

Pirate Fact or Fiction

Pirates have always been very popular. Pirates have appeared in lots of movies and books. But is everything we know about pirates true? Let's find out...

Fact

- Blackbeard's real name was Edward Teach.
- Pirates did wear eye patches, but not because they'd lost an eye. It helped them when they moved from the darkness below deck into the sunshine on deck.
- There were female pirates as well. They were all as equally as fierce as the male pirates!
- Blackbeard often wore tiny candles in his hair. He would light them and

the smoke would make him look much scarier to his enemies.



Fiction

- Not all pirates had a skull and crossbones flag. Some had their own design so people knew who was coming!
- Pirates didn't make people walk the plank! They did punish people though by marooning them on a deserted island.
- Pirates rarely fought with each other on their own ship. Each captain had a set of strict rules. Pirates who argued on their own boat were punished.
- Buried treasure can't be spent. Being a pirate was a dangerous job so they spent it rapidly.
- Pirates didn't say things like "Aaarh!". This is a myth from films!

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Which word tells you that lots of people like pirates?
2. Which column is all about things that are true? Fact or Fiction?
3. Which word means “not very often”?

rarely marooning equally

4. What does the word “rapidly” mean?
5. If an island is deserted, what does it mean?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

S

Why did Blackbeard put candles in his hair?

R

Who were equally as fierce as male pirates?

S

What might happen if pirates fought on their own ship?

I

Why didn't pirates bury their treasure?

R

Why did some pirates have their own flag design?

Answers:

1. Popular
2. Fact
3. Rarely
4. Quickly
5. There is nobody else on it

S: To frighten his enemies

R: Female pirates

S: They might be punished

I: They didn't think they'd live long enough to spend it

R: So that people knew who was attacking them