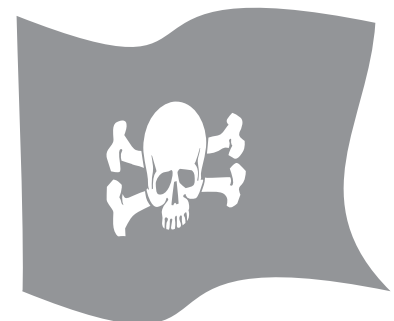## 1 True or false?

Piracy was robbery, usually at sea, but it sometimes happened in villages on the coast. Piracy started in the Mediterranean Sea about 3,000 years ago when people began to cross the seas in ships to buy and sell goods.

With the discovery of the New World, ships came back to Europe across the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean full of gold, silver and other treasure. These attracted pirates. From the 16th to the 18th centuries pirates attacked ships in the Caribbean to steal the treasure.

Pirate ships were usually small and fast with big sails. Pirates didn't have much space on the ship because they had to carry food, water and treasure! The ships had guns and cannons.

When soldiers captured pirates they sent them to prison. They usually went to Newgate Prison in London. Many pirates died from diseases in prison. Piracy finished when we started to use bigger and faster, steam-powered ships. International laws against piracy also ended it.

a. Piracy started with the discovery of the New World. _____

b. From the 16th to the 18th centuries ships carried treasure across the Atlantic Ocean. _____

c. Pirate ships were usually small with big sails. _____

d. Pirates had a lot of space on the ship. _____

e. Soldiers sent pirates to prison. _____

f. Piracy finished with steam-powered ships and international laws against piracy. _____

TEACHER'S NOTES

Pirates I.

Aim
• To study piracy.

Language focus
Key vocabulary: *piracy, pirate, treasure, steam-powered ships, prison, disease, cannon, sail, gun, law.*

Key language: *Piracy was robbery, usually at sea. Pirates attacked ships in the Caribbean to steal the treasure.*

Materials
• Worksheet.
• Pictures of pirates.

Warm-up

• Talk about children's stories with the class. Ask the pupils questions like *What books do you like? Do you know the story of Robin Hood? Do you know the story of Peter Pan? Do you like pirate stories?* Find out how many pupils like pirate stories. Ask them if they have read a pirate story or seen one on TV. Write some famous pirate stories on the board and encourage the pupils to put their hands up if they know the stories, eg, *Peter Pan, Treasure Island, Pirates of the Caribbean.* Elicit some information about them from the class and write some useful words on the board, eg, *pirate, ship, treasure, gun, cannon, sword, parrot, prison.*

Completing the Worksheet

Activity 1

• Show the pupils a picture of a pirate or write the word *pirate* on the board. Ask the pupils

some questions about pirates, eg, *What did pirates do? How did they travel? Did they have weapons? When did they exist? What did they wear?*

• Write the following questions on the board and check comprehension orally: *When did piracy start? What did the ships bring from the New World from the 16th to the 18th centuries? What were pirate ships like?* Ask the pupils to copy the questions in their notebooks and discuss the answers in small groups. Pupils then read the text in Activity 1 and check their answers.

• Read the text with the class and help with new vocabulary.

• Ask the pupils to decide if the sentences are true or false.

Answers: **a**-F; **b**-T; **c**-T; **d**-F; **e**-T; **f**-T

Extension activity

- Ask the pupils to look at the two pirate flags in Activity 1. Find out how many pupils like the flag with the swords on it and how many prefer the flag with the skull and bones (note: *skull and crossbones* is the name of this flag). Explain that *pirate flags were very important as they represented the pirates. It was the best way to identify their ships. The most common pirate flag was the skull and crossbones although other symbols like swords, skeletons, spears or hearts were also used. The skull and crossbones represent death.*

- Ask the pupils to design their own pirate flag. Invite some pupils to draw their flags on the board.