

# PIRATES

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# Pirate Ships



The typical pirates that we usually think about today tend to all be from around 300 years ago, during what was known as the "Golden Age of Piracy". During this time piracy was a huge problem for ships, with thousands of pirates roaming the trade routes looking for vulnerable merchant ships.

In order to hunt down and capture the merchant ships the pirates needed fast ships which were well armed with lots of cannons.

Smaller ships were often faster but could carry fewer cannons and less crew, they could also hide in shallow coastal waters when trying to escape the ships hunting them! Larger ships, with far more cannons, were usually slower and more difficult to move, they also needed more people on their crew which meant carrying more food, water and money too. This all meant it was very important to get the balance of speed and size right.



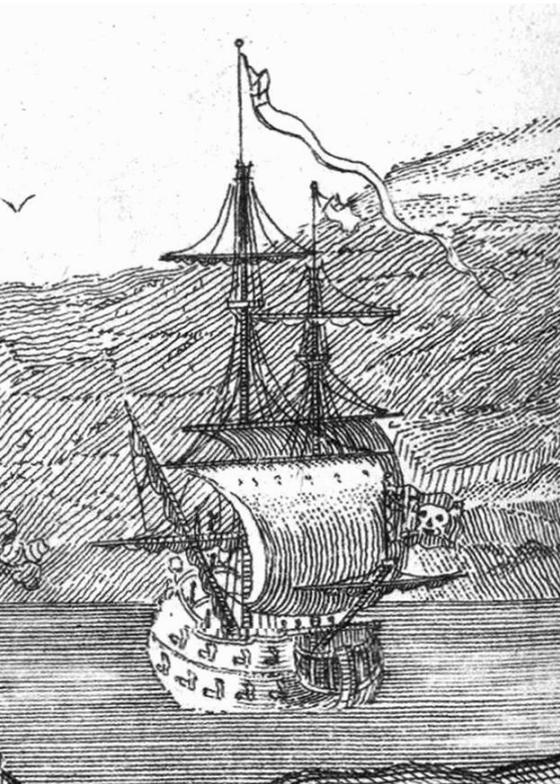
Getting a ship was also another huge factor, building ships took time and cost vast amounts of money so you could not exactly just go and buy a new custom built pirate ship! Most were originally merchant or navy ships that were captured and traded by other pirates.

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These vessels were then modified to better suit the needs of the pirates, such as making space for more crew and cannons and less room for cargo. It was also common for a captain and crew to upgrade to a better ship if they captured one that was more suitable. One of the most famous and largest examples of this is legendary pirate Captain Blackbeard's ship called the Queen Anne's Revenge.

This ship originally was a French slave ship called Le Concorde that was captured by Blackbeard. He then spent time converting it to a massive warship armed with 40 cannons, making it one of the most powerful ships in the area. However despite its fame and power it was not a very successful pirate ship and within a year it had been run aground and sunk.

**How would you design your own pirate ship?**

Try drawing one on a piece of paper or watch our craft video on Facebook & make your own!