

SHIP AHOY!



In times gone by, pirates would sail the seas looking for other ships so they could jump aboard and steal their treasure. They would fly a Jolly Roger (or pirate flag) as a warning to other ships not to fight them and to give up their gold and jewels easily.

Now which flag you flew depended upon which pirate ship you worked on. The question is, which flag would you fly if you were a pirate?

"Ship ahoy, Captain!"

"Ah, good work Jim lad. Now fly the Jolly Roger and let's rob those poor devils."

"Aye, aye Captain!"

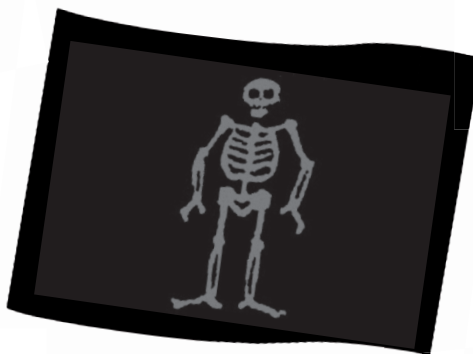


1. The first Jolly Roger was probably seen on board a pirate ship called the Fancy in 1694. Its Captain was **John Avery** and he used a skull and crossbones to look like death. He wasn't a very good pirate – he died a poor beggar in England.

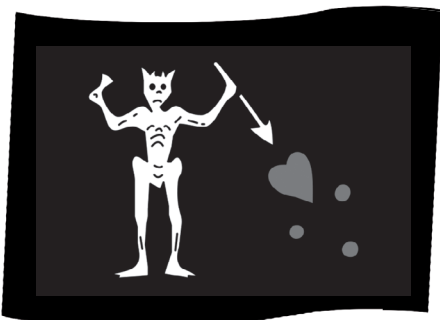


2. The most famous pirate flag belonged to **Edward England**, who sailed around Madagascar killing people after he robbed them. He probably had a wooden leg and a wild beard.

3. This flag belonged to **Captain Blackbeard**, who sailed on the Queen Anne's Revenge. On his flag a skeleton devil is holding an hourglass meaning 'your time is running out'. It is going to stab a bleeding heart. Very scary!



4. Not all pirate flags were black and white. **Nasty Ned Low** put a red skeleton on his flag. Red is the colour of blood. This meant 'I will kill you if you put up a fight'. He was last seen sailing his pirate ship around Africa in 1724.



5. **Thomas Tew** sailed around Europe and America when he was a pirate. His flag showed a strong arm holding a cutlass. He died in 1695 when he was hit by a cannon shot that ripped his belly open.

