

DK findout! Pirates

Cast-iron grenade



Parrot

Steering Wheel



Skull & cross-bones



Myth busters

Find out the truth behind piratical myths, from parrots to buried treasure.

Pirates buried their treasure and made treasure maps to find them again.

Planks were probably never used – pirates simply shot, stabbed, or hung people to get rid of them.

Metal hooks were a replacement for lost hands in the past, so some real pirates may have had them.

All pirates owned parrots.

Pirates had hooks for hands.

Buried treasure was incredibly rare. Treasure maps were probably invented in stories like Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*.

Pirates made people walk the plank into shark-infested water.

Some pirates kept cats and dogs onboard, while others may have kept parrots caught in the tropics.

Pirate ship

Pirates often changed their ship - if they captured a better one!

Mast

Flags aimed to intimidate other ships.

Rigging

Sail

Pirates usually stole their clothes from the sailors they captured.

Figureheads were purely for decoration.

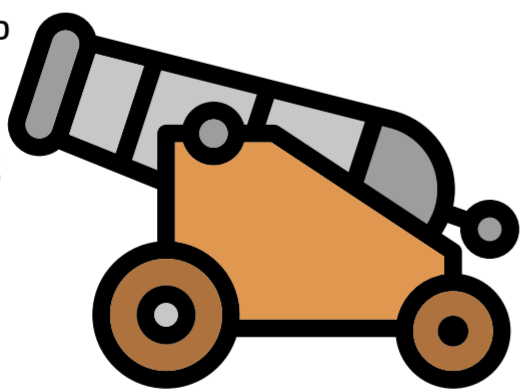
Pirates used cannons to damage ships, but not sink them - a sunken ship wasn't worth anything!

Hull

Pirate facts

Impress your friends with these amazing facts!

The largest pirate ship ever was thought to have had **100 cannons** onboard.



52 pirates hung at Cabo Corso, Africa, in 1722.

An 18th century cargo of bird poo was once captured by pirates!



Famous pirate Blackbeard set candles alight in his own beard to scare enemies during battle.

2009

In 2009, an American ship was captured by pirates for the first time in around 200 years

