

Social Studies

Topic: Pirates and Buccaneers

Pirates and Buccaneers

What is a pirate?

A person who attacks and robs ships at sea. Robbery, kidnapping, and murder all qualify as piratical activities, provided there's some water and a boat involved. If they were to commit their crimes on land they would be considered regular bandits.



What is a buccaneer?

Buccaneers were semi-lawful sailors and soldiers, English, French, or Dutch sea adventurers, who haunted chiefly the Caribbean and the Pacific seaboard of South America, preying on Spanish settlements and shipping during the second half of the 17th century.



Image courtesy of Alchetron

Why they came to The Bahamas?

Pirates used the Bahamas as their main port because of the many small islands, shallow waters and coves, which made for perfect hiding places. The waters were too shallow for large man-of-war ships but were perfect for the smaller, faster boats used by pirates.

- Nassau, on New Providence Island, was at the heart of piracy, with the most pirates anywhere in the world. The Bahamas islands were chosen by pirates because they were close to major shipping routes, and pirates could easily rob and plunder merchant ships.
- Many said that when a pirate died he did not want to go to heaven, instead he wanted to go back to Nassau. (bahamas4kids.com)

