



## Before You Read

^ A historic tall ship sails toward the sunset.

**A. Matching.** Read the information and match each word in **bold** with its definition.

During the Golden Age of Piracy (1660–1730), **goods** such as cloth, spices, and weapons were commonly traded between Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas. Pirates were a common threat to **maritime** trade, especially in the Caribbean. One famous pirate **captain** was Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard.

- a. ship's leader \_\_\_\_\_      b. related to the sea \_\_\_\_\_  
c. things that are made to be sold \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Predict.** What do you think pirates were really like? Read the sentences and circle **T** (true) or **F** (false). Then read the passage to check your ideas.

- |  |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|
| 1. On a pirate ship, men made the ship's rules together. | <b>T</b> | <b>F</b> |
| 2. Pirates made most of their money by stealing gold.    | <b>T</b> | <b>F</b> |
| 3. Many pirates had wooden legs or wore earrings.        | <b>T</b> | <b>F</b> |

# PIRATES: ROMANCE AND REALITY

- 1 In the movies, pirates have exciting and adventurous lives. But what was life actually like for an 18th-century pirate? Which aspects of the movie pirate are real, and which are invented?

## A Pirate's Life

- 5 While movie pirates are men in search of adventure, the **average** pirate was usually trying to escape from a difficult life. Some were ex-sailors who were treated poorly on their ships. Others were escaped slaves who wanted their **freedom**. They came from many different backgrounds. But on a pirate ship, **equality** was important. Men elected<sup>1</sup> their captain and
- 10 created the ship's rules together. The men also **divided** the **income** from stolen goods, and they shared these earnings fairly.

<sup>1</sup> If you **elect** someone, you choose that person to lead.

## Pirate Treasure

In movies, pirates have chests full of gold and piles of money stolen from other people. However, it was far more common for pirates to  
15 **steal** things like cloth, spices, and even medicine. They often sold these things. Of course, **purchasing** stolen goods from pirates was illegal, but many people did it. Also, unlike movie pirates, real pirates didn't **bury** their money, says Cori Convertito, who works at a maritime museum in the U.S. "They blew it as soon as they could on  
20 women and booze."<sup>2</sup>

## Pirate Style

Movie pirates often wear eye patches and have wooden legs. Many real pirates also looked like this. Why? One **factor** was the poor living conditions. "Life at sea was hard and dangerous," says David  
25 Moore, a maritime museum employee in the U.S. **Disease** was also common. For these reasons, some pirates lost eyes and legs. But many pirates did one thing for their health: They wore earrings—just like in the movies. They believed putting weight on the ears stopped seasickness.

✓ "Duel on the Beach," by N. C. Wyeth (1882–1945), a romantic image of pirates' adventurous lives

<sup>2</sup> **Booze** is an informal word meaning *alcohol*.



## Reading Comprehension

**Multiple Choice.** Choose the best answer for each question.

Main Idea

1. What is the main idea of this reading?
- A pirate's life was a dangerous but exciting adventure.
  - Some things we've seen or read about pirates are true, but others aren't.
  - The lives of 18th-century pirates and modern-day pirates are similar.
  - Today's stories and movies about pirates are entirely wrong.

Vocabulary

2. In line 2, *aspects* is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- parts
  - roles
  - lives
  - people

Detail

3. On pirate ships, \_\_\_\_\_.
- men were treated like slaves
  - there were several captains
  - only ex-sailors were allowed
  - the men shared the money they made

Vocabulary

4. In lines 19–20, *They blew it* means "They \_\_\_\_\_ the money."
- hid
  - spent
  - made
  - saved

Inference

5. Which statement would David Moore probably agree with?
- Many pirates had a difficult life and probably died young.
  - The appearance of movie pirates is very different from reality.
  - A pirate's life wasn't as dangerous as we see in the movies.
  - Many pirates were friendlier than we see in the movies.

Reference

6. In line 26, what does *For these reasons* refer to?
- the dangers of seasickness
  - eye patches and wooden legs
  - stealing and selling goods illegally
  - poor living conditions and disease

Detail

7. According to the passage, pirates believed wearing earrings \_\_\_\_\_.
- was fashionable
  - stopped seasickness
  - brought good luck
  - was only for women



### Did You Know?

The fearsome pirate Blackbeard was said to wear burning ropes in his long beard in battle.

## Vocabulary Practice

**A. Completion.** Complete the passage by circling the correct word in each pair.

Most people earn a(n) **1. (disease / income)** by going to work. Not Barry Clifford. He makes money by finding lost pirate treasure. In 1984, he discovered a pirate ship called the *Whydah*, an English slave ship, in waters near Massachusetts in the U.S. It traveled to Africa, where the ship's captain **2. (buried / purchased)** a number of slaves—people who had lost their **3. (freedom / income)**. The ship then traveled to the Caribbean. Captain Sam Bellamy and his pirates took the *Whydah* and **4. (stole / purchased)** all of its goods. Later, Bellamy's men **5. (divided / averaged)** the goods among themselves. But their luck didn't last, and soon the *Whydah* sank in a storm near Massachusetts.

Today, **6. (equality / factors)** such as bad weather and rough water make it difficult for Clifford's team to bring objects up from the *Whydah*. Despite this, over 200,000 objects have been found. These discoveries have helped change our image of pirates. For example, from the pirates' clothes, scientists have learned that the **7. (divided / average)** pirate was only about 1.6 meters (5'4") tall.

**B. Definitions.** Use the correct form of the words in **red** from **A** to complete the definitions.

1. If you have a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, you have an illness.
2. When there is \_\_\_\_\_, all people are treated the same.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ are reasons for or causes of something.
4. If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is put in the ground and covered with earth.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is money you earn, usually for work you do.

✓ A replica of the *Whydah* ship at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, U.S.A.

**Word Link** We can add **-dom** to some words to make nouns, meaning a state or condition. For example, *freedom* means "living in a free condition." Other examples include *boredom* and *wisdom*.



