

The Golden Age of Piracy

The Golden Age of Piracy lasted between 1650 and 1730. Many pirates sailed across the oceans of the world at this time, attacking islands, towns, ports and ships in search of treasure.

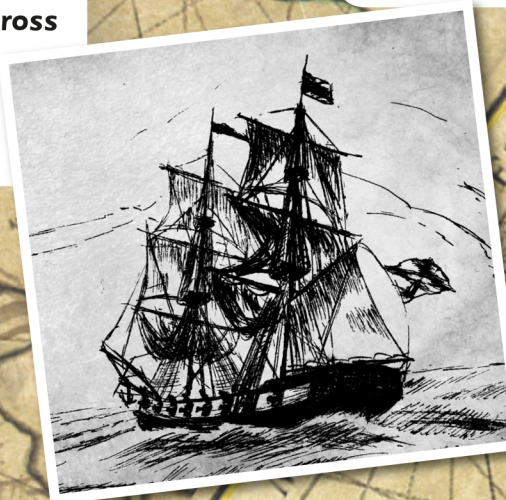
Were all pirates the same?

There were three main types of pirates in the Golden Age of Piracy.

Corsairs were pirates who sailed in the Mediterranean Sea and attacked ships in search of treasure.

Buccaneers sailed in the Caribbean Sea and attacked and stole from Spanish ships.

Privateers were legal pirates who were given permission to attack ships by the king or queen of a country. Many privateers were rich because they could keep a lot of the treasure they stole.



What did pirates wear?

Most pirates in the Golden Age wore baggy, knee-length breeches, woollen stockings, a jacket and a tall hat. However, some pirates wore clothes to make them stand out. Jack Rackham was nicknamed 'Calico Jack' because he wore bright clothing made from a material called calico.

Did pirates follow any rules?

Pirate crews would write a pirate code to follow when on board ship. Here are some examples of pirate rules:

- Every pirate has an equal share of food and water.
- Put the lights out at 8pm.
- Keep a cutlass and pistol to hand at all times.

If a pirate broke the pirate code, they might be hanged, made to walk the plank or even marooned on a desert island.

Could women be pirates?

Most pirates were men, however, there were some famous female pirates. Anne Bonny and Mary Read were in Jack Rackham's pirate crew and were known to be fierce fighters. However, it was unusual to have women onboard pirate ships as it was believed to be unlucky.

Were all pirates bloodthirsty?

Most pirates were cruel. They would attack ships and torture or kill the crew so they could steal the precious cargo. However, Blackbeard was kinder to his victims. If they gave him their treasures willingly, he would spare their lives.

