



JOBS ABOARD A PIRATE SHIP





Ship's Captain

- Captains were chosen by the crew and could be replaced at any time by a vote.
- Some captains were voted out for not being tough enough while others were voted out for being too cruel.
- Pirate captains were expected to be brave and bold in battle as well as having good map reading skills.
- Captains had to have a strong personality to manage their often difficult crew!





Quarter Master

This was a very important job.

- They were nearly as important as the captain.
- With the captain, he could give orders to all the crew.
- They had to keep everything on the ship running smoothly, settle arguments, make sure food and supplies were given out fairly.
- They received an extra share in the booty (treasure).
- They could punish crew members if the rules of the ship were broken.





Bosun

This was the most senior member of the crew on the ship's deck.

- They were responsible for inspecting the ship and its sails and rigging (ropes)each morning.
- They were also in charge of dropping the anchor and handling the sails.
- They made sure the deck was kept clean and tidy.
- They gave orders to the crew who worked on the deck.



Master Gunner

This person was usually the person who had the most experience at using the guns on board ship

- They were in charge of the ship's guns and gunpowder.
- Their jobs included sifting the gunpowder to keep it dry, keeping the cannons free from rust and to keep all weapons in good condition.
- They gave orders when the captain wasn't around
- They had an important job in keeping the ship safe





Cabin Boy

These were young boys who worked aboard the pirate ship as servants.

- They were usually 14-16 years old.
- They ran errands for the captain.
- They helped the cook prepare the food in the galley.
- They climbed the rigging (ropes) to tie back the sails
- Many were kidnapped or were runaways looking for a way to escape.