

## Pirates: Fact or Myth?

Read the clues and decide if you think they are true or false.

When you have made your predictions read the answers and mark your scores.

Clue	Fact or Myth?	✓ or X
1. Pirates buried treasure and found it by reading treasure maps.		
2. Pirates loved to wear nice clothes.		
3. Pirates were not very good seamen at all and were just a bunch of thieves and thugs.		
4. Pirates left their shipmates on islands.		
5. Pirates only ever stole gold and jewels.		
6. Pirates pierce their ears with gold and silver to look wealthy and handsome.		
7. Pirates made people 'walk the plank'.		
8. All pirates were men.		
9. Jonah was a bad name to have on a pirate ship.		

Answers:

1. Myth	Pirates were far too eager to spend their newly stolen treasure to bury it! The famous Captain Kidd may have possibly hidden some treasure but most pirates just spent theirs as fast as they could.
2. Fact!	Pirates loved to wear the fancy clothes that they had stolen. They also wore curly wigs and liked to try and look fierce by growing big beards!
3. Myth	Pirates were exceptional seamen. It was a very hard job to run a ship as Captain and be a skilled sailor. The crew would need to have great respect for their Captain, so they would follow his orders.
4. Fact!	A pirate ship would have had some very strict rules and regulations, so one type of punishment for not following them was to be abandoned on an island. This was called being 'marooned'.
5. Myth	Though pirates undoubtedly favoured gold and jewels, a lot of the time ships carrying such things were too well guarded for them to plunder, so they would steal anything that they could sell such as sugar or cloth.
6. Fact!	This is partly true as pirates believed that wearing gold or silver would improve their eyesight!
7. Myth	This is a popular myth about Pirates, and although they possibly did do this occasionally, they were much more likely to either throw people overboard, or to kill by fighting.
8. Myth	There are two very famous women pirates in history called Anne Bonny and Mary Read, who sailed with the Pirate 'Calico Jack' Rackham in 1719.
9. Fact!	If a ship was experiencing difficulties, then one crew person was picked out and named the 'Jonah' which meant they had brought the ship bad luck. The Jonah would then be thrown overboard.