

## A Blackbeard the Pirate (part 1)

- 1 Take a few minutes to read and make sure you know your text. (You have part 1 of the story.)

*For a short period between 1716 and 1718, the Caribbean and the Atlantic coastal towns of the West Indies and North America were terrorized by the most terrifying pirate of them all. His name was feared by captains, sailors and ordinary people alike.*

*He was born in Bristol (or possibly Jamaica) and named Edward Teach, but he was more commonly known as Blackbeard.*

*Sailors were terrified by the sight of his ship 'Queen Ann's Revenge' approaching. The sight of Blackbeard himself was spine-chilling – for his crimson clothes had been covered all over with swords and guns, and burning candle wicks had been placed in his huge beard. If a ship resisted the attacks of his ship, everyone on board was killed.*



## B Blackbeard the Pirate (part 2)

- 1 Take a few minutes to read and make sure you know your text. (You have part 2 of the story.)

*A reward of £100 was offered by the Governor of Virginia to anyone who could capture Blackbeard. Lieutenant Robert Maynard of the British Royal Navy set out to try and do this.*

*Blackbeard and his crew of 19 had hangovers from some heavy drinking the night before – but they fought vigorously when they were attacked.*

*Many of Maynard's crew were killed by shots from the Revenge.*

*When the Revenge came close, Maynard and his surviving crew hid below deck, knowing that their ship would soon be boarded by the pirates.*

*Blackbeard was fooled. He thought everyone had been killed or that the boat had been abandoned.*

*A huge battle began and Blackbeard was killed. He had been shot five times and cut with a sword more than twenty times. Finally, his head was cut off.*



- 2 Answer B's questions about part 1 of the story.  
3 Now ask B these questions about part 2 of the story.

- ⊗ How much reward was offered for Blackbeard's capture?
- ⊗ Who tried to win this money?
- ⊗ How did Blackbeard's crew react when they were attacked?
- ⊗ Were any of Maynard's crew killed?
- ⊗ What did Maynard's crew do after they were attacked?
- ⊗ What did Maynard think would happen?
- ⊗ Was Blackbeard tricked?
- ⊗ What did Blackbeard think?
- ⊗ What happened in the battle?
- ⊗ How did Blackbeard die?

- 2 Ask A these questions about part 1 of the story.

- ⊗ Who were terrorized between 1716 and 1718?
- ⊗ Who terrorized them?
- ⊗ What was his real name?
- ⊗ Where was he born?
- ⊗ What was the name of his ship?
- ⊗ What were sailors terrified to see?
- ⊗ What did Blackbeard himself look like when he attacked?
- ⊗ If a ship resisted his attacks, what happened?

- 3 Now answer A's questions about part 2 of the story.

**Activity**

Pairwork. Students read about Blackbeard, then ask and answer questions about him.

**Focus**

Passives.

**Preparation**

Photocopy one worksheet for each pair of students. Cut the worksheet in half. Students will need dictionaries.

**Procedure**

- 1 Ask if anyone has heard of Blackbeard. Elicit any information people know. If no one has heard the name, just tell students that he was a famous pirate.
- 2 Divide the class into pairs. Hand out worksheet A to one student in each pair, and worksheet B to the other. Tell students not to show each other their worksheets.
- 3 Ask students, on their own, to read their texts. (Student A has part 1 of the story of Blackbeard and student B has part 2.) Allow time for students to get really familiar with their text and check the meaning of any unfamiliar words.
- 4 When students are ready, ask students to sit opposite each other. Tell students B to start by asking students A their questions to find out what happened in part 1 of the story. Then students A ask students B their questions to find out what happened in part 2 of the story.
- 5 When they have finished, ask students to read each other's texts, then put the texts down.
- 6 Ask pairs to try and retell the story. They don't need exact words but should try to remember as much of the detail as they can.

**Notes**

- Discourage students from just reading sentences aloud from their text to answer questions.
- With stronger classes, ask them to put their texts down when they are asking questions and try to answer from memory.