

PIRATES



**MINISTERIO
DE
EDUCACIÓN
& BRITISH
COUNCIL
BILINGUAL
PROJECT**

YEAR 6 READING TEST 2

NAME:

Text 1

Pirates

Pirates are outlaws who operate in ships or on the Internet. Both the World Wide Web and the world's seas are attractive places for criminals to work because hiding in either is easy. The crimes they commit are known as piracy.

There have been pirates for as long as people have travelled on water. They threatened the trading routes of ancient Greece. The Romans had to deal with them while they were building their empire and much of Viking society was built on piracy.

From a pirate's point of view the 17th and 18th centuries were a kind of golden age: The pirates' favourite kinds of victims, cargo ships carrying valuable goods, set sail often from the Caribbean; a sea far from the forces of law and order, where the weather was usually warm and there were plenty of deserted islands where pirate gangs could hide. Lots of pirates from popular stories come from this period, such as Long John Silver from *Treasure Island* and Captain Jack Sparrow from *Pirates of the Caribbean*.



The traditional pirate flag shows a white skull over crossed bones on a black background and is called the Jolly Roger. It is designed to frighten victims into giving up their valuables without a fight.

Pirates didn't use to fly the Jolly Roger all the time. They would normally hide their identity by sailing under a national flag until they were close to the ship they intended to attack. At the last minute they would swap flags, hoisting the Jolly Roger when their victims no longer had time to escape.

Read the text above about pirates and show whether each of these sentences is True (T) or False (F).

1. The Romans were pirates. T / F
2. The best time to be a pirate was during the 17th and 18th centuries. T / F
3. A pirate called Roger was well known for being jolly. T / F
4. In the 17th and 18th centuries pirates flew the same flag all the time so that people would know who they were. T / F
5. Pirates are only to be found at sea. T / F
6. Long John Silver was a Viking. T / F

(6 marks)

Glossary

threat: a person or thing causing danger
deal: to do what is needed to solve a problem
valuables: things that are expensive
hoisting: putting up

lighting fuses: setting fire to cords
wages: money received for work
on trial: in court to decide if you are right or wrong
crew: people who work on a ship

golden age: a time that was very good
refused: say you will not do something

rear: back part

Text 2

Infamous Pirates

Only good people are called famous. Well known bad people are referred to as infamous.

One of the most infamous pirates was Blackbeard, whose real name was Edward Teach. He frightened people to make them give him their valuables but there is no record of him killing anybody.

He would terrify victims with his pistols, his curved sword called a cutlass, or by his special trick of lighting fuses tied to his hat.

He had a wooden leg, known as a peg leg, and his favourite pastime was drinking 'grog,' a mixture of rum, sugar and lime juice.



Captain William Kidd, a Scotsman, fought for the British against the French in the Caribbean. There was no money to pay wages so Kidd and his crew were told they were allowed to take valuables from the French ships they attacked.

When he returned to London he was put on trial for piracy because he had grown rich by attacking ships. Nobody came forward to say that he had been working under the orders of British commanders. He was hanged on May 23rd, 1701.

Anne Bonny was born in Ireland around the year 1700. She was known for being bad tempered, and it is said that when she was only thirteen years old she stabbed a servant girl with a table knife.

While living on a Caribbean island in 1718 she met the pirate known as Calico Jack, captain of the *Revenge*. She joined him in piracy and they fell in love. They were married at sea and had a son.

Together with their crew, they stole a lot of treasure from other ships. Anne fought alongside the men and they could see she was as good a fighter as they were.

In 1720 Calico Jack was captured and then hanged. Anne escaped and was never seen or heard of again.



Text 2

Read text 2. Now answer the questions below:

1. a) Was Captain William Kidd French? _____
b) Write the sentence from the text that tells you this. _____

_____ (2 marks)

2. What did Blackbeard use to frighten his victims? _____

_____ (3 marks)

3. Anne Bonny is known to have been a pirate for only two years. What information in the text tells you this? _____

_____ (2 marks)

4. Why did Captain William Kidd and his crew decide to work for the British when there was no money available to pay wages? _____

_____ (1 mark)

5. Complete the following sentences by circling either (a), (b) or (c), depending on which one you think is correct.
- (I) The crew of the *Revenge* knew that Anne Bonny was
a. French / b. a servant girl / c. a good fighter
- (II) Blackbeard liked to spend time drinking
a. grog / b. sugar / c. lime juice
- (III) Blackbeard probably had an unusual walk because of his
a. hat / b. special trick / c. peg leg
- (3 marks)

6. Write the *adjective* in text 2 which tells you that Blackbeard was a well known bad person. _____ (1 mark)

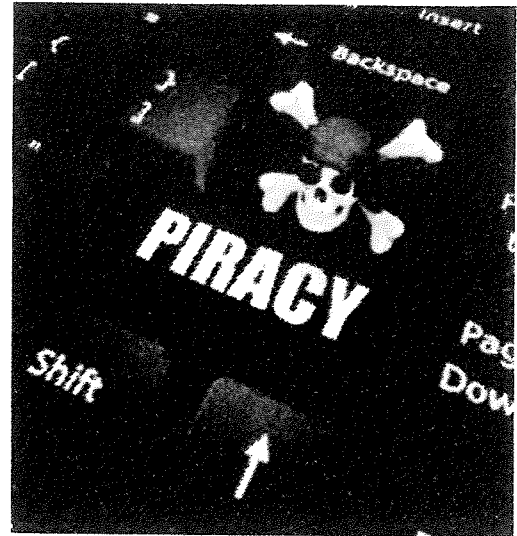
7. Write one of the *verbs* used in text 2 which tells you what Blackbeard did to make people give him things. _____ (1 mark)

Text 3

Modern Pirates

People who steal films, books or other media from the World Wide Web are sometimes called Internet pirates.

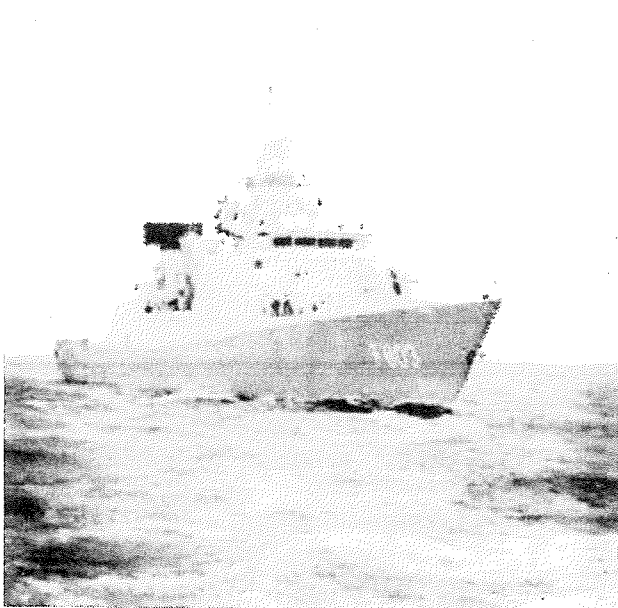
Much of what we find on line can be downloaded free. However the owners of some films, pictures, stories or music have the right to ask for money in return for a download. When this happens, anyone who takes the material without paying is a thief. This kind of activity is sometimes called piracy.



Pirates is a good word for Internet thieves because the World Wide Web is a place where it's easy to hide, just as the Caribbean sea was in the golden age of piracy.

Things we find on the Internet which are owned by someone else, and for which they may have the right to charge money, are called copyrighted material.

In some parts of the world pirates still attack ships. One of these places is the sea off the coast of Somalia, a country in an area known as The Horn Of Africa.



Since the year 2005 many countries have been worried by the increase in piracy near Somalia. The problem became so bad that some of them agreed to send warships. The U.K., the U.S.A. and Spain are among those who have sent ships to try to catch pirates.

Unlike pirates from the golden age, they don't capture ships in order to steal valuable property. Their plan is normally to hold important crew members, such as the captain, for ransom. This would usually mean taking the captain as a prisoner and refusing to give him or her back until a large amount of money known as a ransom was paid.

The Somalis who do this weren't always pirates. Prior to 2005 they were mostly fishermen. Back then, foreign ships used to break the law near the Somali coast by dumping toxic waste. Many fish were killed. There was no longer work for the Somalis or fish for their families to eat. They began attacking the ships which were dumping the waste to stop them from doing it. After a while they decided that piracy by holding crew for ransom was a better way to make a living than fishing in poisoned waters.

Text 3

Read text 3 and answer the following questions:

1. If you find something on the Internet which is copyrighted, what does that mean? _____
_____ (2 marks)

2. Where is Somalia to be found? _____ (1 mark)

3. Now read the following sentences from the text and circle words that mean the same as the **underlined words** to create a sentence with the same meaning.

(I) Since the year 2005 many countries have been worried by the **increase in** piracy near Somalia.

Since the year 2005 many countries have been worried by the **decrease in / growth of / fall in** piracy near Somalia.

(II) However the owners of some films, pictures, stories or music have the right to **ask for money** in return for a download.

However the owners of some films, pictures, stories or music have the right to **charge / upload / pay** in return for a download.

(III) Back then, foreign **ships** used to break the law near the Somali coast by dumping **toxic** waste.

Back then, foreign **groups / vessels / fools** used to break the law near the Somali coast by dumping **poisonous / liquid / old** waste.

(4 marks)

4. Explain in your own words how Somali pirates try to make money. _____

_____ (3 marks)

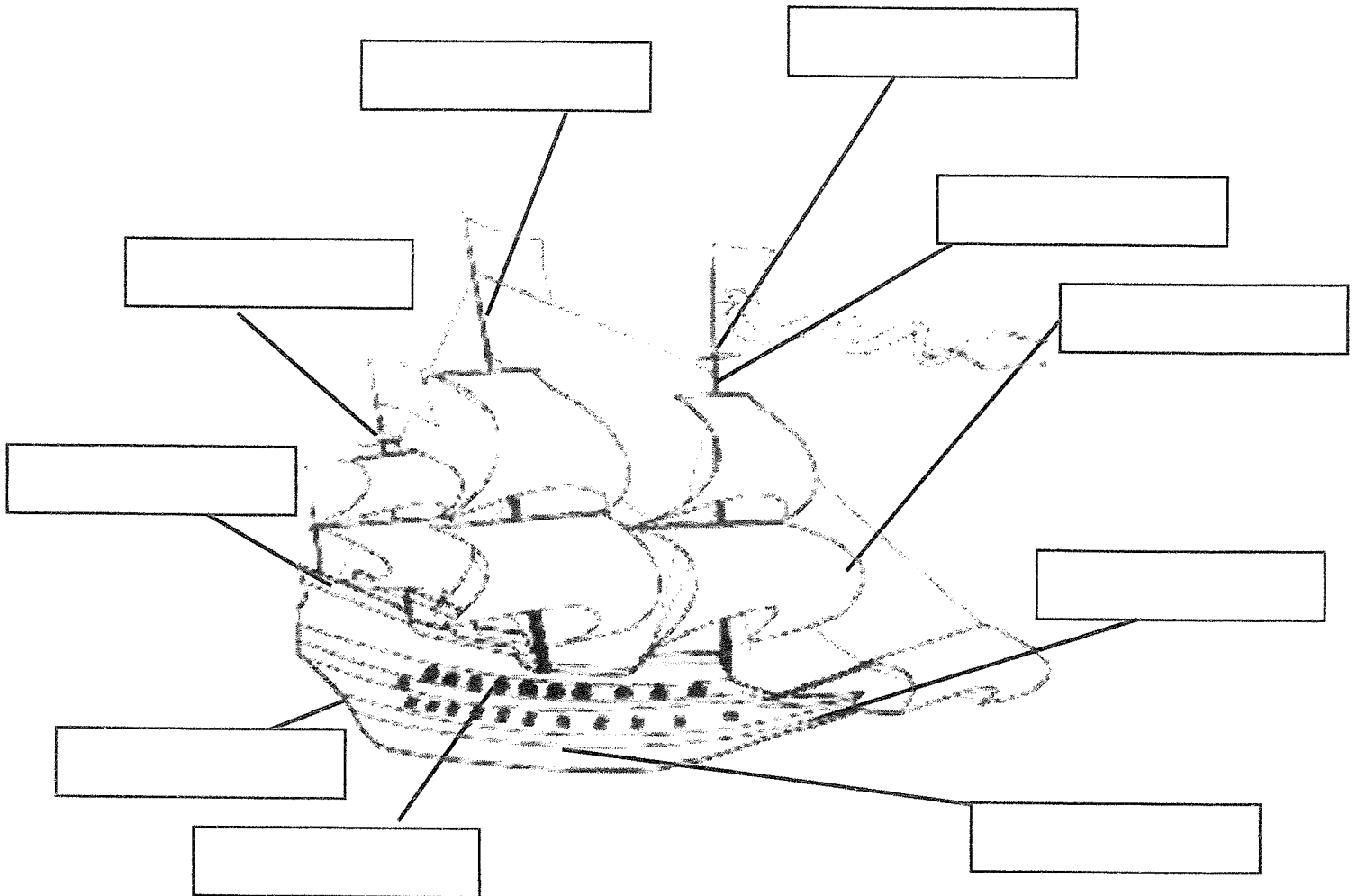
5. Write a *verb* from text 3, paragraph 1, which means taking something which should be paid for but not paying for it. _____ (1 mark)

6. Write an *adjective* from text 3, paragraph 8, which means from a different country. _____ (1 mark)

7. Write one thing which is similar and one thing which is different about the two kinds of pirates in text 3. _____
_____ (2 marks)

Text 4

Pirate Ships



In olden days some pirate crews sailed in wooden, three masted ships like the one in the sketch above. A ship like this moves because the wind pushes against sails. A sail is a square or triangle of cloth held above the main deck on a tall pole called a mast. In this drawing there are three masts. The tallest is the mainmast, the second tallest, located towards the front, is the foremast and the shortest is the mizzenmast.

A person from the crew keeps watch from the crow's nest, which is a small piece of wood at the top of the foremast for him or her to stand on. The main body of the ship is the hull. The front, known as the bow, is slim to cut through the water. The rear, called the stern, is broader. There are portholes in the hull. A porthole allows fresh air to enter and a cannon can be fired through it if necessary.

The floors for the crew to walk on are called decks. The captain can keep an eye on his crew from the poop deck. This is situated at the stern and is normally the highest deck.

1. Using nouns from the text, label ten important features of the ship in the sketch. (10 marks)

