

Has everything settled down¹ after the school festival? I hope so. And this week the junior high school and the 6th grade have guidance. Are you nervous? I used to hate this time of the year. In the UK, the students don't go to the guidance. It is always just the parents and the teacher. I used to wait at home, terrified² of what my teacher would say to my mum. It was always pretty much exactly the same thing. He's a nice boy, but he doesn't study enough. It's odd that times haven't changed because I'm sure that the majority³ of teachers say exactly the same thing to the majority of parents. What do you think? Anyway, don't worry too much about it. I'm sure you are all doing your best and your teachers know that.



12 differences!

Last week's answer.



Something you didn't know about pirates⁴

1. The Jolly Roger flag⁵ was used as a warning⁶ to make ships surrender⁷.
2. Pirates used democracy⁸. They usually voted on decisions as a crew.
3. The treasure was always divided equally and if someone was injured, they received a larger share called injury pay.
4. The majority of pirates didn't live for very long.
5. Most pirates were men, but there were some famous women pirates. Anne Bonny and Mary Read were very famous pirates. They were just as scary and ferocious⁹ as the male pirates.
6. There are still pirates today, but they use speed boats to capture cargo ships¹⁰.

Pirate Treasure

Have you ever wanted to find some pirate treasure? I have! Unfortunately, it is a myth¹¹ that pirates buried their treasure on islands and made a map marked with an X. That idea was created by Robert Louis Stevenson when he wrote Treasure Island. However, pirates certainly did steal. They took from people on the land and they took from other ships at sea. They plundered¹² as much as they could. Then, they went to shore¹³ and used up all of their money. When the money was gone, they went back to sea to get more. That was the life of a pirate. It was probably an exciting life, but it was also a dangerous life because they were often caught and their ships were often sunk. Last month, a ship that was looted¹⁴ by pirates and then sank off the coast of Madagascar was found. The ship was a Portuguese warship that had been captured by a group of pirates. The ship was owned by the Bishop of Goa, which was a Portuguese colony in India, and it was carrying all of his treasure because he was moving back to Portugal. The ship was full of gold, silver, diamonds, precious stones¹⁵, and golden artifacts¹⁶ from the cathedral in Goa. It is estimated¹⁷ to be worth \$100 million in today's money. I don't know why a bishop had so much money. It is said to be the most treasure ever stolen by pirates! They took the treasure and the ship sank. It had been lost until last month when the ship was found. There are still some gold coins, but most of it was stolen.



- 1.settle down 落ち着く 2.terrified 怖がっている 3.majority 大多数 4.pirate 海賊 5.Jolly Roger flag 骸骨の旗 6.warning 警告 7.surrender 降伏する 8.democracy 民主主義 9.ferocious 獰猛な 10.cargo ship 貨物船 11.myth 作り話 12. Plunder 略奪する 13.shore 岸 14.loot 略奪する 15.precious stones 宝石 16.artifact 遺物 17.estimated 推定の



World record

OK. This might be difficult, but let's see if we can find some pirate records this week. The most ships plundered by a pirate was 400 by the pirate Black Bart. What's more, he did it all in only three years. He became captain of a pirate ship in 1719 and he was killed in battle in 1722. Interestingly, Black Bart's three years as a pirate also makes him one of the longest serving pirates¹ as well. Most pirates, even the very famous ones, didn't last more than a couple of years before they were killed or executed². How about a modern pirate record? The largest gathering³ of people dressed as pirates was in Hastings in the UK. 14,231 people dressed up as pirates to get the record. How about the record for the richest pirate? I'm not sure if it counts, but that record must be held by Johnny Depp. He earned roughly⁴ \$300 million for starring in the five Pirates of the Caribbean movies.

Black Bart ⇒



“A table, a chair, a bowl of fruit, and a violin; what else does a person need to be happy.” Albert Einstein

An Interesting Fact

Pirates were very disciplined

We have an image of pirates being wild and fighting all of the time, but they were actually very disciplined⁵. Most pirate ships had a set of rules that they decided on themselves. They were not allowed to steal from each other. They were not allowed to fight on the ship. They had to share all money and



treasure equally. They all had to work hard and nobody was allowed to slack off⁶. Pirates that didn't follow the rules were kicked off the ship. They were allowed to disagree with the captain and everybody voted on decisions. This made them very good fighters because they knew that they were fighting for their own share. A lot of sailors left the navy⁷ and joined pirate ships because of this. On a navy ship, whatever the captain said had to be done. The crew had no say in anything. And if they found any money, it all went to the captain and his staff and none went to the regular crew. A pirate ship was fair⁸ and sailors had a chance to become rich if they worked hard. It was illegal⁹, and most pirates didn't live long, but it was popular. The navy could have learned



a lot from this and had a lot more success, but they didn't. A pirate life was not easy and it was very short, but many people preferred that to a long life of working on a navy ship.

- 1.longest serving pirate 最も長く活動していた海賊 2.executed 承継された
3.gathering 集まり 4.roughly たいたい 5.disciplined 規律正しい 6.slack off さぼる
7.navy 海軍 8.fair 公平 9.illegal 違法な