

Reading - Non Fiction

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?

Answers:

1. Which of these pirates was born first?

Captain Blackbeard 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?

In this sentence, intolerant means that American people disliked/wouldn't put up with/ did not accept/hated pirates.

3. How are Captain Blackbeard and Black Bart similar?

Accept any similarity given or inferred in the text, e.g.

- **They are both men.**
- **They are both pirates.**
- **They both changed their names.**
- **They were both killed.**

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

Accept either yes or no as an answer providing that a reasonable justification is given to support the answer, e.g.

Yes

- **Because she was renowned as an excellent fighter.**
- **Because she dressed and acted like men and they may have seen her as one of them.**
- **Because she showed she was brave by running away at the age of sixteen.**

No

- **Because many men did not respect women as equals at the time when Anne was alive.**