Name:_____

Topic: Pirates and Buccaneers

Instructions: Read the passage below and answer the following questions

BUCCANEERS AND PIRATES

In the mid 17th century a group of French, English and Dutch robbers and seamen lived on the island of Hispaniola. They became known as buccaneers. The men lived out in the open, hunting wild cattle and other animals. They made a living by selling cured meat to passing ships. The men lived a very rough life. They wore clothes made of cloth that they had dyed in the blood of the animals they hunted. They also wore round caps, hogskin in boots and rawhide belts.

Lifestyle

Two things caused the Buccaneers to leave Hispaniola. First, the wild cattle they hunted became very few in number. Second, they were driven off the island by the Spanish that ruled Hispaniola.

The Buccaneers moved to Tortuga and Port Royal, Jamaica. The Buccaneers changed their lifestyle and began to attack the ships of their enemies, the Spanish. Spanish ships moved through the Caribbean loaded with gold and silver from South America.

Lifestyle

The Buccaneers had a very strict code ofhonour. They shared equally in all provisions and liquor. Each person had a right to vote on important matters.

Tortuga was the main headquarters for the Buccaneers, but the Englishmen mainly used Port Royal. There were several buccaneers who came to use the Bahamas as a hideout. The Bahamas was chosen because of the many reefs, channels, protected harbours and deserted island. In 1689 the English left Tortuga completely because England and France were at war. In 1692 Port Royal was destroyed by an earthquake. These events, plus the fact that there was virtually no government here, led to the establishment of the Bahamas as a pirate headquarters. It was a very small step from being a buccaneers (attacking only your enemies ships) to becoming a pirate. A pirate attacked not just Spanish ships, but any and all ships that had treasure.

Every pirate crew had a set of articles. These were a set of rules that explained what was to be done, how to behave on the ships and also a type of insurance for any crew member that was injured. Pirate ships sailed their own flag. It was called the Jolly Roger. The pirate flag had a skull and two crossed bones on either a black or red background.

FAMOUS PIRATES OF THE BAHAMAS

There were several famous pirates that made their headquarters in the Bahamas in the early 1700'2 (18th century). Four of them are discussed below.

Mary Read

Mary Read was a woman that was raised as a boy. When she was older, she ran away from home to fight in the Wars in Europe. Later, she stowed away on a ship headed for the Caribbean. The ship she was on was captured by pirates. Mary, always seeking adventure, joined the pirate crew.

The pirate crew that Mary joined was under the command of Captain Jack Rackham (known as Calico Jack). When the pirates were given a pardon by Woodes Rogers in 1718, Mary accepted the pardon. She then became a privateer and was sent out os captured Spanish ships. When her crew had captured a Spanish ship, they mutinied and became pirates again (they kept the treasure for themselves instead of turning it over to the English.

The usual punishment for a person convicted of piracy was be hanged. Mary Read was captured and sentenced to hang. However, Mary died of a fever in prison before this could happen.

Anne Bonney

Anne Bonney was born in Ireland and later moved to Carolina. While she was in Carolina she secretly married a sailor in Charlestown. When her father discovered this, Anne Bonney was disowned. Now that she had no money, Anne's new husband left her. Anne Bonney met Jack Rackham and joined his pirate crew. She was captured in 1720 near Jamaica with Rackham's crew. Anne Bonney was sentenced to hang with Mary Read and Jack Rackham. However, Anne Bonney was not hanged because she was going to have a baby.

Stede Bonnet

Stede Bonnet was originally an army officer. He lived on a plantation on Barbados and had never commanded a ship before he became a pirate. Many said he became a pirate because his mind was unbalanced. Others said it was his wife that drove him to it. Bonnett's ship was called The Revenge. He sailed in the Bahamas and plundered and burned the Caribbean region and as far north as Virginia in the United States. In 1718, Bonnet also accepted the pardon offered by Woodes Rogers. He soon returned to piracy. His new ship was called The Royal James.

Bonette had to stop in South Caroline for repairs to his ship. A Colonel Rhett heard of this and went to capture him. The battle to capture Bonnet lasted five hours and then he surrendered. Bonnet escaped from prison, but he was later recaptured. Bonnet was hanged in November 1718. He is known as the only pirate that actually made people 'walk the plank'.

Blackbeard:

Perhaps the most famous pirate of all was Blackbeard. Blackbeard's real name was Edward Teach. Teach was born in England and he came to the Caribbean as a privateer. In 1713 Teach joined Benjamin Hornigold's crew and became a pirate. In 1716 Blackbeard had captured his own ship and named it Queen Anne's Revenge. Blackbeard's base for attacking the Atlantic Coast of North America was Nassau. Blackbeard is described as being tall and he had a blackbeard that he tied up with red ribbons. He carried three pairs of pistols in holsters around his shoulders. Blackbeard made appoint of regularly shooting one of his men so they would not forget that he was in command. In 1718 Blackbeard died while he was fighting to prevent being captured. It is said he fought on even though he had five gunshot wounds and 3 sword wounds.

WRITE "T" FOR TRUE OR "F" FOR FALSE ON THE LINE AFTER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

1. Buccaneers originally lived on the island of Jamaica where they hunted wild cattle. _____
2. Buccaneers attacked only English ships. _____
3. Buccaneers wore clothes dyed in the blood of the animals they hunted.
4. The enemies of the Buccaneers were the French_____.
5. Port Royal was destroyed by an earthquake. _____
6. Henry Morgan was a buccaneer who became the Governor of Jamaica.
7. Tortuga was the first pirate's republic. _____
8. Privateers were given letters of marque to attack Spanish Ships. _____
9. The pirates relocated to The Bahamas because it was located on the Trade Route. _____
10. The pirates had codes of conducts. _____