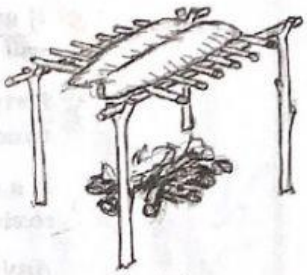
Lesson 1 HW

Pirates and Buccaneers

Nearly 400 years ago in the 17th century, the Caribbean islands became the home of many **Buccaneers**. They were a mixed group of mostly **English, French,** and **Dutch** men and women. Many of them were shipwrecked and **marooned** off the coast of **Hispaniola.** They hunted wild boar and cattle and learnt from The Carib people how to cure meat. **Curing** is a way of preserving meat with salt and spices so that it does not go bad in a hot climate.



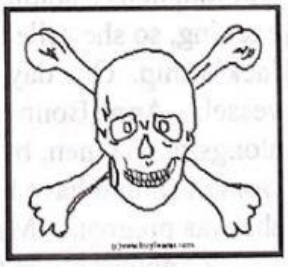
The meat was spread in strips over a wooden grate or **boucan**. This was placed near or over a slow-burning fire. The heat dried the meat to a fine red colour. It had a delicious taste. The sailors sold the meat (which was also called boucan) to ships that passed by. This is why they were called **Buccaneers**. Later the Buccaneers were chased off Hispaniola by Spaniards. They took to the sea and lived by capturing Spanish ships. They also became known as **pirates**.



Over the next one hundred years, there were many pirates in the Caribbean. James Johnson was a cabin boy who, without knowing it at the time, joined a pirate ship in New Providence. Pirates were indiscriminate, and they preyed upon any passing vessel. They were also "**wreckers**" who would use false "**lighthouses**" to lure vessels upon the reefs and then reap the spoils from the stranded ship.

James dream came true in May 1716, when the '**Vengeance**' sailed into Nassau. Captain Joe strode ashore and beckoned James toward him. He said, "Ah lad, I see you watch with a longing in your eye as the ships come and go. You've got the sea in your bones. We need a boy, and you're welcome aboard!"

James bid his aunt goodbye and set sail with **Captain Joe** and his crew that same afternoon. As they left the harbour behind them, the crew hoisted the pirate flag, the **Jolly Roger** – which was sometimes called '***The banner of King Death***.' Only then did James realize that he had joined a pirate ship.



Life on board was frightening and very dangerous. James and the crew attacked other ships, seized their goods and treasure, and fought many fierce battles. Suffering, misery, and death were part of their lives. Life on the high seas was not as James had imagined it would be.

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Some pirates had their headquarters in Nassau. The Government who ruled the island could not stop the pirates' raids. There were too many hiding places for pirates' ships amongst the cays and bays.

Although there were lots of fighting, the pirates still had to obey the shipboard rules and traditions.

If any man steals from another crew member, he will be left on a deserted island.

Forty lashes will be given to a man found smoking tobacco in the cabin.

If a man should lose a finger during battle, he will receive 400 pieces-of-eight

Any man who loses an arm or a leg in battle will receive 800 pieces-of-eight.

Primary Social Studies and Tourism Education book grade 5



There were THREE famous pirates. The most frightening was **Edward Teach**. He was known as '**Blackbeard.**' He struck terror in the hearts of many of the sailors and pirates. He was a tall man, with a long, thick, dirty black beard tired with red ribbons. During a battle, he stuck burning cord in his hair to terrify his enemies. He shouted at his own men for no reason, and no one dared challenge him. He was finally killed in **1718**, during a fierce battle with a government warship.



There were also women pirates. **Anne Bonny** and **Mary Reade** were pirates who dressed like men. They fought like devils. Anne Bonny was born in Ireland and moved to America. There she secretly married a sailor, but her father disowned her and the sailor left her when he found she had no money. Then she met Captain **Jack Rackman**, a pirate who was known as '**Calico Jack.**' Anne went to sea with him and together they captured many ships, stealing the goods the ships were carrying.



Mary Reade was raised as a boy. She ran away from home and fought as a soldier in Europe. She did not find this life very exciting, so she sailed across the Atlantic and joined Calico Jack's ship. One day the ship was ambushed by government vessels. Anne Bonny and Mary Reade both fought bravely alongside the men, but finally, they were captured. Both of the women should have been hanged, but Anne was saved because she was pregnant. Mary died of fever in prison.

Another pirate that sailed in the waters of The Bahamas was **Stede Bonnet**. He was an army officer who became a pirate with a ship called the 'Revenge.' He filled it with guns and men and told everyone he was going trading among the

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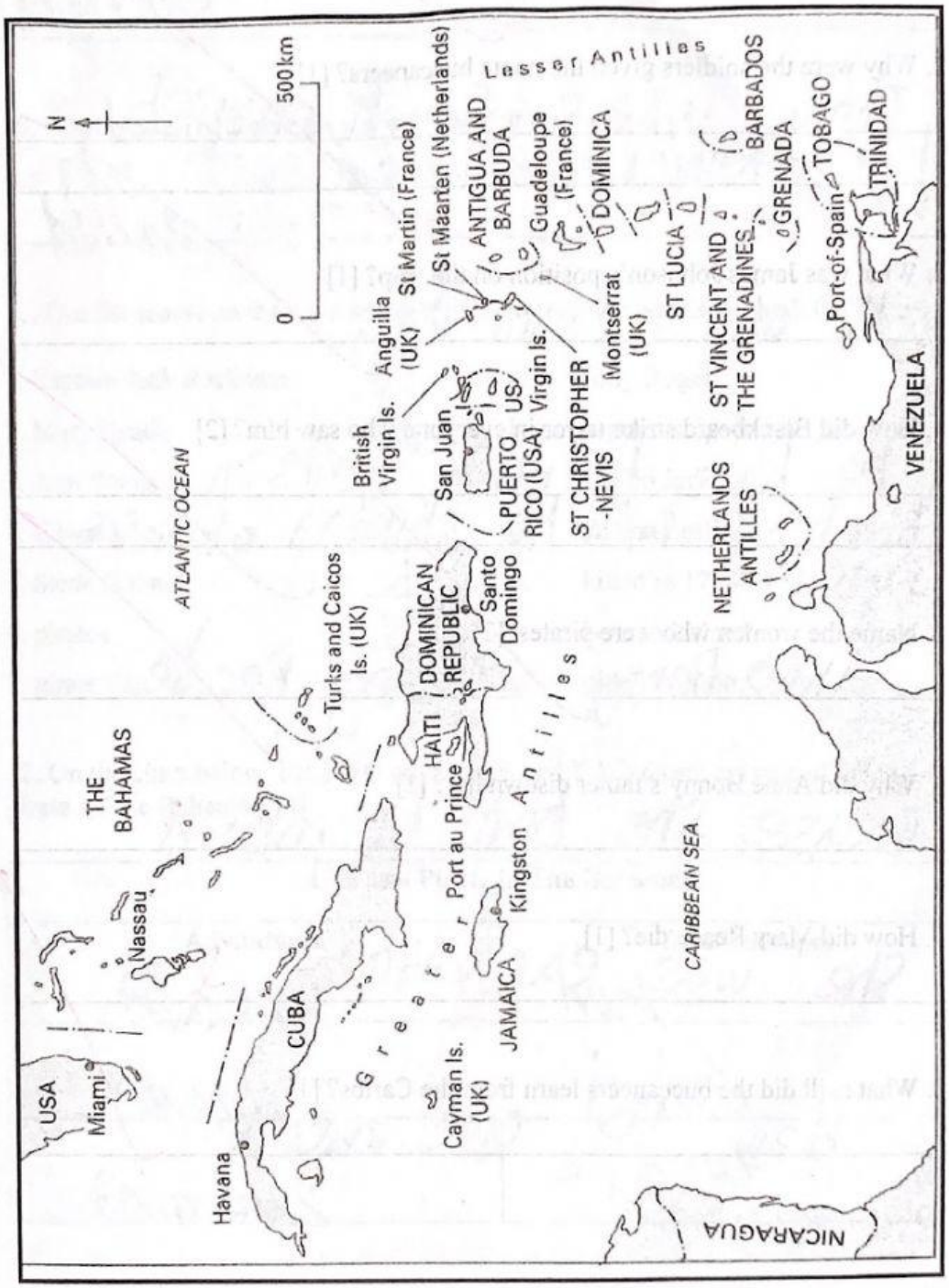
islands. Instead, he terrorized the Caribbean, stealing and burning as he went. Then he sailed north to Virginia where he met Blackbeard, who took over the Revenge for a time. Bonnet was finally captured by government forces and hanged.



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Date: 1/6 10/1

1. What is boucan? [1]

A wooden grate

2. Why were the soldiers given the name buccaneers? [1]

They were french, english, dutch men and women

3. What was James Johnson's position on the ship? [1]

He was a cabin boy

4. How did Blackbeard strike terror in everyone who saw him? [2]

He has burning cords in his hair and He shouted at his own men

5. Name the women who were pirates. [2]

Anne Bonny Mary Reade

6. Why did Anne Bonny's father disown her? [1]

Cause she had no many

7. How did Mary Reade die? [1]

She was executed

8. What skill did the buccaneers learn from the Caribs? [1]

How to cure meat

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9. Describe how the buccaneers supported themselves while living on the island of Hispaniola. [2]

They hunted and built shelters

10. What made The Bahamas a good place for pirates? [2]

The ships and there were many hiding places

11. Use the letters on the right and match them with the words on the left. [7]

1. Captain Jack Rackham	c	a.	Jolly Roger
2. Mary Reade	g	b.	capture ships at sea
3. Ann Bonny	f	c.	Calico Jack
4. Edward Teach	e	d.	an army officer
5. Stede Bonnet	d	e.	killed in 1718
6. pirates	b	f	born in Ireland
7. pirate flag	a	g	died in prison

12. On the chart below, list TWO advantages and TWO disadvantages of being a pirate in The Bahamas. [4]

Life as a Pirate in The Bahamas	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**
feared	hunted
raghless	jailed
famous	executed

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