

Famous Pirates

Captain Blackbeard

Born: 1680

Died: 22nd November 1718

Blackbeard's real name was Edward Teach. He married 14 times! It has been said that his favourite drink was rum mixed with gunpowder. Blackbeard was active in piracy for only 2 years before he was caught and killed. His head was chopped off and hung from his enemy's ship as a trophy and warning to other pirates.

Anne Bonny

Born: 8th March 1698

Died: 22nd April 1782

Anne was friends with another female pirate called Mary Read. Anne was the girlfriend of pirate Calico Jack, who she eventually ran away with! She acted and dressed just like a male pirate and was excellent at fighting.

Black Barty

Born: 17th May 1682

Died: 10th February 1722

He was born in South Wales as John Roberts and later adopted the name 'Bartholomew', or 'Black Bart' when he became a pirate. He was known to love expensive clothes and jewellery and was always well-dressed, even in battles! He was eventually killed by the British Government and his crew were put on trial in the biggest pirate trial in history.

William Kidd

Born: circa 1654

Died: 23rd May 1701

Before he became a pirate, William Kidd was a wealthy and respected privateer and protected the British and American trade routes from French warships. However, he was very unlucky and was forced into piracy by his unruly ship crew whilst on duty. It was also at this time that the American people became very intolerant of all pirates, so when he was caught they had to make an example and he was hanged. Kidd was the only pirate known to have ever buried any treasure on Long Island, New York.



1. Which of these pirates was born first?



2. '...that the American people became very intolerant of all pirates.'
What do you think the word intolerant means in this sentence?



3. How are Captain Blackbeard and Black Bart similar?



4. Do you think that male pirates respected Anne Bonny? Why?

The Happy Hunter and the Skilful Fisher

Long, long ago Japan was ruled by an emperor named Akira. He was not only handsome but he was also very strong and brave and he was famous for being the greatest hunter in the land. Because of his matchless skill as a hunter, he was called 'The Happy Hunter of the Mountains'. His elder brother was a very skilful fisher and he was named 'Skilful Fisher of the Sea.' The brothers led happy lives, thoroughly enjoying their occupations. The days passed quickly and pleasantly while each pursued his own way, the one hunting and the other fishing.

One day, the Happy Hunter came to his brother, the Skilful Fisher, and said, "Well, my brother, I see you go to the sea every day with your fishing rod in your hand and when you return you come laden with fish. As for me, it is my pleasure to take my bow and arrow and to hunt the wild animals up the mountains and down in the valleys. For a long time, we have each followed our favourite occupation. Surely now we must both be tired. Would it not be wise for us to make a change? Will you try hunting in the mountains and I will go and fish in the sea?"

The Skilful Fisher listened in silence to his brother and was thoughtful for a moment. At last he answered, "Your idea is not a bad one at all. Give me your bow and arrow and I will set out at once for the mountains and hunt."

The two brothers each started out to try the other's occupation, dreaming of all that would happen. It was very unwise of them, for the Happy Hunter knew nothing of fishing, and the Skilful Fisher, who was bad-tempered, knew nothing about hunting.



1. Give one way that the Happy Hunter and the Skilful Fisher are similar and one way that they are different.



2. Find and copy three adjectives that the author uses to describe the Happy Hunter.



3. Do you think that the brothers will be successful with their new occupations? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



4. What was the Happy Hunter's real name?
