

Name: _____

Date: _____

ESL Kids World: Who Was Blackbeard?

Read the text. Answer the questions.

Blackbeard was a fearsome pirate who attacked other people's ships a long time ago, in the years 1717-1718. His real name was Edward Thatch or Edward Teach. He was called Blackbeard because of his long, black beard.

Blackbeard was a pirate because it was a way to make a fortune. Life at sea was hard and risky for sailors in navy or on merchant ships. It was tempting to take what you learned serving on those ships and join a pirate crew where you would earn a share of the treasure.

Pirates sailed where they thought other ships would be. Once they found another ship, they would raise their pirate flag and attack. Usually, the other ships just gave up once they saw the flag to avoid a fight and injuries. The pirates would then steal everything the ship was carrying.

Pirates stole anything that they could use or sell. If a ship had cannons or other good weapons, the pirates would take them. They stole food and alcohol. If there was any gold or silver, they would steal it. The ships they robbed were usually merchants ships carrying cargo such as cocoa, tobacco, cow hides or cloth.

Blackbeard was famous because he was a very scary pirate. When he knew he was going to attack someone's ship, he put smoking fuses in his long black hair and beard. He also wore pistols strapped to his body. Word of him spread and people on both land and sea were scared of him.

Blackbeard's pirate flag was black with a white devil skeleton on it. The skeleton was holding a spear pointing at a red heart. He also had a very famous ship called the *Queen Anne's Revenge*. This mighty ship had 40 cannons on it, making it one of the most dangerous pirate ships ever.

1. Who was Blackbeard? _____

2. What was Blackbeard's name? _____

3. Why was Blackbeard a pirate? _____

4. What did pirates steal? _____

5. Why was Blackbeard famous? _____

6. What did Blackbeard's pirate flag have on it? _____