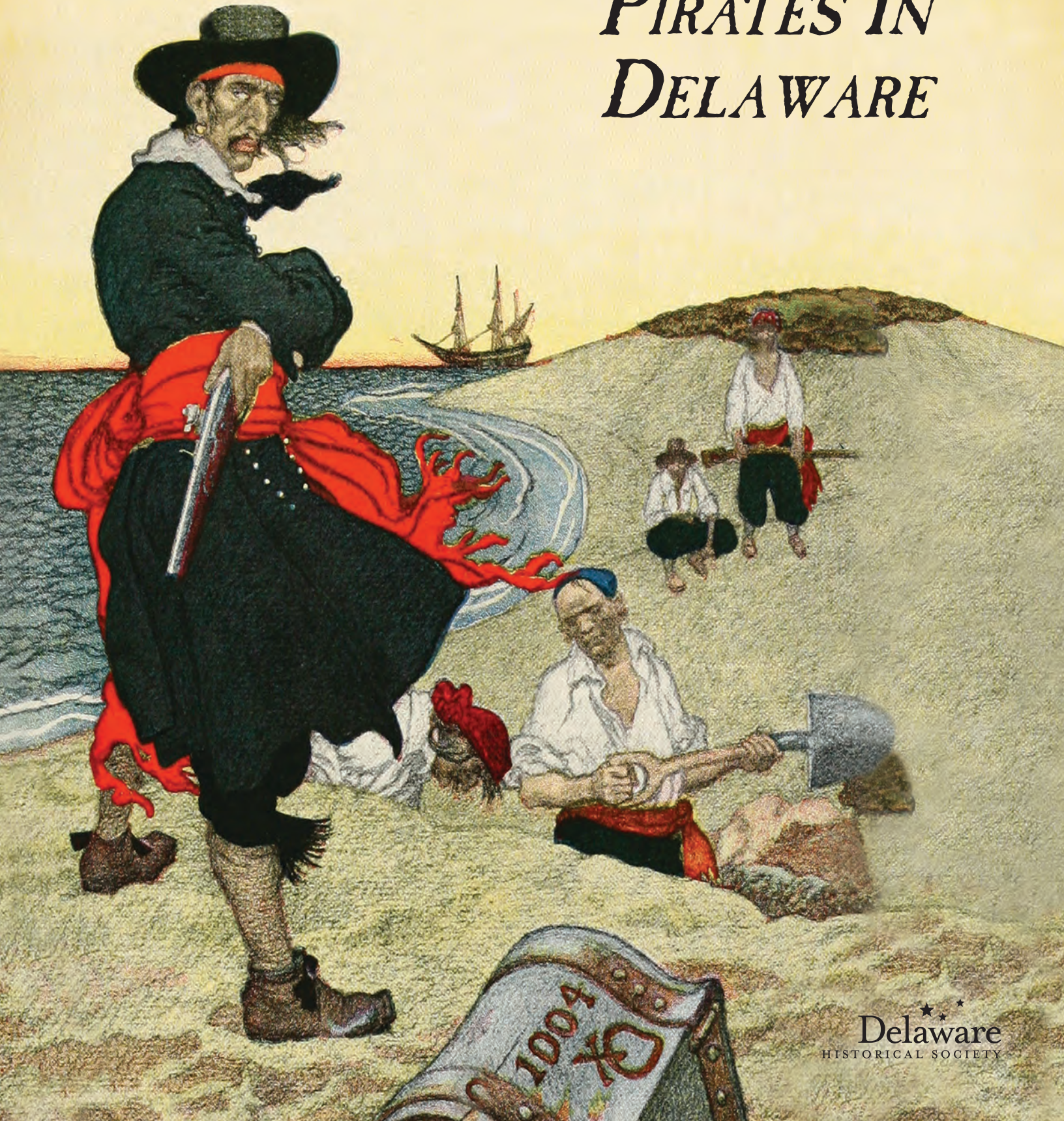


# AHOY, MATEY!

## PIRATES IN DELAWARE



# Table of Contents

Avast Ye!	2
Becoming a Pirate	4
Punishment	5
All Hands on Deck	
The Life of a Pirate	7
Pirate Ships	8
Pirate Daily Life	10
Jolly Roger Flags	12
Officers	14
Splitting up the Booty	15
Why Delaware?	17
Famous Pirates	19
Review & Vocab	21
Activities	23

## Avast Ye!

What do you think life was like 350 years ago?  
Do you think it was very different than life today?

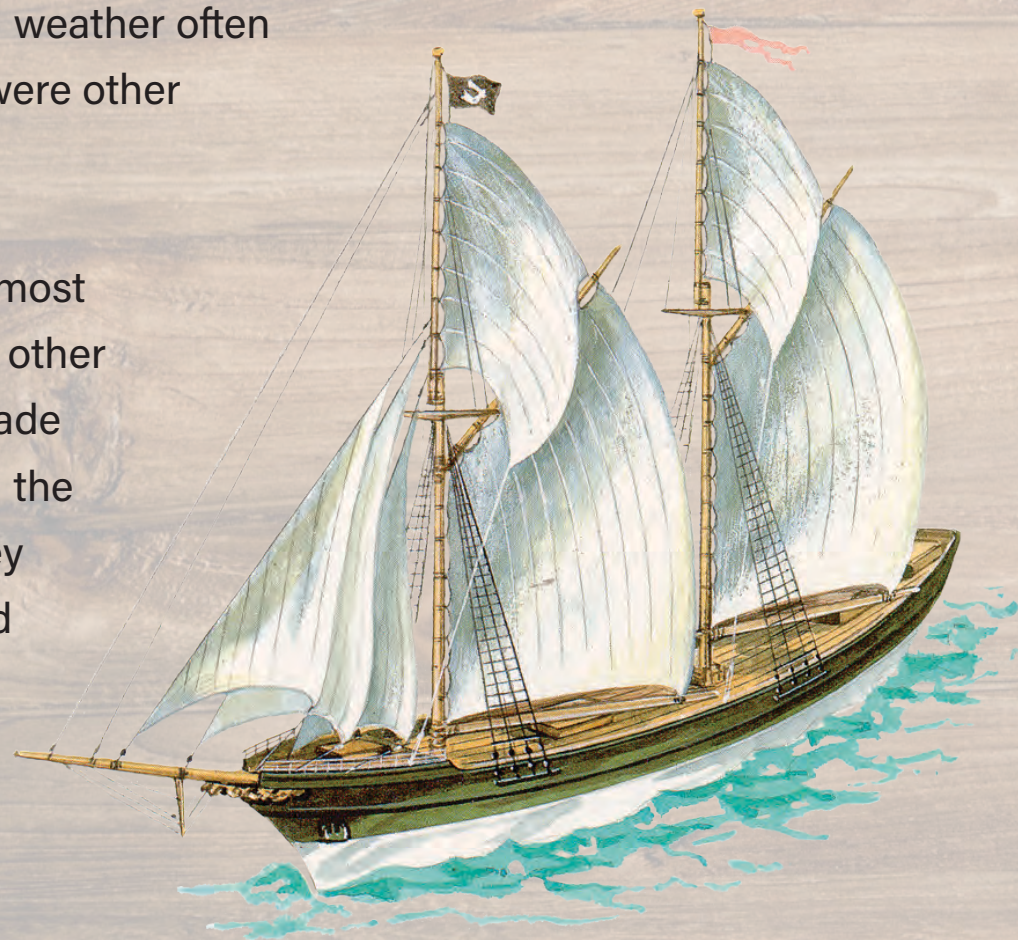
How do you think people traveled from one place to another?

There were no cars or airplanes, so people did most long-distance travel by ship. What do you think these ships were made of? Draw a picture of what you think they might have looked like.



The ships were made of wood and because there was no electricity or gas to power them, they had big sails to catch the wind. This meant they were much slower than ships today. It took a month to sail from the east coast of the United States to Europe and that could be very dangerous! Storms and bad weather often made sailing difficult, but there were other dangers on the sea. **PIRATES!**

Oceans are very big, so it was almost impossible to know if there were other ships sailing nearby. This also made it easier to attack ships and steal the valuable items or money that they carried. The people who attacked and robbed these ships for a living were known as pirates!



# Becoming a Pirate

Pirates are known for being fierce and violent so you might think pirates could do whatever they want but that wasn't the case. Pirate crews had to work together to attack merchant ships and split up the treasure amongst themselves. They were led by a captain who had rules that everyone had to agree to before joining the crew. These rules were known as the **Articles of Agreement** and included rules like no fighting each other, making sure everyone shares, and respecting the captain.

Imagine you are a pirate captain. What rules would you make your crew agree to? Fill out the list below to complete your Articles of Agreement.



# The Life of a Pirate

Why do you think someone would want to be a pirate?

Do you think the life of a pirate was easy or hard?

*Let's find out what it was like to be a pirate 350 years ago!*



# Pirate Ships

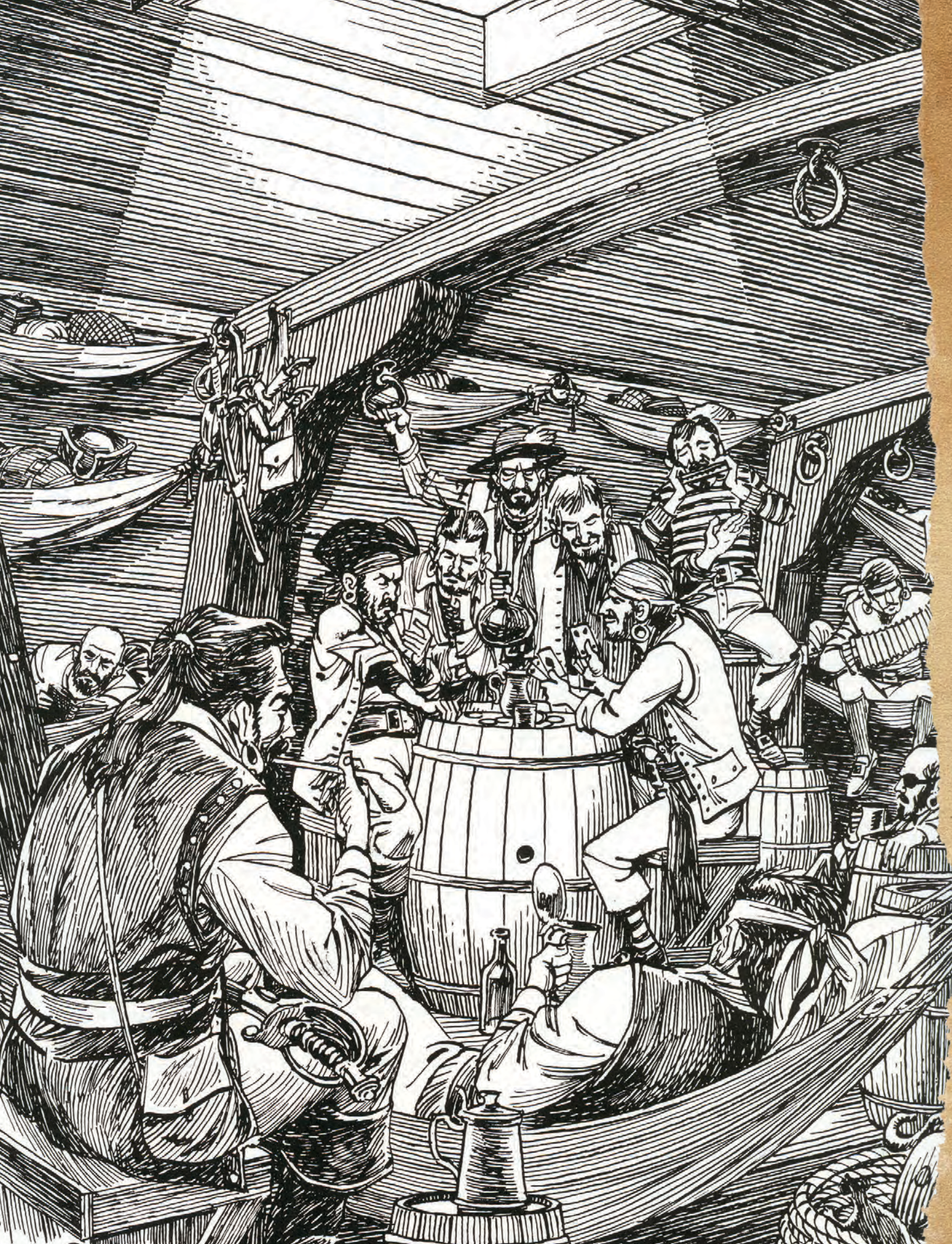
Look at the picture of the two ships. Which one do you think is the pirate ship? Is it the bigger one or the smaller one?

Believe it or not it is the smaller one! These ships were called **sloops**. Even though sloops were much smaller than ships like the **galleon** (pictured to the left), they could still hold up to 75 people and 14 large cannons.

Why do you think pirates would want to use small ships like sloops instead of bigger ships?

**Sloops** were faster and moved more easily than the large merchant ships that carried expensive goods across the ocean. They also had oars in case there was no wind for the sails.





# Life on Board a Pirate Ship

Look at the picture and answer the following questions.

What are the pirates doing in the picture? Name a few activities you see them doing.

Does it look cramped and crowded?

Some of the pirates are sleeping. What are they sleeping on? Does it look comfortable?

Would you want to sleep like that?

Do you see a bathroom in this picture?

Do you think they took baths or showers regularly or brushed their teeth?

Would pirates be nice and clean or dirty and smelly?

Is anyone eating in the picture?

What kind of food do you think pirates ate?

Where do you think they got their food from?

How do you think they kept their food fresh if they spent weeks at sea and had no electricity?



Unless they were working, a pirate's life was spent below deck. They slept, ate, and relaxed in the same place, all 75 pirates cramped and crowded together on the small sloop. Pirates would sleep on hammocks stacked on top of each other.

They didn't have bathrooms like we do today, so they didn't take baths or brush their teeth. Pirates would get very smelly and dirty and often had rotten teeth!

Since their ship could be at sea for months, they would get all their food when their ship was in **port**. At the start of their **voyage**, the food might be fresh but that didn't last very long. The food would get hard, gross, and rotten. Water would go stale and grow mold and meat would spoil and turn green and slimy. They even ate something called Weevil biscuits, that were so hard they had to be dipped in water first and got their name from the small beetles that crawled out of them! Gross!

**After what you have learned so far, would you want to be a pirate?**

# Pirate Flags

**Do you know what a pirate flag is called?**

Each pirate captain had their own flag, but they were all known as **Jolly Rogers**. These flags often had images of skulls, crossbones, and skeletons and were meant to scare all who saw them flying! Below are some different examples of Jolly Roger flags.



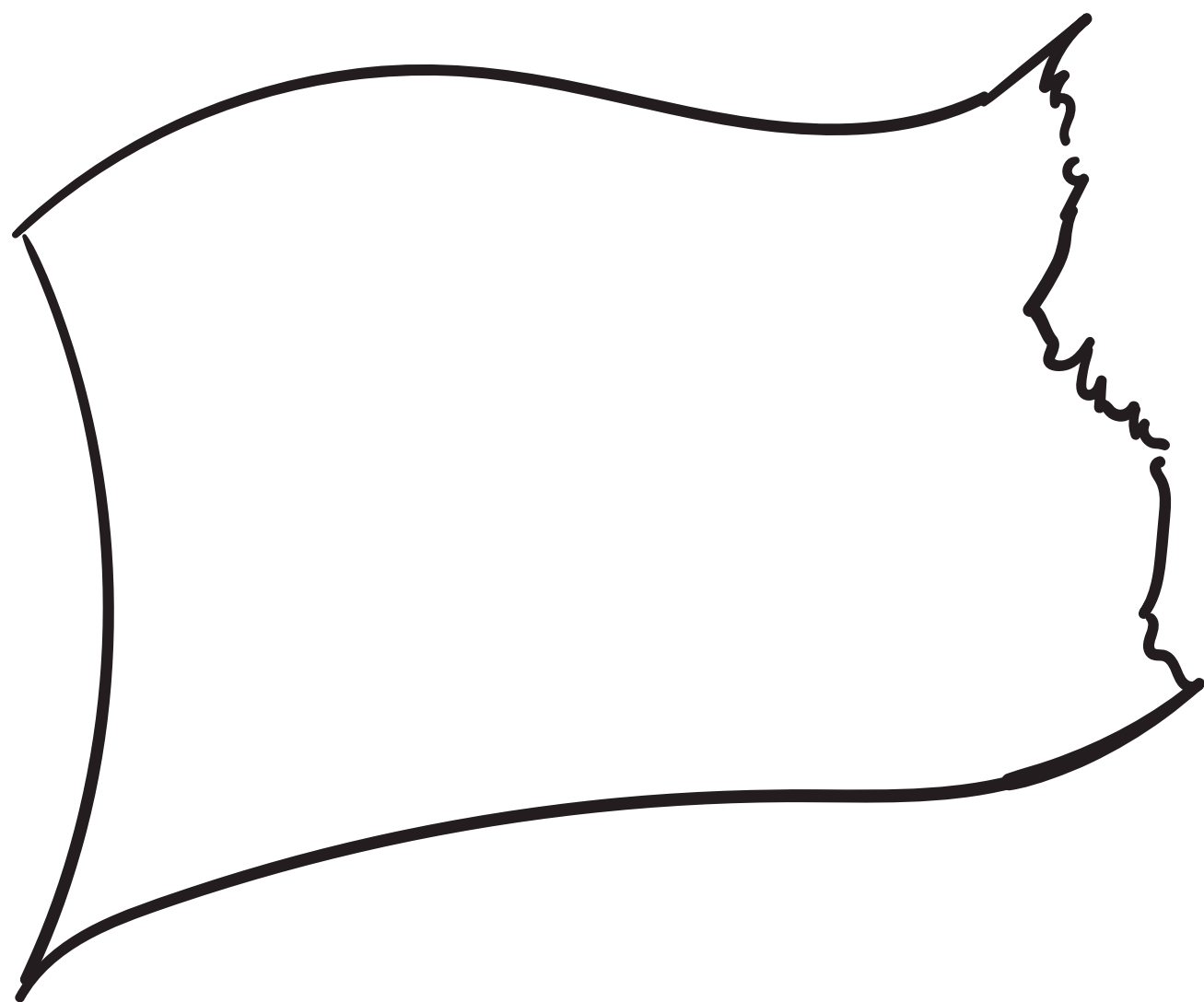
If sailors saw a Jolly Roger, they knew it meant danger and would sail quickly away. Because their flags were so well known, pirates had to trick other ships into thinking they were friendly.

**How do you think they could do that?**

Every ship had a flag to show which country they sailed for. Pirates would fly the same flag as the ship they were about to attack so the sailors wouldn't be afraid of them. Once the ships were close enough, the pirates would replace the trick flag with their Jolly Roger. By then, it was too late for the other ship to sail away and the pirates would attack!

## Draw Your Own Jolly Roger

Imagine you are the captain of a pirate ship. What kind of flag would you want for your ship? Use this page to draw your own Jolly Roger.



## Pirate Officers

Now that you have learned about the life of a pirate, who do you think was in charge of a pirate ship?

It would have been a lot of work for the captain to handle everything, so pirate ships had four officers that helped run the ship and crew. These officers were known as the **captain**, the **quartermaster**, the **boatswain**, and the **master gunner**.

**Captain** – The captain of the ship was only in charge of the crew during battle. When pirates attacked another ship, the crew needed to listen to their captain's commands if they wanted to win. It was important for the captain to be a good fighter and be able to lead the other pirates, so the crew chose who they wanted to be their captain.

**If you were a pirate what kind of captain would you want on your ship? Nice and friendly? Mean and scary?**

**If the captain was only in charge during battle, who was in charge of the crew when they weren't fighting?**

**Quartermaster** – The quartermaster was in charge whenever the pirates weren't attacking a ship and was responsible for punishing any crew member who broke the rules. Even the captain had to make sure their decisions had the approval of the quartermaster!

**Why do you think the captain wasn't in charge all the time?**

**Boatswain** - The boatswain was in charge of supplies. They made sure the crew had enough food, water and rum. They were also responsible for maintenance of the ship. This included fixing the sails or anchors and making sure there were no holes in the ship after a battle.

**Why do you think this job was important?**

**Master Gunner** - The master gunner was responsible for the weapons on the ship. They made sure the cannons were working properly and that the crew was trained to use them.

**Why do you think this job was important?**

**What job would you want to have if you were a pirate officer?**

**Which job do you think was the most important? Why?**

# Splitting up the Booty!



One of the most important things about being a pirate was finding treasure! What kind of treasure do you think pirates found?

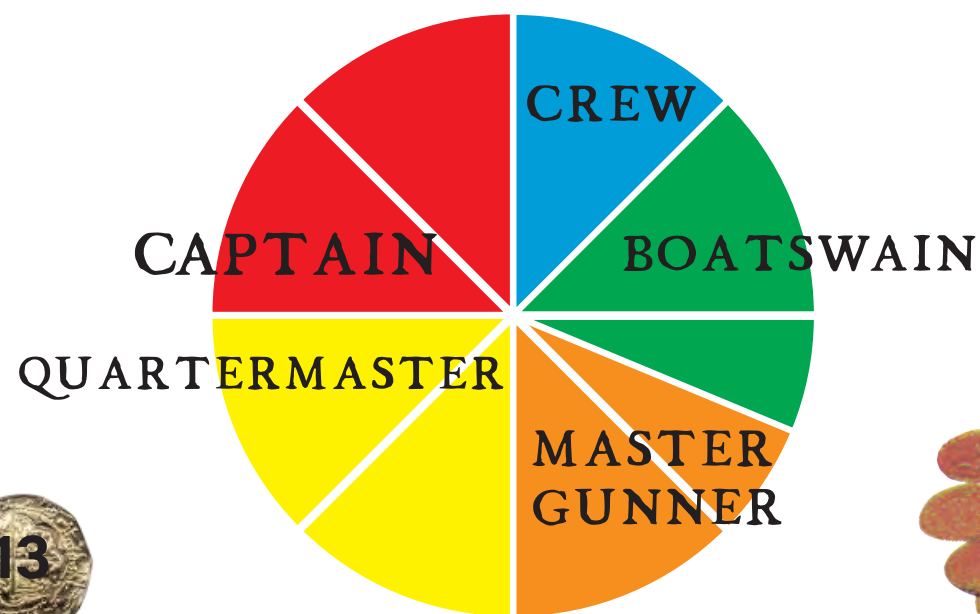
Most people today think of treasure as gold and silver, or maybe even gems. But pirates saw treasure as anything that could make them money. This included fancy furniture, fine cloth and silk, even herbs and spices from distant lands.

Whether pirates stole treasure from another ship or found it buried on an island, it was one of the reasons why people became pirates. Many pirates hoped to find a huge treasure that would make them rich for the rest of their lives but if they did, they had to split it with the whole crew.

How do you think pirates shared their treasure? Did everyone get an equal amount? Did some people get more than others?

What if there wasn't an equal amount of gold pieces for everybody? What could you do to make sure everyone got the same amount?

Let's find out!



There are 75 pirates on a sloop: 1 Captain, 1 quartermaster, 1 boatswain, 1 master gunner and 71 crew members. They attacked a merchant ship and **won 8 treasure chests!**

The chart on the previous page is separated into 8 pieces. This shows how many pieces of the whole treasure the officers and crew will get. This chart will help us split up the treasure chests.



On the chart we see that the captain has two of the 8 pieces. This means that the captain gets two parts of the whole treasure. **How many treasure chests does the captain get?**

Color two treasure chests **RED**.

Look at the chart. **How many pieces of the whole does the quartermaster have?**

That means the quartermaster also gets two parts of the whole treasure. Color two chests **YELLOW**.

The master gunner is a bit different. **How many pieces of the whole does the master gunner get?**

It is a little less than two pieces. It's 1 and 1/2. So, the master gunner only gets 1 treasure chest and one half of another. Color one treasure chest **ORANGE**. Now draw a line down the middle of another treasure chest. Color one half of that treasure chest **ORANGE**.

The **boatswain** is like the master gunner and only gets 1 1/2 pieces. Color one treasure chest **GREEN**.

Find the treasure chest that was only half colored. Color the other half **GREEN**. Now both the master gunner and the boatswain have 1 and 1/2 parts of the whole treasure!

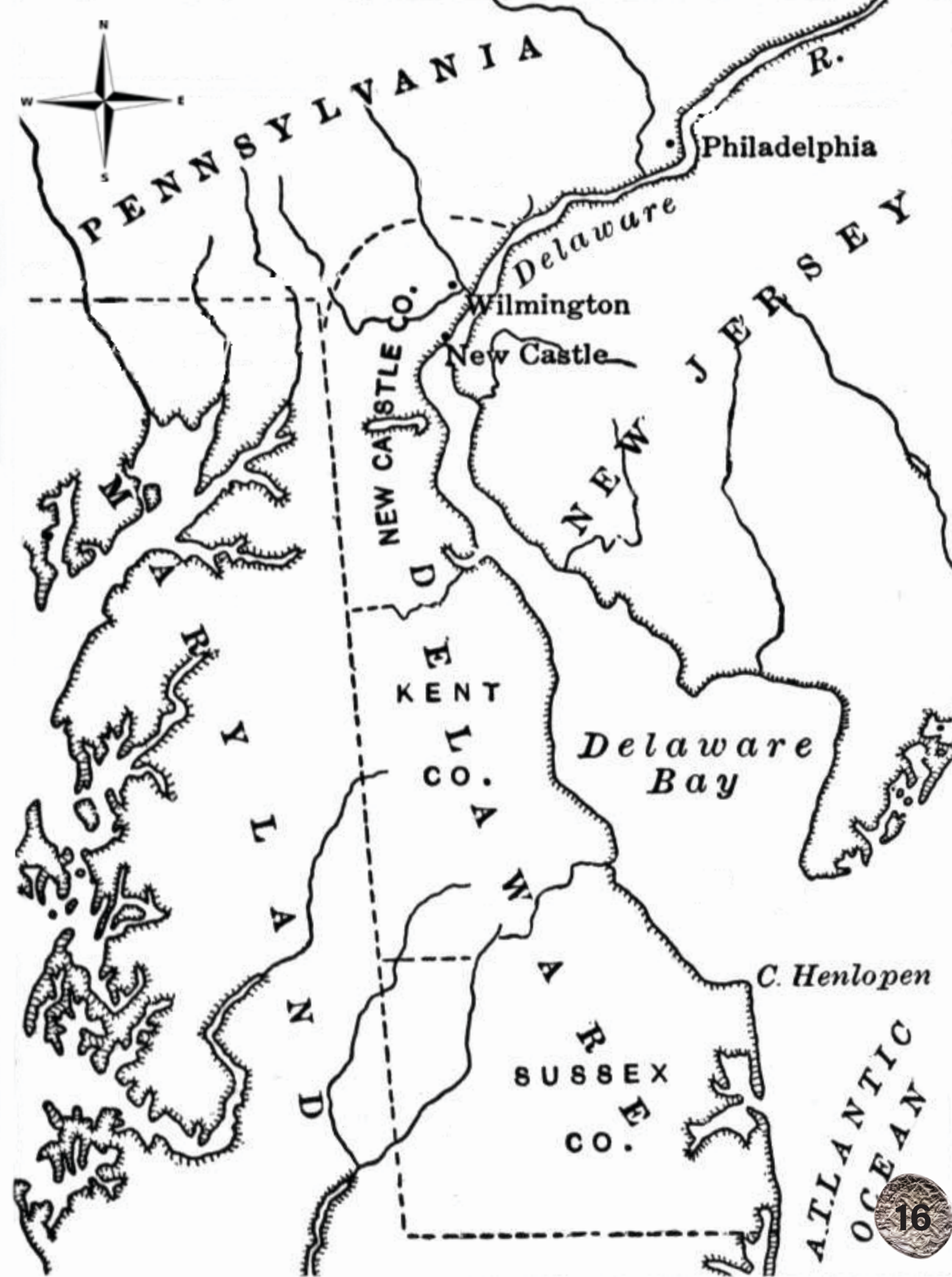
**How many treasure chests are left?**

Color the last treasure chest **BLUE**. This one gets split among the rest of the crew, all 71 of them! **Do you think it is fair to split the treasure up like this?**

# Why Did Pirates Come to Delaware?

In the 1600s, Delaware was a popular stop for pirates. They could sell their stolen treasure to merchants along the Delaware coast and could sail to New Jersey quickly as well. But the most important reason pirates stopped in Delaware was because it was safe! During this time Delaware was part of Pennsylvania and the **constable** was in the capital of Philadelphia. This meant that there wasn't as much security along the coast of Delaware so the pirates would not have to worry about getting arrested. Use the map on the next page to answer the questions below.

1. Find the Delaware Bay and color it **BLUE**.
2. Find Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey on the map and color them each a different color.
3. Find the city of Philadelphia and underline it.
4. Find the town of Cape Henlopen and draw a **box** around it.
5. An important town to pirates was Lewes (in the 1600s it was called Zwaanendael). Lewes is not labeled on this map, so we need to put it there. Place a small **circle** in Sussex County to the left of Cape Henlopen. Write Lewes next to your circle.
6. When pirates visited Delaware, they stayed close to water. Where do you think pirates would land their ships? Draw a ship where you think they would go.
7. In the 1600s and 1700s when pirates would attack Lewes, constables had to travel all the way from Philadelphia. It took over 2 days to travel from Philadelphia to Lewes on horseback! Draw a line for the constables to follow to get from Philadelphia to Lewes.
8. Look at the compass rose at the top of the map. Which direction did the constables have to go to get to Lewes?
9. Do you think the pirates would be gone by the time the constables got there?



# Famous Pirates

**Anne Bonny and Mary Read** were two of the most famous female pirates. Anne Bonny lived in Ireland where she met a pirate named "Calico Jack" Rackham and joined his crew. During her time on the ship Calico Jack captured the ship that Mary Read was sailing on. Mary Read joined Calico Jack's crew, however she kept the fact that she was a woman secret. Eventually, Calico Jack and his crew were caught for their crimes. It is unknown what happened to them afterwards.

**What do you see in this image?**

**Where do you think Anne Bonny and Mary Read are?**

**How are they dressed?**

**What do you think they are doing?**



**Blackbeard** is probably the most famous pirate today. His real name is believed to be Edward Teach. He began his pirating career in 1716 and was most active around the coastal area of Virginia and the Carolinas.

**What do you notice about Blackbeard? What about his beard?**

**Do you think he was trying to be scary? Why would he do that?**

**Blackbeard was fierce in battle. How many weapons do you count in this picture?**

In order to intimidate people, Blackbeard put cannon fuses under his hat and lit them so it would look like his head was on fire. During the peak of his career he had made a deal with the Governor of the North Carolina colony and was able to collect tolls from ships in the area. Eventually the Governor of the colony of Virginia sent a British naval force to capture Blackbeard. For a long time after he died many believed he had left a secret treasure buried somewhere.



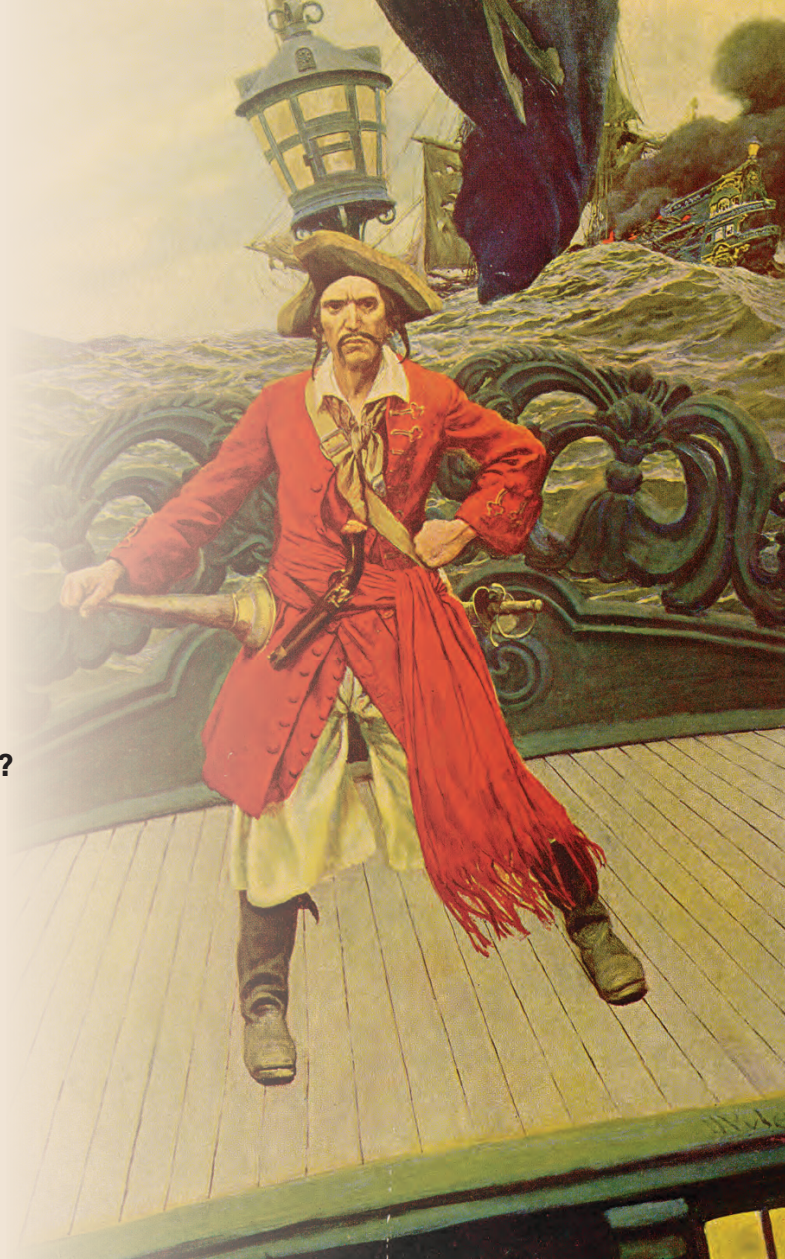
**Captain Kidd**, or William Kidd, was a **privateer** for Britain before he became a pirate. A privateer is like a pirate but works for a country. This meant Kidd had permission from Britain to attack ships from other countries. Then in 1697 Kidd captured a British merchant ship and was declared a pirate. He sailed to New York and tried to convince the Governor that he was innocent, but the Governor sent him back to Britain in 1701 where Kidd was put on trial.

Like Blackbeard, Captain Kidd is also believed to have left a treasure buried somewhere. Some even think it might be in Delaware!

**What are some similarities between Captain Kidd and Blackbeard? What are some differences?**

**What's happening in the background of this picture?**

**Would you think that Captain Kidd was a pirate by looking at this picture?**



## Let's Review!

1. How did people travel across the ocean 350 years ago?
2. What is a pirate?
3. How did pirates trick other ships so they could attack them?
4. What are some objects other than gold and silver that pirates considered treasure?
5. What did pirate captains usually put on their Jolly Roger?

## Vocabulary:

Match the following terms to the correct sentence.

- |                          |                  |              |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| A. Pirate                | F. Jolly Roger   | K. Privateer |
| B. Sloop                 | G. Captain       | L. Port      |
| C. Galleon               | H. Quartermaster | M. Voyage    |
| D. Marooning             | I. Boatswain     | N. Constable |
| E. Articles of Agreement | J. Master Gunner |              |

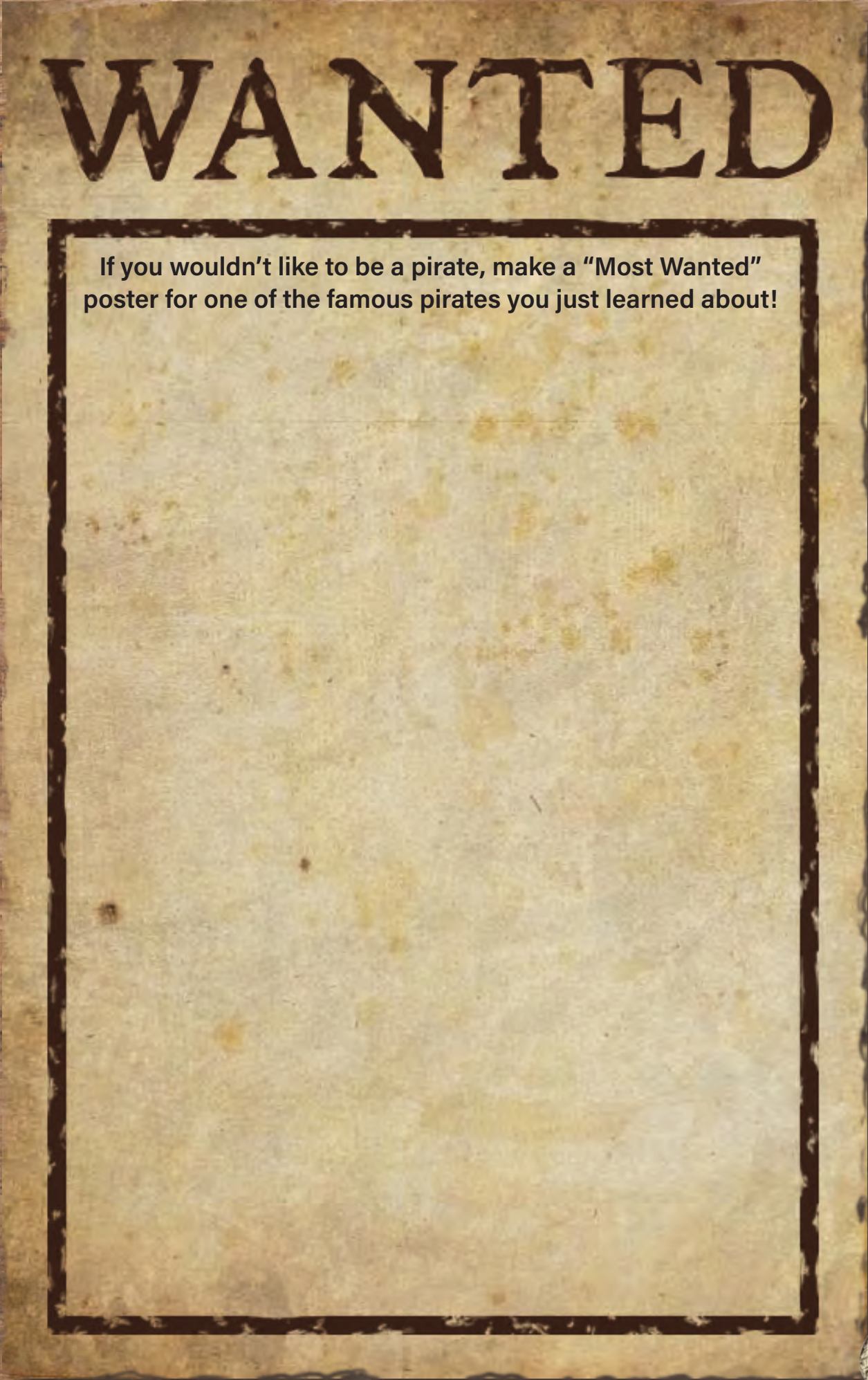
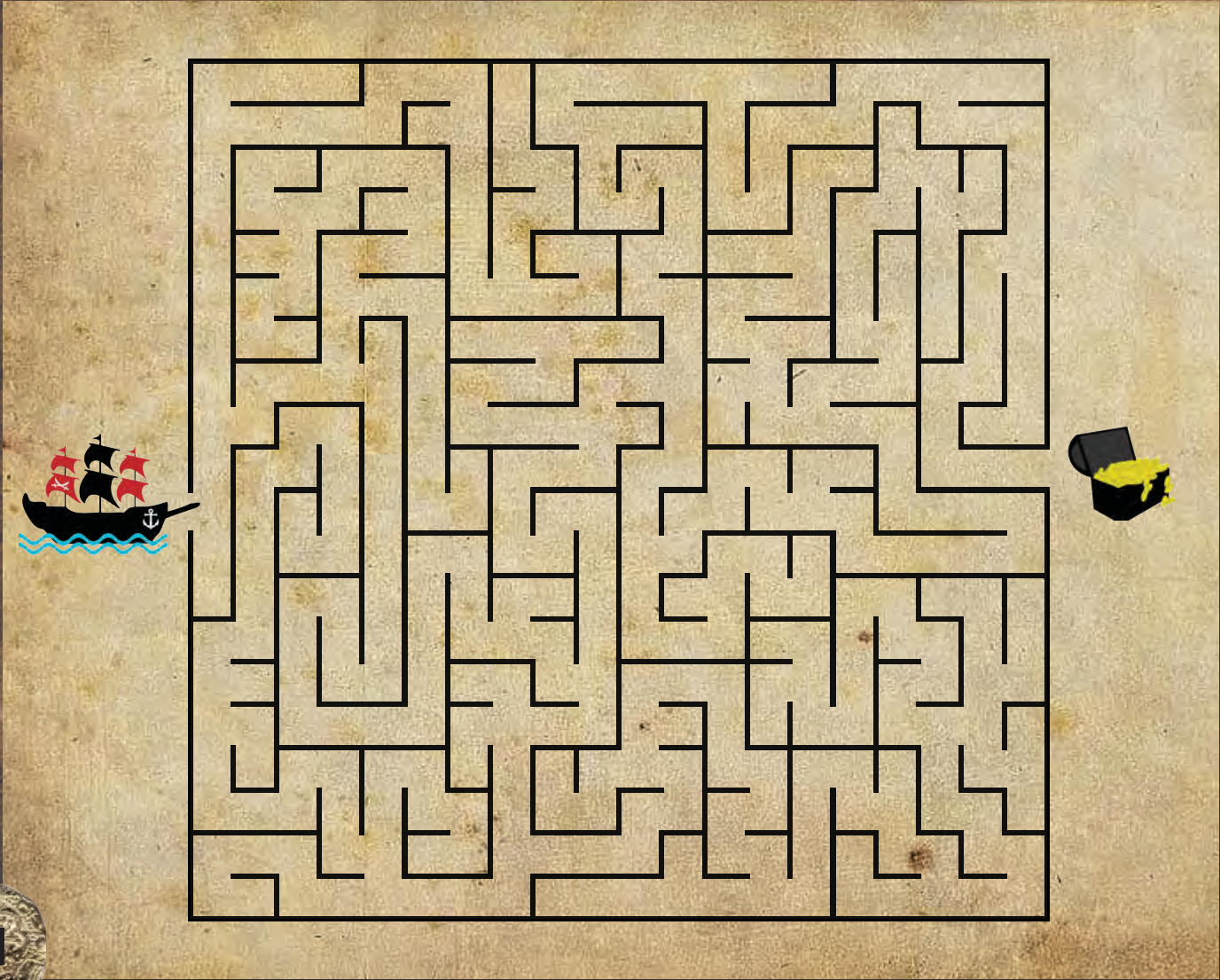
- \_\_\_\_\_ A place where ships load and unload, and it's nearby town or city
- \_\_\_\_\_ Someone who made a living attacking other ships and stealing gold or valuable items
- \_\_\_\_\_ A set of rules a person had to sign to be part of a pirate crew
- \_\_\_\_\_ A person who would act as a "legal pirate" for a country
- \_\_\_\_\_ The pirate responsible for repairing the ship and getting food
- \_\_\_\_\_ The pirate in charge when the crew wasn't fighting and made sure they followed the rules
- \_\_\_\_\_ To make or take a long journey by sea
- \_\_\_\_\_ The pirate who was in charge during battle
- \_\_\_\_\_ A large ship that was used to carry goods and gold across the ocean
- \_\_\_\_\_ The pirate responsible for repairing weapons and training people to use the weapons
- \_\_\_\_\_ A small, fast ship that could still carry up to 75 people. These ships were ideal for pirates because they could fit 14 guns on the side but were still faster than large ships
- \_\_\_\_\_ The typical punishment if a pirate broke the rules on their own ship. It is when the person who broke the rules is left by themselves on a deserted island
- \_\_\_\_\_ The name for the flags pirates used on their ships
- \_\_\_\_\_ A peace officer with limited policing authority

# Come Aboard, Matey!

Think about all the things you have learned about pirate life, treasure, pirate officers, and famous pirates. Would you want to be a pirate? Why or why not?

What sounded fun about pirate life? What sounded not so fun about pirate life?

If you think you would like to be a pirate, complete the maze and help your crew get from the pirate ship to the treasure!



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