

What is a pirate?

Pirates were people who sailed ships around the world looking for other ships to attack. They did this to try to steal whatever the other ship had and were particularly keen to steal valuable items like treasure. Some pirates had unusual nicknames such as Blackbeard, Calico Jack and Redbeard. Lots of pirate ships flew the 'Jolly Roger' flag which was a warning sign to other ships.



What did pirates eat?

As pirates spent a long time at sea, they had to travel with foods that would store well and keep for long periods of time. At the start of their journeys, the freshest foods would be consumed such as meat, cheese, vegetables and eggs. It was impossible to keep water fresh whilst travelling for long periods of time at sea. Alcohol was added to water to improve its taste and the most popular drink was rum.

Key Vocabulary

Aerial view	A view from a great height.
Capital city	The city where the government of a country, state, or province is located.
Continent	One of the earth's seven major areas of land. The continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.
Fleet	A group of navy ships under one command
Pirate	Someone who attacks or robs ships at sea.
Clan	A group of people from the same family.
Equator	The imaginary circle around the earth that is halfway between the North and South Poles.
Sea	A smaller body of salt water, completely or partly surrounded by land
Globe	The world; planet Earth.
Map	A picture of a particular area of the earth or sky drawn or printed to scale on a flat surface.
Landmark	A point in a landscape that is used as a reference or marks a boundary. Also, a historic building.
Ocean	The vast body of salt water covering about three quarters of the earth's surface.

Grace O'Malley

Grace O'Malley was born in 1530 and is one of the most famous pirates of all time. She was born into a seafaring family and married Donal O'Flaherty, a chief from another powerful seafaring family. Sadly he was killed in battle, as was her second husband leaving her as a widow with three children at the age of 23. She successfully defended the independence of her territories when much of Ireland fell under English rule.



Anne Bonny

Anne was born around 1697 in Cork, Ireland. For family reasons, her birth had to be kept private, as her father was a lawyer and her mother was a maid. So when she was a young girl, to hide her, her father had her dress like a boy and pretend to be his assistant in his lawyer office. When people found out she was a girl, and was his secret daughter, Anne and her father were forced away and decided to move to South Carolina in America. It was here that she developed a 'violent temper'. She married a poor sailor in 1718, named James Bonny. Her father disowned her, so she set off with her new husband to the Bahamas in the Caribbean. During this time, she abandoned her husband and fell in love with a buccaneer who traded in the Caribbean.



Mary Read

Mary was born in England in 1685, and spent her childhood dressed as a boy, pretending to be her own half-brother (who had passed away), so that her penniless mother could claim inheritance money from his grandmother. This worked, and they lived on this money until she was a teenager.

As she grew up, Mary took on the name Mark and took on many jobs as a man including, a servant, a soldier, and later a sailor. It was when she was on a ship heading to the Bahamas when the ship she was on was attacked by English pirates. Disguised as a British sailor, Mary was forced to join the crew and become a pirate herself. This is where she found her way aboard Calico Jack Rackam's boat, where they would steal from poorly armed ships.

Mary Read only sailed with Calico Jack for a few months, but during that time she won a fearsome reputation

