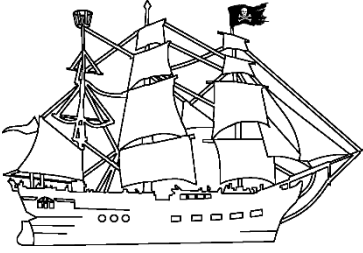


Life of a Pirate

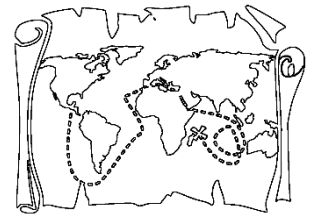


Pirates are sailors who rob from other ships at sea. While there are still pirates today, the most famous pirates sailed the seas about 400 years ago. They attacked other ships, stealing gold, silver, jewels, cloth and any other items the pirates could sell or use. Pirates were dangerous.

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.



Life on a Pirate Ship

Life as a pirate was hard. The work was dangerous, and pirates were often cold and wet. They didn't sleep in comfortable conditions. Pirates often got injured or sick. Many pirate ships were small and fast so they could chase and catch other ships.

Punishments

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.



Treasure

Pirates stole whatever they could sell or use themselves. This included threads, kettles, soap, wood, rope, sails. Pirates sometimes even stole the whole ship if it was better than the one they had!