



K-5

# STUDY GUIDE



# INTRODUCTION

## Ahoy, Incredible Educators!

We are excited to present this study guide designed specifically for the adventurous **Cap'n Kraken's Yo Ho Ho Pirate Show!** Prepare to set sail on a thrilling voyage through the enchanting and playful realm of The Golden Age of Piracy! This interactive experience is bound to ignite your students' curiosity about pirates, mermaids, and the fabled Kraken.

Our show features a delightful cast of puppets and plenty of opportunities for audience participation, ensuring a fun and educational experience. Your students will be excited to discover the hidden treasures of our past as they plunge into a journey filled with inspiration and wonder, specifically designed for students in grades K-5.

What's truly exciting is how seamlessly our performance aligns with the core curriculum standards in history and reading, while remaining tailored to your students' unique needs. This study guide is designed to help you bring the joy of learning back to your classroom after the performance, featuring engaging activities that will rekindle your students' passion for history and reading. You'll find resources that are perfect not just for your students, but also for you, the dedicated educator!

Every classroom has its own unique vibe, so don't hesitate to mix and match ideas that suit your group's dynamics best. We hope that **Cap'n Kraken's Yo Ho Ho Pirate Show** brings as much joy to your class as we experienced in creating this enriching and delightful performance. We truly appreciate you joining us on this exciting adventure with your students!

See you at the show!  
**Cap'n Kraken**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	3
WHAT IS A PIRATE? .....	4
JOLLY ROGER FLAG .....	5
NOTABLE BUCCANEERS .....	6
THE PIRATE CODE .....	7
TREASURE & BOOTY .....	8
SHIPWRECKS .....	9
MERMAID LEGEND .....	10
THE FABLED KRAKEN .....	11
PIRATE LINGO .....	12
READING LIST .....	13

*"There's More Treasure in Books Than in All the Pirates' Loot on Treasure Island."*



# WHAT IS A PIRATE?

**PIRATES WERE ADVENTUROUS SAILORS** who loved exploring the seas in search of adventure and treasure! Their journeys were filled with thrilling challenges, from facing fierce storms and engaging in sea battles to coping with scurvy—all while trying to stay one step ahead of the navy chasing them!

They had such a fun way of speaking, too! Pirates would greet each other with a cheerful "Ahoy!" and say "Avast!" when they wanted someone to stop. They often called their friends "Matey" and loved ending their sentences with a hearty "Arr!"



**SOME PIRATES HAD PEG LEGS** from past adventures, while others wore eye patches to help one eye adjust to the dark deck below. You'd often see them with colorful parrots or playful monkeys as companions on those long sea voyages.

As they sailed the vast oceans, pirates discovered hidden coves, deserted islands, and secret hideouts. The amazing tales of their adventures continue to capture our imaginations, ensuring that their legacy lives on in stories filled with excitement and adventure!



## JOLLY ROGER FLAG

**THE JOLLY ROGER FLAG**, characterized by its iconic skull and crossbones, has a fascinating history! During the thrilling Golden Age of Piracy, which lasted from the late 1600s to the early 1700s, pirates raised this famous black flag to intimidate their enemies into surrendering without a fight. They would often begin with a friendly flag, only to dramatically hoist the Jolly Roger to communicate a clear message: "Surrender, or there will be trouble!" While various designs existed, featuring different swords or skeletons, the underlying message was always the same—beware, pirates are near! Have you ever encountered a flag that sparked your curiosity about its meaning?





# NOTABLE BUCCANEERS

**ONCE UPON A TIME, ADVENTUROUS PIRATES SAILED THE BEAUTIFUL MEDITERRANEAN SEA!** During the exciting Golden Age of Piracy, which lasted from the 1650s to the 1730s, the Caribbean Sea and the shores of North America and Africa came alive with fantastic tales of pirates.

These buccaneers were fearless and bold, earning their place in history as some of the most legendary pirates ever. The most famous among them was **BLACKBEARD**, whose real name was Edward Teach. He had a dramatic way of intimidating his enemies—before boarding a ship, he would set his beard on fire to create a hair-raising scene! Just imagine how surprised everyone must have been!

While women weren't typically found on pirate ships, some incredible ladies made their mark. One of the most celebrated female pirates is **ANNE BONNY**, known for her spirited and adventurous nature.

Let's not forget the fascinating story of **CAPTAIN KIDD**! He started as a pirate hunter for the English government, but his life took an unexpected turn when his crew convinced him to become a pirate instead. Unfortunately, this surprising change led to his arrest and trial.

**BLACK BART** is the most famous pirate of the Golden Age of Piracy. He skillfully captured many ships and created a Pirate Code, along with an early version of the Jolly Roger flag, which struck fear in sailors.

These fantastic tales of buccaneers give us a fun glimpse into a world filled with adventure, bravery, and a touch of rebellion! So, what would your pirate name be?



**BLACK BEARD**



**ANNE BONNY**



**CAPTAIN KIDD**



**BLACK BART**



# THE PIRATE CODE

## Pirate Code

### EVERY PIRATE SHIP HAD A SET OF GUIDELINES, KNOWN AS THE PIRATE CODE.

These guidelines helped keep the crew organized and ensured everyone knew their roles. Key rules included:

- 1. DIVIDING THE LOOT:** All crew members received a share of the treasure, with the captain getting a bit extra for leadership.
- 2. NO FIGHTING ON THE SHIP:** Disagreements were to be settled on land.
- 3. LIGHTS OUT:** Candles had to be extinguished by a certain time to prevent fire hazards.
- 4. READY FOR BATTLE:** Pirates needed to keep their weapons clean and ready at all times.
- 5. CARING FOR THE INJURED:** Injured pirates received assistance and often a larger share of the loot as appreciation.

Roles on the ship included the wise captain, the quartermaster in charge of supplies, the boatswain overseeing the ship's condition, the gunner managing weaponry, the navigator charting courses, the cabin boy assisting with chores, and the cook ensuring everyone was fed despite limited resources.

The Pirate Code helped the crew enjoy their adventures together!



# TREASURE & BOOTY

**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHETHER PIRATES REALLY BURIED THEIR TREASURE?** While movies often show pirates hiding their loot in the sand, the truth is that this was pretty rare! Most of the time, pirates shared their plunder with the crew and spent it on food, drink, clothing, and gambling, opting to enjoy life right then and there. Plus, what they considered treasure often included everyday items like food and cloth, which wouldn't stay intact if buried anyway.



## THERE'S A FUN MYTH THAT PIRATES BURIED TREASURE AND LEFT BEHIND MAPS!

Here are a few well-known legends of lost pirate treasures:

### 1. CAPTAIN WILLIAM KIDD

Captain Kidd claimed he stashed away gold on Gardiner's Island in New York. While some treasure was found as proof against him, his hidden riches are still out there somewhere!



### 2. AMARO PARGO'S TREASURE

Amaro Pargo, a Spanish pirate and privateer, was known for being generous with his loot. He mentioned a mysterious ledger detailing a treasure box filled with silver, gold, and precious stones, but it's never been discovered.

### 3. WHYDAH GALLEY TREASURE

The Whydah Galley, captained by Sam "Black Sam" Bellamy, sank off Cape Cod in 1717, taking with it a fortune in gold coins. In 1984, divers found the ship and brought up around 200,000 artifacts, which are valued at over \$100 million!

Imagine stumbling upon a hidden treasure trove of gleaming gold coins! Would you stash it away in a secret spot, burying your fortune deep in the earth, or play it safe and deposit it in the bank for safekeeping? What would your decision be?



# MERMAID LEGEND

## MERMAIDS ARE MAGICAL SEA CREATURES,

part woman and part fish, that have fascinated us for centuries!

With their enchanting voices that can charm sailors and their love for shiny treasures, they bring a sense of wonder to our imaginations.

Mermaids usually hang out in family groups called pods, enjoy a tasty diet of plants and seafood, and love to play near the water's surface or on rocks.



MANATEE

**The word "MERMAID" comes from Old English; "mere" means "sea" and "maid" means "woman."**

Here's a fun piece of history: the famous pirate Blackbeard wrote about mermaid sightings in his logbook, adding to the excitement of pirate tales. One of the most well-known stories dates back to 1493 when Christopher Columbus claimed to have seen three mermaids swimming near Haiti. He described them as looking quite masculine, leading some to wonder if he mistook them for manatees because of their large, human-like eyes.

These days, some scientists suggest that those mermaid sightings could actually be manatees, sea cows, or dugongs—all marine mammals that might remind us of mermaids.

There are even theories that people might be mistaking dolphins for these mythical beings! So, have you ever looked out at the sea and thought you saw a mermaid?



# THE FABLED KRAKEN



## HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE LEGEND OF THE KRAKEN?

For centuries, sailors have shared tales of this giant creature lurking in the deep ocean, playfully attacking ships and pulling them under the waves! These stories have served as a warning for sailors to stay clear of its icy home.

Before the invention of cameras, many reported sightings of unusual sea creatures, leading some to believe that the Kraken was inspired by giant squids, which can grow over 40 feet long. With their large eyes, soft bodies, and long tentacles, these squids resemble the legendary monster, causing sailors to think they were witnessing something straight out of a storybook!

**Interestingly, the name "Kraken" comes from the Norwegian word "Krake," which is also linked to the German term for octopus.**

Today, many scientists consider the Kraken a legend, but they agree that the ocean is still full of wonders waiting to be discovered. Much of it remains unexplored! Who knows what remarkable creatures are hiding in the deep, dark sea? Amazingly, these tales have survived for so long, continuing to inspire our imagination. What do you think might be out there?





## SHIPWRECKS

**YES, REAL PIRATES ABSOLUTELY DEALT WITH SHARKS**, both as a constant threat during shipwrecks or when swimming and as potential food or targets, with some pirates even developing skills in hunting them, while sailors wore shark teeth for protection against them as a common superstition. Sharks followed ships for food, especially after bodies were thrown overboard, leading to attacks on crew members, though historical accounts show pirates used methods like noise, blood, or weapons to distract or fight them off. Animal wounds, including shark bites, were common and documented in pirate surgeon logs, showing the real danger sharks posed.





# PIRATE LINGO

## HOW TO TALK LIKE A PIRATE

**ARRR!**: A positive reaction

**AHOY!**: Hello

**AYE!**: Yes

**BOOTY**: Treasure

**MATEY**: Friend or shipmate

**HEARTIES**: Friends

**LASS**: Girl

**AVAST!**: Stop

**BLIMEY!**: What to say when frustrated

**YO-HO-HO**: What to say when happy

**YE**: Use this instead of "you"

**BUCCANEER**: Another name for pirate

**LAD**: Young man

**SHANTY**: Song

**WEIGH THE ANCHOR**: Get the ship ready to sail

**SHIVER ME TIMBERS!**: What to say when surprised

**BLOW ME DOWN**: Phrase of shock or amazement

**ALL HANDS HOAY**: Everyone get on the deck

**WEIGH THE ANCHOR**: Get the ship ready to sail

**SCALLYWAG**: Someone you don't trust

**SHANTY**: Song

**MAROONED**: To get stuck on a desert island

**WALK THE PLANK**: To be forced to walk off a plank of the ship into the ocean

**DOUBLOONS**: Gold coins or money

**HORN SWAGGLE**: Cheat someone

**AVAST YE**: Pay attention

**SEADOG**: An old sailor or pirate

**JOLLY ROGER**: The flag of a pirate ship

**COLORS**: Flag

**SCUTTLE**: To sink a ship

**SHARK BAIT**: Feed to a shark

**AFT**: Back of the ship

**BILGE**: Bottom of the ship

**FORE**: Front of the ship

**PORT**: Left side of the ship

**STARBOARD**: Right side of the ship





# READING LIST

## 100 QUESTIONS ABOUT PIRATES

Simon Abbott  
Peter Pauper Press, Inc. 2018



## THE PIRATES NEXT DOOR

Johnny Duddle  
Timplar, 2012

## THE ULTIMATE PIRATE HANDBOOK FOR KIDS

Michael Walsh  
Independently Published, 2025



## SWASHBUCKLERS & SCALLYWAGS: A HISTORY OF PIRATES FOR KIDS

Brian Thomas  
Independently Published, 2025

## PIRATE BOY

Eve Bunting  
Holiday House, 2012

## HOW TO SURVIVE IN THE AGE OF PIRATES

Crispen Boyer  
National Geographic Kids, 2024

## WHO WAS BLACKBEARD?

James Buckley, Jr.  
Penguin Workshop, 2015