Name: _____ Date:_____

Social Studies



Pirates and Buccaneers Part 1

Nearly 400 years ago, 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 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 slat 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 a slow-burning fire. The heat dried the meat to a fine red colour. 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 the Spaniards. They took to the sea and lived by capturing Spanish ships. They later became known as **pirates.**

Write True or False.

1. The Buccaneers were a mixed group of mostly English, French and Dutch men and women. _____
2. Curing is a way of preserving meat with salt and spices. _____
3. The Buccaneers learned how to cure meat from the Arawaks. ____
4. Marooned means to be left on a deserted island. _____
5. The Buccaneers were chased off Hispaniola by the English._____
6. The Buccaneers became pirates after they took to the sea and captured Spanish ships. _____