Name: _____ Date: _____

The life of Mary Read

1 My name is Mary Read. I was born in London. My mother, who was a widow, raised me as a boy. For most of my life I lived as a man.

2 When I was thirteen years old, I worked as a footboy for a rich French woman. After a short period of time, I ran away and worked on a naval ship. A few years later I became a soldier. I had to confess my womanhood when I fell in love with a soldier whom I married. Unfortunately, my husband died and left me alone. Once again I dressed as a man and enlisted in the army.

3 Life in the army was not fulfilling, so I decided to sail away to the West Indies. On the way, my ship was captured by Captain John Rackham, better known as 'Calico Jack'. To my amazement, one of his crewmembers was a female pirate. This agile female, Anne Bonny, inspired and encouraged me to become a pirate.

4 On a pirate's ship, life was very rugged. We dressed in coarse linen, which we dyed with animals' blood. Many vicious battles were fought at sea. If a ship was captured, all its treasures were taken away. Captain Rackham offered the sailors the privilege of joining his crew. Many consented, often just for the fear of losing their lives. I was respected at sea and learned to handle the pistol, cutlass or sword as well or better than many male pirates. My friend Anne and I were two of the most famous female pirates of the Caribbean.

5 After many adventures on the seas, Captain Rackham, my friend Anne and I were taken as prisoners. We were tried at St Jugo de la Vega in Jamaica on 28 November 1720 and were sentenced to be hanged.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The following words were all taken from the passage you just read. Can you classify them by putting each word under the correct column in the table below? The first one is done for you.

Mary Read, thirteen, two, Jamaica,
pistol, sword, Calico Jack, London,
Anne Bonny, one, cutlass

Pirates	Number Words	Weapons	Names of Places

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS