Warm-Up 15

Name _____

Female Pirates

Women were rarely allowed on pirate ships, except when they were captured from other ships. They became part of the stolen treasure of gold, food, and weapons. A few women did choose to become pirates. They usually pretended they were men by dressing in men's clothes and fighting with swords and pistols just like male pirates. Some were even married to male pirates.

A Swedish princess ran away from an unhappy marriage and became a pirate more than twelve hundred years ago. Grace O'Malley, an Irish lady from a noble family, had her own fleet of pirate galleys propelled by oars and sails. She attacked many treasure ships sailing in the Atlantic Ocean in the 1500s. She lived a long life and died at the advanced age of seventy-three.

Two of the most famous female pirates sailed on John "Calico Jack" Rackham's ship. Mary Read had been serving in the British army as a soldier when her ship was captured by Rackham. She promptly joined his crew and became famous as a ferocious pirate warrior. Mary was an expert with the cutlass (a short, thick, curved sword). She also fought sword duels with fellow pirates when she was angry. Anne Bonny, on the same ship, left her husband to join Rackham. She carried a short ax, two pistols, and a sword. Both women were sentenced to hang when their ship was captured by the British navy. Mary died of illness in jail, and Anne disappeared after she was pardoned by the authorities. A pirate's life may have been full of adventure, but it didn't always end that way.

Check Your Understanding

1. Which of the female pirates had served as a British soldier?
   a. Anne Bonny
   b. Mary Read
   c. Grace O'Malley
   d. Alwilda

2. Which of the following is the best summary of the passage?
   a. Mary Read and Anne Bonny were successful pirates.
   b. Female pirates were rare but interesting people.
   c. No female pirate was ever captured.
   d. Female pirates didn't know how to fight.

3. Which of these sentences is an opinion and *not* a fact?
   a. There were some female pirates.
   b. Women did not make good pirates.
   c. Female pirates sometimes dressed in men's clothing.
   d. Some female pirates fought sword duels when they were angry.

4. Which word refers to "a ship propelled by oars and sails"?
   a. cruiser
   b. cutlass
   c. galley
   d. fleet

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Warm-Up

Name _____

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Kites

Kites are among the oldest inventions (and **toys**) of humankind. They have been around for at least 3,000 years since their invention in China. Although they have always been playthings for children and adults, they have been used for more serious purposes, as well. In China and some other Asian countries, kites have been used for fishing. Instead of just using a fishing pole, the fisherman flies a kite far out over the water with a fishing line, hook, and sinker dangling from the kite. When a fish bites, the kite is jerked upward by the kite-flying fisherman. The fish becomes airborne and then is pulled in as the kite is brought back to shore. Flying kites at night to ward off evil spirits is also a practice that dates back to ancient times in China.

Kites have been used as signaling devices for armies and for ships. A few were built to support a person who was carried as a spy flying over the army of an enemy.

The inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, created a new kind of kite, the tetrahedral kite. It is made of four triangular sides. Bell used very light balsa wood to make his kites. He even designed a boat in the same triangular shape to pull his huge kites. He was able to carry a 220-pound man on the kite that he pulled into the air using the boat. Kites are still popular playthings in many parts of the world for children of all ages with their eyes on the skies. When is the last time you flew a kite?

Check Your Understanding

1. Which word in the passage means "a flying object"?
   a. tetrahedral
   b. balsa
   c. ancient
   d. airborne

2. How many sides are on a tetrahedron?
   a. one
   b. two
   c. four
   d. six

3. Which is the best topic sentence in the passage?
   a. paragraph one, last sentence
   b. paragraph two, last sentence
   c. paragraph one, first sentence
   d. paragraph two, first sentence

4. From the context of the passage, which is a synonym for **toys**?
   a. playthings
   b. dangling
   c. flying
   d. balsa

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