International Talk like a Pirate Day

Teacher's Guide

Shiver me timbers! Can you believe that 2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the international celebration of "Talk like a Pirate Day?" Seriously, I'm not making this up. It's an actual holiday (created up by a couple of random land-lovin' pirate wannabes and made famous by humor writer Dave Barry.) And as St. Patrick's Day and Groundhog's Day will attest, holidays deserve to be celebrated even if they seem a bit pointless!

So what better way to celebrate the occasion than by spending the entire day talking like pirates and an entire hour researching the history of real-life pirates?

Here's the plan: on Tuesday, September 18, hand out copies of the Pirate Lingo handout included below. Tell the students to brush up on their pirate-ese and come ready to talk like a pirate the next day. Then on Wednesday, September 19, spend the class period conducting a quick internet research project. First, go over the Activity Overview as a class. Read through the instructions and then look at the list of famous real-life pirates. Have each student (or group of students, it's up to you) select the pirate they want to focus on. Then turn them loose in the computer lab or on their laptops and see what fascinating informational booty they can dig up! At the end of class, have students share what they found.

One academic focus of the activity is to use search terms effectively when conducting internet research. The Research Activity handouts that each student will be working on is designed to make them look up different aspects of their chosen pirate's life (early life, retirement or capture and death, etc.). Theoretically, this should force them to search for something beyond just the pirate's name. Another focus is how to actually gather information from research. Many of my students, when I take them to the lab to do research, end up saying, "I can't find anything useful." So I go click on the first hit on their Google search and say, "How much of this article did you read?" "Uh, none, I guess." So this activity should be a good chance to teach them that, yes, you should actually read through several different articles or webpages to see if it has any

useful information. We need to teach them how to find and identify what they're looking for and that it's not necessarily a waste of time if they spend five or ten minutes reading through an article they found and then don't end up using anything from it.

Common Core Standards:

WRITING 7 – Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.

WRITING 8 – Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

FILE TYPES: I've included in this download four different ways to view the file. If you install the font included, you can view it as a Microsoft Word file. There are two different PDF file types. And for anyone who doesn't have either of those two programs installed, I've included each page as an image file that could be printed or viewed on a projector.

So have a blast with this activity. Remember that it's okay to take a break and let the kids do something fun (especially if you're secretly helping them build important skills in the process.) Avast, ye scurvy dogs! Hoist the colors and keep a weather eye on the horizon! Arg!

And for more information about **"International Talk like a Pirate Day,"** visit the official website:

HTTP://WWW.TALKLIKEAPIRATE.COM/PIRATEHOME.HTML

Created by Arik Durfee

INTERNATIONAL

TALK LIKE A PIRATE

DAY

PIRATE LINGO

In pirate lingo…

* "Me" means "my."

* "Ye" means "you."

* Verbs are often used in the "be" form, as in, "Ye'll not **be insulting** the captain, ye mangy sea dogs!"

General words and phrases…

Ahoy – A greeting or a way to get someone's attention. Synonymous with "Yo!" or "Hey!" Often followed by "matey."

Arg! – A multifunctional interjection that can be used to show approval, disapproval, anger, happiness, agreement, disagreement, or really anything else. Variations include "Gar!" and "Yar!"

Avast! – A warning or a call to stop and give attention, as in, "Look out!" or "Hey, check that out!" It can also be used in a sense of surprise, as in, "Holy guacamole! What was that?!"

Aye! – A word that shows general agreement, as in, "Totally, dog!"

Aye aye! – An expression of obedience, as in, "Yes, sir!"

Belay – To stop what you are doing, as in, "Belay that"

Booty – Treasure, gold, or any other valuables generally stolen from others

Davy Jones' Locker – A place where things are lost at sea, including ships and people. Also used to refer to "pirate hell"

Savvy – To understand or comprehend, as in, "Ye'll swab that deck smartly, or the captain'll send ye straight down to the depths of Davy Jones' Locker, savvy?"

Smartly – Synonymous with "quickly," as in to do something quickly

Names for friends…

Matey – Assistant to the captain, or "friend"

Buccaneer – What a pirate calls another pirate

Swabbie – A nickname for the unfortunate crewmember who gets to swab the deck

Me hearties – Generally means "my friends," or "my mates," as in, "Avast, me hearties, yo ho!"

Names for enemies…

Landlubber (or just "lubber") – Lover of land, or land-lover. An insulting term pirates used to describe someone who doesn't know his was around a ship.

Bilge rat – The bilge is the lowest level of the ship, filled with dirty, stinking water. A bilge rat, then, is a rat that lives in the worst place on the ship.

Scurvy dog – Basically the same as above

Sea dog (or Mangy sea dog) – An epithet, or insult

Random stuff…

Shiver me timbers! – Basically means, "Well, I'll be darned!"

Swabbing the deck – The crappiest job on the ship, often used as a punishment

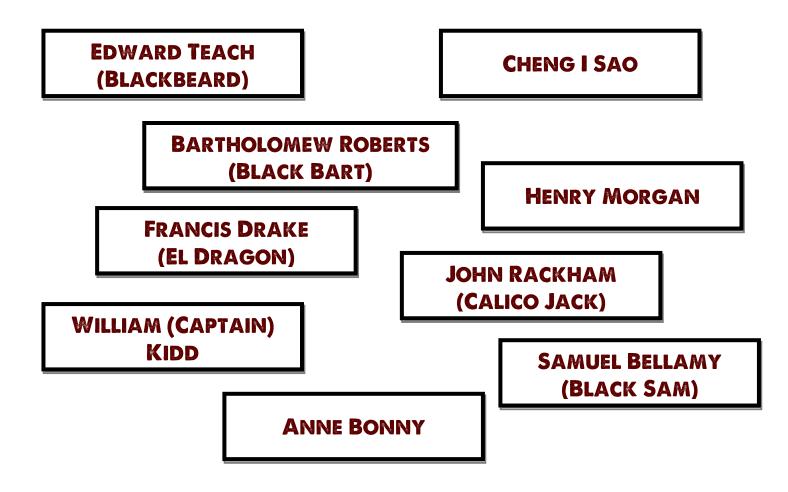**Pieces of Eight –** Spanish coins made of silver

Kraken – A large, tentacled sea monster of Pirate legend

Mizzen mast – The mast in the middle of a ship

Real-Life Pirates

Activity Overview

Ahoy, mateys! We've all seen pirates in movies and read about them in books, but how much do you know about REAL pirates? In this activity, you will research facts about a real-life pirate and then share what you found with the rest of the class. Using the two-sided worksheet your teacher gives you and the internet, find information from several different websites to shed light on the life of these treasure-plundering buccaneers. Each fact you record in your log needs to come from a different source, which means you'll need to find information from FIVE DIFFERENT SOURCES. But first things first: you need to choose your pirate! Here's a list of some of the most famous pirates in history:

- Edward Teach (Blackbeard)
- Cheng I Sao
- Bartholomew Roberts (Black Bart)
- Henry Morgan
- Francis Drake (El Dragon)
- John Rackham (Calico Jack)
- William (Captain) Kidd
- Samuel Bellamy (Black Sam)
- Anne Bonny

Real-Life Pirates

Name _____ **Period** _____

REAL-LIFE PIRATE:

EARLY LIFE

Name of Website: _____

Name of Article: _____

URL Address: _____

What important information did you learn from this website about your chosen REAL-LIFE PIRATE?

_____

_____

_____

_____

PIRATE BEGINNINGS

Name of Website: _____

Name of Article: _____

URL Address: _____

What important information did you learn from this website about your chosen REAL-LIFE PIRATE?

_____

_____

_____

_____

INTERESTING FACT #1

Name of Website: _____

Name of Article: _____

URL Address: _____

What important information did you learn from this website about your chosen REAL-LIFE PIRATE?

_____
_____
_____
_____

INTERESTING FACT #2

Name of Website: _____

Name of Article: _____

URL Address: _____

What important information did you learn from this website about your chosen REAL-LIFE PIRATE?

_____
_____
_____
_____

END OF CAREER AND DEATH

Name of Website: _____

Name of Article: _____

URL Address: _____

What important information did you learn from this website about your chosen REAL-LIFE PIRATE?

_____
_____
_____
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