



Total Words

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Reading For Information

Comprehension Activities



■ Curriculum Readers: 800 - 1300 Total Words

Pirates

1. Pirate Rules and Captain John Phillips

A. Reading for Information: Finding Details in Text

Personal Achievement Goal: to show that I can read text to find details.

Can you find out...?

1. Why did Captain Phillips find it hard to settle back into life in England?
2. Once Captain Phillips had decided to return to a pirate life, what did he need and what did he do?
On what page is this information?
3. What are 'Articles of Agreement' designed to do?
On what page is this information?
4. What Article did the crew break? What punishment could be handed to the crew for breaking this Article?
On what page is this Article written?
5. What did Captain Phillips do that made his crew become so angry?
On what page is this information?

B. Recounting Details

Quick fire:

1. Where did John Phillips steal his ship from?
2. Which members of Captain Roberts' crew were only allowed to have a rest on Sunday?
3. What is 'looted cargo'?
4. How long did it take for the crew to successfully attack another ship?
5. Who was Blackbeard?
6. Under Captain Phillips' rules, what was the punishment for anybody who fired his weapon, smoked in the hold of the ship or carried a lighted candle?

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2. The Success of The Sultana: Sam Bellamy's Richest Raid

A. Reading for Information: Finding Details in Text

Personal Achievement Goal: to show that I can read text to find details.

Can you find out...?

1. What cargo was the Whydah carrying when Sam Bellamy raided it?
On what page is this information?
2. Why did pirates like to use swivel cannons rather than large cannons?
On what page is this information?
3. What is careening and why did pirates need to careen their ships?
On what page is this information?
4. What was the remarkable discovery made in 1982?
5. What made sloops ideal ships for pirates?
On what page is this information?

B. Recounting Details

Quick fire:

1. How old was Sam when he died?
2. How much gold and silver was the Whydah carrying?
3. What was quinine used for?
4. What did pirates use grappling hooks for?
5. How many ships did Sam raid or capture in his one-year career?
6. What were bar and chain cannonballs designed to do?

3. Captain Wickstead Meets George Lowther

A. Reading for Information: Finding Details in Text

Copy this page

Personal Achievement Goal: to show that I can read text to find details.

Can you find out...?

1. What did Captain Wickstead do as soon as he saw the flag?
2. What did George Lowther want from the Princess Galley?
On what page is this information?
3. What was the purpose of firing shots from the big cannon?
What page is this information on?
4. What did the crew use the grappling hooks for?
On what page is this information?
5. Captain Wickstead knew he was in danger. What line(s) tells us that he thought he might be killed?

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B. Recounting Details

Quick fire:

1. What did Captain Wickstead do to try and save his ship?
2. What were the cacao beans going to be used for in London?
3. What sort of ship did George Lowther sail?
4. What weapons did the pirates aim at the Princess Galley when it had stopped?
5. What cargo was Captain Lowther going to pick up in Barbados?
6. What was going to happen to the stolen gold?

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4. Henry Avery: The Short and Successful Career of a Pirate

A. Reading for Information: Finding Details in Text

Personal Achievement Goal: to show that I can read text to find details.

Can you find out...?

1. What did privateer ships do?
On what page is this information?
2. What was making Henry Avery dissatisfied with his job on The Charles?
On what page is this information?
3. 'Avery had luck on his side'. What was the luck that helped him to defeat The Gunsway?
On what page is this information?
4. On page 4, the text describes the main differences for the crew now that they were sailing as pirates. What were those main differences?
5. Why did Henry Avery decide to try to raid ships that sailed between India and Mecca?
On what page is this information?

B. Recounting Details

Quick fire:

1. What did Henry Avery rename The Charles?
2. How many ships did Avery have under his command by the time he reached Madagascar?
3. What did Avery do while he was in Madagascar?
4. What was Avery's smart decision after the raid on The Gunsway?
5. How long did the crews battle with swords and pistols?
6. How many men, on The Gunsway, were ready to fight?

5. Pirate Fashion – Madagascar, 1698

A. Reading for Information: Finding Details in Text

Copy this page

Personal Achievement Goal: to show that I can read text to find details.

Can you find out...?

1. How did the 'pirate look' in clothing happen?
2. When pirates raided ships carrying fine silk and velvet fabric, what did they start to do with the fabric?
On what page is this information?
3. Tight-fitting trousers were no good for pirates. What sort of trousers were best for the work that they did?
On what page is this information?
4. Why did pirates like to wear slings or colourful sashes wrapped around their waists?
On what page is this information?
5. Why were parrots popular with pirates?
On what page is this information?

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B. Recounting Details

Quick fire:

1. Why did a lot of pirates wear eye patches?
2. Which crew member had to 'repair' pirates' wounded legs?
3. Where is Madagascar?
4. Why did pirates need to wear loose fitting shirts?
5. Where did pirates get their jewellery from?
6. What weapons did pirates need to carry when they were in battle?

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