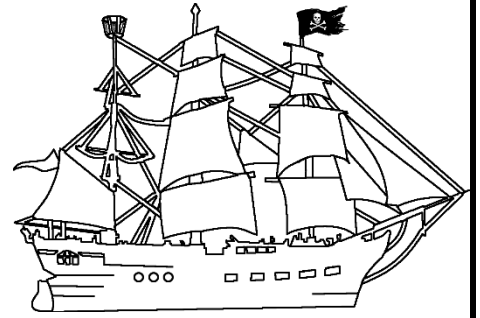


## Level 4

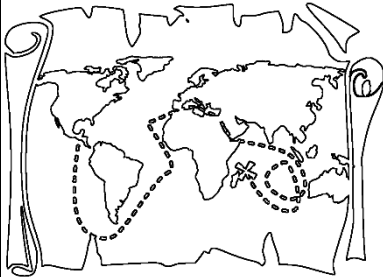
# Pirate Crew

Pirates are sailors who rob from other ships at sea.

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 sometimes even stole the whole ship if it was better than the one they had.



The crew of a pirate ship was often quite large. The pirates wanted to make sure they had enough people on board to be able to overpower the crew of merchant ships. 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 captain was chosen by the rest of the crew. They had to be good fighters, but also very adept at sailing. The quartermaster was in charge of sharing out the treasure and the food and water supplies. The role of quartermaster was very important in stopping fights between crew members. The sailing master was in charge of sailing the ship, including navigation. They had to be very skilled at reading maps and using the compass. The cook was responsible for making food for the whole crew. A pirate sometimes became a cook because he had been injured in battle. A gunner was a pirate in charge of operating the cannons. This was a very difficult job because pirates often wanted to avoid sinking the other ship. The cooper had that job of making and fixing wooden barrels. Wooden barrels were very valuable to pirates as they were used to store food, water and any other items that were required on board.

## Task A: Comprehension

1. Why was the crew of a pirate ship so large?

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2. How was the captain chosen?

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3. Which word from the text means 'skilled'?

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4. Why do you think the gunners were careful not to sink the other ship?

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5. Explain how the quartermaster's job was important in stopping fights between the crew.

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6. Why do you think pirates who were injured sometimes became cooks?

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7. Which of the jobs on board do you think would have been the most difficult? Explain.

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## Task B: Language and Grammar

1. **Syllables** are the beats in words. For example: 'pirate' has 2 syllables- **pi** / **rate**.

Show how many syllables are in the following words:

valuable

sailing

operating

captain

difficult

2. Choose **conjunctions** from the box to join the simple sentences below.

a. Pirates got sick often. They were often cold and wet.

and	so	but
because	although	

\_\_\_\_\_

b. The captain had to be a good fighter. The captain had to be a good sailor.

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Many pirate ships were small and fast. They could chase and catch other ships.

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Movies show pirates making people walk the plank. This didn't happen in real life.

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## Task C: Challenge

Draw and label a picture of a pirate ship.