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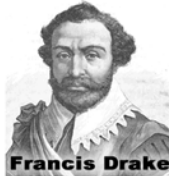
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## The Pirates

The beginning of the colonial era in the Caribbean was also known as the “Golden Age of Piracy.” The Caribbean Sea was thousands of miles from European control, making the region a prime target for pirates who patrolled the seas in order to steal. The Europeans monarchs could not afford to send their naval forces to the Caribbean, so they instead issued “letters of marque” that allowed the owners of private ships to attack ships from rival nations. These ship captains were known as privateers, legal pirates who turned over a portion of what they seized to the government that sponsored them.



One of the most famous privateers was Sir Francis Drake, who sailed for England while England was at war with Spain. Drake not only raided ships, he also attacked Spanish towns and mule trains carrying gold. Drake was not an outlaw, at least in England. Queen Elizabeth I chose him to be the second person after Magellan to lead a sailing expedition around the world. Shortly after Drake completed his journey in 1580,



Elizabeth addressed him as “my dear pirate,” and over the objections of the Spanish, she knighted him.

English and French pioneers began to settle on the island of Hispaniola around 1630. They became known as buccaneers because they cooked their food on open fires known as buccans. The Spanish believed they could force the buccaneers to leave by removing their food supply, so they sent hunters to slaughter the wild pigs that were the buccaneer’s primary source of food. With the pigs gone, many buccaneers turned to piracy in order to survive. Many buccaneers moved to the island of Tortuga, off the coast of Hispaniola, because its fresh waters, fertile ground, good anchorages, and defensible harbors made it ideal for their needs.

Piracy in the Caribbean began to subside by 1750. The European governments had established profitable colonies in the region. This made it possible to send trained naval forces rather than rely on privateers. The Europeans also signed treaties that allowed the safe passage of ships in the Caribbean. Piracy is still a problem in the Caribbean, particularly in cases involving illegal drugs, but modern communication technology has made the sea a safer place to travel and trade.

### Fill in the Blanks

Pirates patrolled the C\_\_\_\_\_ Sea at the beginning of the c\_\_\_\_\_ era. The Caribbean was t\_\_\_\_\_ of m\_\_\_\_\_ from E\_\_\_\_\_, so the region was a prime t\_\_\_\_\_ for the sea \*b\_n\_i\_s. European \*g\_v\_r\_m\_n\_s encouraged p\_\_\_\_\_ by hiring p\_\_\_\_\_ who turned over a p\_\_\_\_\_ of what they s\_\_\_\_\_ to the g\_\_\_\_\_ that s\_\_\_\_\_ them. Francis D\_\_\_\_\_ of E\_\_\_\_\_ was the most famous p\_\_\_\_\_. Queen E\_\_\_\_\_ chose the man she called “m\_ dear p\_\_\_\_\_” to lead an e\_\_\_\_\_ around the w\_\_\_\_\_. She later gave D\_\_\_\_\_ the high \*h\_n\_r of k\_\_\_\_\_ him.

English and F\_\_\_\_\_ pioneers began to \*i\_h\_b\_t Hispaniola about \_\_\_\_\_ years ago. The settlers were known as b\_\_\_\_\_ because they roasted wild p\_\_\_\_\_ on open f\_\_\_\_\_ known as b\_\_\_\_\_. The S\_\_\_\_\_ tried to f\_\_\_\_\_ the b\_\_\_\_\_ from H\_\_\_\_\_ by s\_\_\_\_\_ their f\_\_\_\_\_ supply. When the b\_\_\_\_\_ lost their p\_\_\_\_\_ source of f\_\_\_\_\_, many turned to then s\_\_\_\_\_ to become p\_\_\_\_\_.

Piracy began to s\_\_\_\_\_ by 17\_\_\_\_. The E\_\_\_\_\_ governments began to send trained n\_\_\_\_\_ forces instead of relying on p\_\_\_\_\_. They signed t\_\_\_\_\_ that a \_\_\_\_\_ the s\_\_\_\_\_ passage of s\_\_\_\_\_ in the C\_\_\_\_\_.

\*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

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**Answer in complete sentences**

\*1. What was a “letter of marque?”

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\*2. Defend the privateers of the Caribbean.

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\*3. Who were the buccaneers? Why did the buccaneers move to Tortuga?

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\*4. Write a paragraph that explains why piracy in the Caribbean began to subside by 1750. Your paragraph must have a topic sentence, at least two support sentences, and a conclusion that restates, but does not repeat the topic sentence.

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\*5. Explain why the Caribbean Sea is safer today than the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

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\*6. When people think of pirates, they think of images provided by Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1881 novel *Treasure Island*, or James Barrie’s 1904 *Peter Pan*. Describe a stereotypical pirate from literature or cinema.

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\*7. Do you think pirates have been accurately portrayed in literature and cinema?

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