for the whole crew. A pirate sometimes became a cook because he had been injured in battle and was no longer able to fight. A **gunner** was a pirate in charge of the cannons. The **cooper** had that job of making and fixing wooden barrels.

1. Pirates didn't just steal gold silver and jewels. List 4 other things pirates might have stolen.

2. Why were there so many people on board a pirate ship?

3. Why do you think the job of the quartermaster was so important?

4. Why did some pirates become cooks?

5. Why do you think pirates needed wooden barrels on board?

6. Which job on board a pirate ship would you choose? Explain your answer.

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The Crew of a Pirate Ship **Answers**

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1. Pirates didn't just steal gold silver and jewels. List 4 other things pirates might have stolen.

Answers will vary but should be items of value to be sold or used (compass, clothing, rope, sails).

2. Why were there so many people on board a pirate ship?

There were so many people on board to overpower the ships they attacked.

3. Why do you think the job of the quartermaster was so important?

(Answers may vary) The quartermaster's job was so important because if the food, water and treasure wasn't divided fairly, pirates would become angry.

4. Why did some pirates become cooks?

Some pirate became cooks if they were injured and could not fight anymore.

5. Why do you think pirates needed wooden barrels on board?

Wooden barrels were needed to hold food and other items.

6. Which job on board a pirate ship would you choose? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.