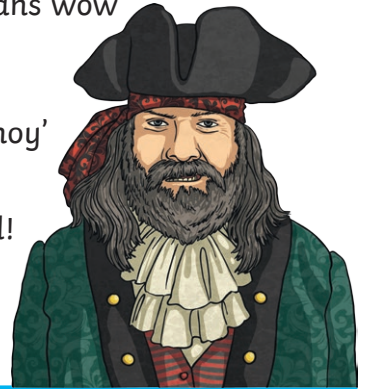




# A Pirate's Life for Me

A pirate's life was a tiresome one,  
Spent long on the open sea,  
But when they spotted another boat  
They'd plunder and pillage with glee.  
They took all the riches from other ships,  
Who happened to pass them by;  
Gold and silver and precious gems –  
Crossbones flagging on high.

A pirates' language is fun to learn,  
With lots of 'ayes' and 'arrrs!'  
'Me' means my and 'ye' means you –  
Try saying that with scars!  
'Booty' is treasure; 'blimey' means wow  
And 'dungbie' is your rear end!  
'Hornswaggle' means cheat, 'ahoy'  
is hello,  
Yet most of them tend to offend!



**Q1:** If a pirate says 'ahoy' to you, what does it mean?

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**Q2:** '*...they'd plunder and pillage with glee.*'  
What do you think that this phrase means?




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**Q3:** Why do you think that a pirate's life could be tiresome?




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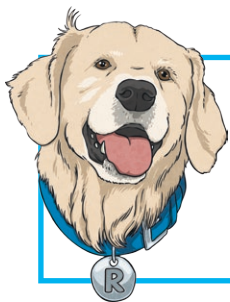
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The best-known pirates were 'orrible men,  
Who came to a sticky demise:  
Black Bart Roberts was 'pistol-proof' –  
The bullet came quite by surprise!  
Captain Kidd was hung by the  
noose,  
His body then covered in tar,  
And ol' Jean David was eaten for tea,  
By a tribe from Panama!

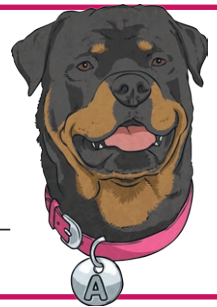
Edward Teach had his head chopped off,  
And Drake passed away with a fever.  
Calico Jack was hanged for his crimes,  
While others were killed with a cleaver!



**Q4:** Whose body was covered in tar?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q5:** Find and copy a phrase which the writer uses to show that many well-known pirates were not liked.



\_\_\_\_\_

**Q6:** '...who came to a sticky demise'

In this phrase, what do you think sticky demise means?



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q7:** How do we know that Black Bart Roberts was not really 'pistol-proof'?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



The food wasn't great on a pirate's ship;  
The meat would often rot.  
The biscuits could have little beetles in,  
And there'd be maggots in the pot.  
A famous disease amongst pirate crews  
Was an unpleasant thing they called scurvy;

They'd get it from not eating vitamin C  
And it meant that they would get rather poorly.  
But it wasn't all bad on the Seven Seas;  
You travelled the whole world for free!  
With an 'aye' and an 'arrr' and some 'pieces of eight',  
It's a pirate's life for me!

**Q8:** Why do you think that the meat would 'often rot'?

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**Q9:** Why didn't pirates eat enough vitamins?

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**Q10:** Would you have liked to have been a pirate?

Yes  No

Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

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**Q11:** Sum up what you think are the key points of this poem.

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# A Pirate's Life For Me Answers

**Q1:** If a pirate says 'ahoy' to you, what does it mean?

**Accept the answer 'hello' only**

**Q2:** '*...they'd plunder and pillage with glee.*' What do you think that this phrase means?

**Accept answers which equate the phrase to meaning happily stealing / robbing / thieving from other ships.**

**Q3:** Why do you think that a pirate's life could be tiresome?

**Accept answers which discuss the fact that pirates had many difficult feats, including long and arduous days sailing, boat maintenance (e.g. scrubbing the decks) and many dangerous tasks, such as fighting with other ships over loot. Example:**

- **A pirate's life was tiresome because they had to spend every day fighting for supplies and goods, which must have been difficult.**

**Q4:** Whose body was covered in tar?

**Accept the answer 'Captain Kidd' only.**

**Q4:** Find and copy a phrase which the writer uses to show that many well-known pirates were not liked.

**Accept the phrase 'the best-known pirates were 'orrible men' only.**

**Q6:** '*...who came to a sticky demise*' In this phrase, what do you think sticky demise means?

**Accept answers which equate a 'sticky demise' to a horrible downfall, unpleasant end or nasty death.**

**Q7:** How do we know that Black Bart Roberts was not really 'pistol-proof'?

**Accept any answer which infers that Black Bart Roberts could not have been as 'pistol-proof' as thought because, surprisingly, he was killed by a bullet, such as:**

- **Black Bart could not have been 'pistol-proof' because it was a bullet from a pistol which killed him.**

**Q8:** Why do you think that the meat would 'often rot'?

**Accept answers which discuss the lack of modern refrigeration aboard pirate vessels, e.g.**

- **The meat could have rotted because it was not kept cool, as there were no fridges on board pirate ships.**
- **Fridges were not invented when pirates sailed so they would have had no way to keep their meat cool and fresh.**

**Q9:** Why didn't pirates eat enough vitamins?

**Accept any answer which discusses the fact that prolonged periods at sea gave pirates very little access to fresh fruit and vegetables, therefore creating a shortage of vitamin intake, e.g.**

- **When pirates were out at sea they would not be able to get fruit and vegetables to give them vitamins so they would not be able to eat enough.**

**Q10:** Would you have liked to have been a pirate? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

**Accept either yes or no as an answer provided that a reasonable justification based on the text has also been provided, such as the following:**

**Yes because...**

- **their lives were full of excitement and adventure.**
- **you get to travel the world.**
- **you could become rich from loot and bounties.**
- **their language was fun to speak.**

**No because...**

- **the food was unpleasant.**
- **you could get poorly quite easily.**
- **lots of pirates had unpleasant deaths.**
- **constant sailing was very tiresome.**

**Q11:** Sum up what you think are the key points of this poem.

**Accept any reasonable summary of the texts which includes all of the following points:**

- **Many well-known pirates met unpleasant ends.**
- **Food aboard pirate ships was unpleasant.**
- **Pirates had their own language.**