

Life aboard a pirate ship!



A smelly adventure!

Ships were small and crowded. Every bit of room was used for the storage of supplies, men, or if you were lucky, treasure!

Pirates slept in bunks or on the floor. Everyone shared the same space so it was extremely cramped. There were no showers or baths on board and soap was unheard of so the ship usually smelt pretty bad!



The pirate code

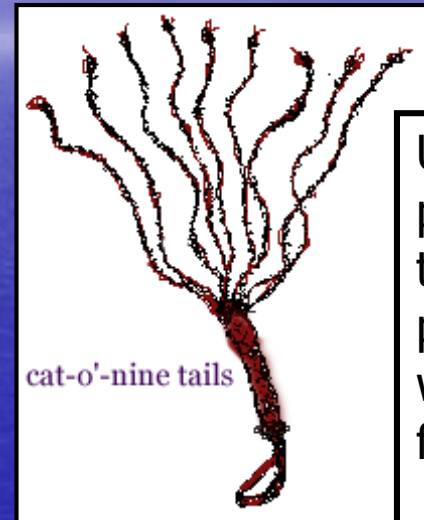
Pirates had to follow a 'code' which was written by the captain of the ship. If you broke any of the rules from the code you would be punished.

Punishments included:

Being cast adrift for any rule breaking.

Being shot for stealing.

Getting 39 lashes for fighting onboard.



cat-o'-nine tails

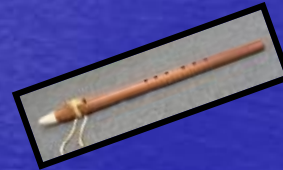
Used as a punishment to lash pirates who were caught fighting.

Did you know?

The 'pirate code' was also sometimes called the 'captain's articles'.

What do you think pirates did in their spare time?

- Pirates spent most of their time at sea doing very little! This was because only a few men were needed to work the ship in good weather.
- Do you think that pirates:
- Played card games?
- Played music on flutes and violins?
- Carved model ships out of wood?
- Told each other pirate adventure stories?
- Sang and danced?



Yes!
Pirates did all
those things!



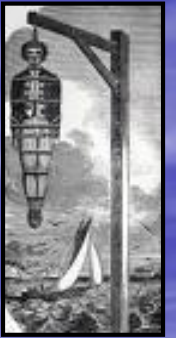


A diet to die for!



- A pirate's food was not something many of us would get too excited about.
- Think of your least favourite meal – what is it?
- It's probably ten times better than what most pirates ate!
- A pirates daily ration or meal was usually rock hard biscuit, a portion of old salty meat and a bucket of rum!
- Not only was the food pretty awful, but they had the same thing day after day while out at sea.
- So next time you complain about your dinner remember that pirates probably dreamt of eating a meal like yours!

If pirates were caught...



Being a pirate aboard a ship was a very risky job.

If a pirate was caught by the British Royal Navy then they would almost certainly be killed.

Pirates were often taken back to Britain and hanged at the execution dock near the river Thames in London.

Their dead bodies were left hanging as a reminder to others.

Was it good to be a pirate aboard a ship?



In pairs:

Can you think of 2 bad things about life on board?

Can you think of 2 good things about life on board?

