Pirates



🚺 Match 1–5 with a–e.

- 1 John Gow led a mutiny in 1724.
- 2 Henry Morgan was a buccaneer and a privateer.
- 3 Jean Fleury, a Frenchman, captured two Spanish ships in 1523.
- **4** Francis Drake sailed round the world between 1577 and 1580.
- 5 Grace O'Malley and her crew attacked ships up and down the coast of Ireland in the 1560s.
- a In 1669 his crew blew up their own ship by mistake and killed 250 people.
- **b** Queen Elizabeth I knighted him when he came home.
- c She demanded to meet Queen Elizabeth I after the English complained about her piracy.
- d He murdered his ship's officers and became a pirate.
- e He stole lots of gold but he had papers to prove that he was a privateer.

2 Which word does not belong?

1	sloop	braid	galley	schooner
2	blackjack	plumed	Jolly Roger	skull and crossbones
3	cannon	cutlass	axes	hull
4	ransom	sun	stars	charts
5	Jamaica	Madagascar	Barbary Coast	Scotland

3 Write a magazine article about a famous shipwreck. Write a description of the pirate who owned the ship and what was found on the ship.

Pirates



4 Choose a, b or c to complete the sentences.

- 1 Some people became pirates because they were a buccaneers. b mutineers. c buccaneers or mutineers.
- 2 In 1907, a Chinese pirate chief's widow, Zheng Shi, took command of her husband's
 - a large fleet of ships and men. b ship. c treasure.
- 3 After pirates stole a ship, they
 a painted it. b gave it a new name. c invited other pirates on board.
- 4 The Barbary corsairs forced their prisoners to a cook and clean. b row as galley slaves. c mutiny.
- 5 The Barbary corsairs held their victims as prisoners until someone
 a paid a ransom.
 b helped them escaped.
 c stole them.

5 Read the sentences. Write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 In real life, piracy was, and still is, horrible, fierce and frightening.
- 2 Pirates often set their prisoners adrift at sea in a big boat with a lot of food.
- 3 Navy patrols set out to find the worst pirates, and in 1718 they caught Blackbeard.
- 4 In 1849, the British navy fought a great battle against American pirates and killed about 400 pirates.
- 5 If a law court decided a pirate was guilty, they cut off their heads, shot them or hanged them.





6 Complete the sentences with who, that or where.

- 1 Pirates and sailors _____ lived 300 years ago had their own special words.
- 2 Mutineers were sailors _____ rebelled against their captain.
- 3 Kings often gave privateers permission to attack ships _____ belonged to their country's enemies.
- 4 Pirate ships were ships _____ looked the same as other ships.
- 5 Havens are usually in quiet areas, _____ the pirates can live and sell their treasure in safety.

Complete the sentences with needed or needed to.

- 1 Pirates _____ be good sailors because they had to navigate their ships.
- 2 Pirates preferred ships that were fast and able to change direction easily in case they ______ escape.
- 3 They also ______ ships that were small enough to hide away in coves and bays.
- 4 They _____ climb the mast in the middle of a storm to raise or lower sails.
- 5 They _____ be able to use all sorts of weapons.

8 Complete the sentences with for, on, in, at or on.

- 1 Pirates are people who attack ships _____ sea.
- 2 Most sailors thought it was unlucky to have women _____ board a ship.
- 3 The Barbary corsairs kept their prisoners _____ chains.
- 4 Pirate stories are often about treasure chests buried ______ lonely islands.
- 5 People keep searching _____ treasure without any luck!