



The word "pirate" comes from the Greek word "petirates", which means "attacker".

1

Q When did pirates exist?

A There were pirates a long time ago, even in Ancient Rome. But the Golden Age of piracy was in the 17th century, after the discovery of the New World (America) in 1492. The pirates wanted the wealth transported from these far away countries.



2

Q Who were the most famous British and Irish pirates?

Edward Teach, a.k.a. Blackbeard

Sir Francis Drake

Jack Rackham, a.k.a. Calico Jack

Anno Bonny

Honry Enry a.k.a. Long Bon

3 Q Why did pirates wear eye patches?



A When you move from daylight to darkness, your eyes need a long time to adjust. When pirates went below deck, the eye with the patch adjusted to the dark more quickly.

4

Q What did pirates eat?

A Pirates often fell sick because they did not eat good food. They often had their teeth falling out and their skin going pale!

MENU
baked turtle
dried meat
roasted bread
pirate bone soup
Sea biscuits

5

Q Why did pirates wear earrings?

A Pirates wore earrings because they believed earrings helped to improve their eyesight. It was also a tradition for young pirates to wear earrings to celebrate their first crossing of the Equator.



6

Q Why do pirates have parrots as pets?

A Pirates often appear in films with pet parrots on their shoulders. But this image is purely fictional: it was created by Robert Louis Stevenson in his book *Treasure Island* (1883).



7

Treasure Island

This book tells of an adventure to an island in the West Indies, where the treasure of a great pirate is buried. This story generated many pirate myths... like using an X to mark the spot on a treasure map, and exotic tropical islands.



8

Q Do pirates still exist?

A Yes, there are still pirates around today, especially in the Caribbean and Far East (essentially terrorists who attack ships at sea). There are also computer pirates (or hackers).



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