

Knowledge Organiser - Year 2 — History: Pirates

Key Question — Why did sailors become pirates?



Key Events Timeline

1442 Christopher Columbus sails to the Americas	1605 Guy Fawkes Gunpowder Plot	1666 Great Fire of London
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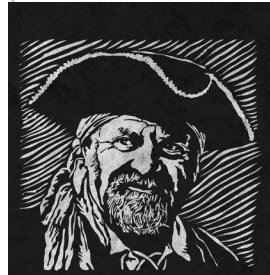
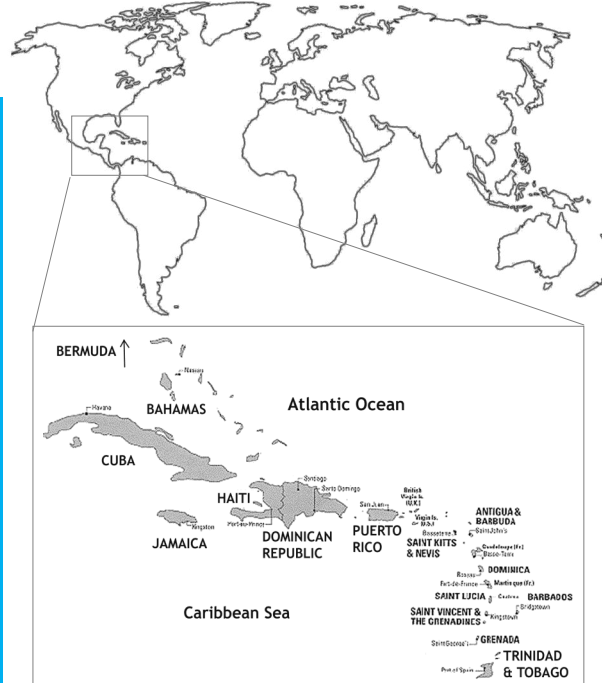
Piracy Timeline

14th Century BC	The first documented record of piracy, takes place in the modern day Mediterranean Sea.
8th—12th Century AD	Viking raiders loot much of Europe, stealing much of what they found including gold, food and objects to trade.
1400	Harry Paye is raiding French ships, stealing gold, wine and exotic fruits to bring back to Poole.
1577—80	Francis Drake circumnavigates the globe, performing acts of piracy as he travels around.
1580s	Drake continues to act as a privateer for Queen Elizabeth, raiding the Spanish Armada and inflicting great losses.
1650	Classic era of piracy begins, taking place in the Caribbean as France, England & the Netherlands tried to establish colonies in that part of the world. This time is highly successful for pirates ; most famous pirates were operating in this period.
1698	Piracy Act is enforced so that there is more punishment of crimes and piracy becomes increasingly dangerous. This is highlighted by the death of Blackbeard, hunted down and killed in battle in 1718.
1710s	The first known use of the Jolly Roger flag above pirate ships.
1720	Calico Jack, Anne Bonny and Mary Read are captured and put on trial for piracy. Calico Jack is sentenced to death, whilst Anne and Mary avoid this punishment as they are both pregnant.

Key Vocabulary

Buccaneer	Similar to a privateer, but usually acting under a company's orders.
Brigantine	The most commonly used vessel (ship) sailed in by pirates, chosen for its speed and manoeuvrability.
Corsair	Another name for a buccaneer.
Cutlass	A curved shape sword, often used by pirates in battle.
Circumnavigate	To sail or travel all the way around something (e.g. the world)
Jolly Roger	The flag that symbolises piracy, first used in the early 18th century and thought to take its name from the French word Joli Rouge or pretty red, relating to blood or violence.
Privateer	A pirate acting under the orders of a nation or monarch so they are protected by them and can get away with piracy.

Where in the world is it?



Harry Paye



Francis Drake



Key People

Anne Bonny 1697—1782	Anne Bonny was an Irish pirate operating in the Caribbean, and one of the most famous female pirates of all time. She became the pirate wife of Calico Jack, and sailed alongside him.
Bartholomew Roberts (Black Bart) 1682—1722	Bartholomew Roberts was a Welsh pirate who raided ships off the Americas and West Africa between 1719 and 1722. He was the most successful pirate of the Golden Age of Piracy as measured by vessels captured, taking over 400 prizes in his career.
John Rackham (Calico Jack) 1682 – 1720	Calico Jack , was an English pirate captain operating in the Bahamas and in Cuba during the early 18th century. His nickname was derived from the calico (rough cotton) clothing that he wore, while Jack is a nickname for "John".
Edward Teach (Blackbeard) 1680—1718	Edward Teach better known as Blackbeard , was an English pirate who operated around the West Indies and the eastern coast of Britain's North American colonies. He became a famous pirate, he got his nickname due to his thick black beard and fearsome appearance; he apparently tied lit fuses, which burned under his hat to frighten his enemies.
Harry Paye 1360? - 1419	Harry Paye was a privateer and smuggler from Poole, Dorset in the late 14th and early 15th century, who became a commander in the Cinque Ports fleet. He intercepted hundreds of French ships for gold wine, exotic fruits and brought it back to the people of Poole.
Mary Read 1685—1721	Mary Read , also known as Mark Read , was an English pirate. In 1720 she met Jack Rackham and joined his crew, dressing as a man. Her time as a pirate was successful but short, as she, Bonny and Rackham were arrested in November 1720.
Sir Francis Drake 1540—1596	Sir Francis Drake was an English sea captain, privateer, slave trader, pirate, naval officer and explorer during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Drake carried out the second circumnavigation of the world in a single expedition.

Key Concepts

Empire	A large group of states or countries under a single ruler.
Trade	The action of buying and selling goods and services, or exchanging (something) for something else, typically as a commercial transaction.
Tyranny	A cruel and harsh government or rule.



Versions of The Jolly Roger