

What's it all about?

In 'Pirates Ahoy!' we will look at what we think we know about pirates and explore which things are true and which things are false. We will investigate the history of pirates and how things were different then—how people dressed and how they travelled. We will find out that history means something that happened long ago. In Science, we will be investigating water, what floats and sinks as well as reviewing capacity (how much water something holds) We will have lots of pirate fun, giving ourselves pirate names and making pirate things like telescopes, eye patches and treasure maps. We will use this to learn about directions and counting, as well as working on our drawing skills! We will learn that pirates weren't always as fun as we might sometimes think! At the end of the topic we will finish off with a pirate party.

Questions to ask

- What makes a good captain?
- Were pirates good or bad? Why?
- If you had no money, is it right to take someone else's?
- What do you think sinks or floats? Why? Record findings.
- What would be good/bad about spending so much time at sea?

Books and Rhymes

- A Pirate's Life for Me Song
- My Granny is a pirate
- Pirate Pete
- The Night Pirates
- Plunge into the Pirate Pool
- The Pirates Next Door
- Pirates Love Underpants

Our New Learning – Facts and Knowledge

A pirate is a robber at sea—there are still pirates today.
 Pirates hardly ever made people walk the plank—they usually left them on a small island all by themselves.
 They believed wearing earrings helped their eyesight.
 No-one has ever found a pirate treasure map, though William Kidd once buried some that was found. Pirates usually just spent what they stole on parties.
 They stole clothes and spices—treasure was rare.

Wow Words!

Marooned, treasure, myth, galleon (big pirate ship), galley (ship kitchen), crow's nest, rigging, ahoy (hello), Jolly Roger (a pirate flag, with skull and cross bones), cutlass (sword), doubloons (gold coins), booty (treasure), pieces of eight (Spanish coins), poop deck (high deck at back with steering wheel) Fierce, beard, stubble, gnashing, ferocious, peg-leg, eyepatch, seadog (old pirate), Caribbean.

Investigation Station

Boats – floating and sinking
 Making telescopes, flags, maps and hats.
 Where would we find pirates and what would they wear?

Home Learning Project

Make your own pirate ship.
Explore it more at home
 Read some pirate tales with your child.
 Make a treasure map to follow in your garden or home.



Parts of a pirate ship



Famous Pirates



Black Beard - An English pirate who sailed around the West Indies and North America. He became a renowned pirate. He got his nickname because of his thick black beard



Anne Bonny - An Irish pirate who often disguised herself as a man and became one of the most recognizable faces of the 'Golden age of Piracy.'

What's it all about?

We all know that we get presents at Christmas time, but why? We will learn about the nativity story and how the 3 kings gave presents to baby Jesus. People who are Christians celebrate Christmas and those countries where you have more Christians than other religions, such as England. We will learn that not everybody in the world celebrates Christmas because they believe in different things. In different countries that do celebrate Christmas, they have different traditions, which we will also learn about. We will use our writing skills to write present wish lists to Santa and also to make cards for family. We will use our art skills to make and wrap pretend presents as well as to help make props for our grotto and even for our Christmas show.

Questions to ask

Why did they want to give presents to Jesus?
 What would it feel like to travel on a donkey?
 Why did everyone want to see Jesus?
 What could we do to make sure we are on the nice list?

Books and Rhymes

The Nativity
 Traditional Christmas Carols
 When Santa got stuck up the chimney
 Rudolf the red nosed reindeer
 Jingle Bells

Our New Learning – Facts and Knowledge

Christmas time is when we celebrate baby Jesus being born.
 He was born in a stable in Bethlehem and there was a bright star in the sky to show people the way there.
 We give presents to remember when the 3 kings gave presents to Jesus. These were gold, frankincense and myrrh (an oil they put on people's dead bodies!).
 King Herod was angry that Jesus was born.
 Santa Claus lives in Lapland, near the North Pole.

Wow Words!

Gold, frankincense, myrrh, stable, manger, celebrate, Bethlehem, journey, shimmering, glistening, angel, 3 wise men, Mary, Joseph, shepherd

Explore it more at home

Think about how we can be helpful to our families over Christmas.
 Listen to some Christmas carols.
 We will need all of our families' help to practise any lines or songs with the children at home for our Christmas Show.

Places to visit

Church, Christmas market, Christmas food aisle in the supermarket, shopping centre with a nativity or Christmas scene, Santa's grotto.



Advent Calendar

Advent is all about getting ready for the arrival of baby Jesus. Talk about how they would get ready for a baby coming. Look at the numbers on an advent calendar together. Look at any patterns they notice.