

LEVELED BOOK • H

# Blackbeard the Pirate



**Multi  
level  
H•K•N**

Written by Kate Follett • Illustrated by John Walker

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)



# Blackbeard the Pirate



Written by Kate Follett  
Illustrated by John Walker

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)





One of the pirate ships made for the Disney movie *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*.

## Table of Contents

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| The Real Pirate . . . . .          | 4  |
| Everyone Was Afraid of Pirates . . | 8  |
| A Pirate's Life. . . . .           | 11 |
| Blackbeard's Last Fight. . . . .   | 15 |
| Glossary. . . . .                  | 16 |

## The Real Pirate

**Pirate** stories are fun to read.

Many pirate stories we read are about lost **treasure**.

Most of those stories aren't about **real** pirates.



Movie and cartoon pirates often look funny, but real pirates such as Blackbeard (right) looked strange, too.



Blackbeard was a real pirate.  
He lived over three hundred years ago.  
At that time, ships from many countries **sailed** all over the world.



Three hundred years ago, pirates were very busy robbing ships along the coast and islands of the New World.

Blackbeard got a job on a ship.  
He liked his job, but he knew that he  
might have to fight off pirates.



## **Why did sailors become pirates?**

Some things about being a sailor or a pirate were similar. Both were away from home for months at a time. Both jobs were dangerous. The main difference was in their pay. Sailors were paid very little. Pirates got to keep and share what they took from other ships!



Pirates would **rob** ships and share the treasure.

Blackbeard decided it was better to be a pirate!



### Do You Know?

In the 1700s, boys as young as eight to twelve years old had jobs on ships.

A boy's first job might be to help a ship's officer.

Later, they learned how to help sail the ship.

## Everyone Was Afraid of Pirates

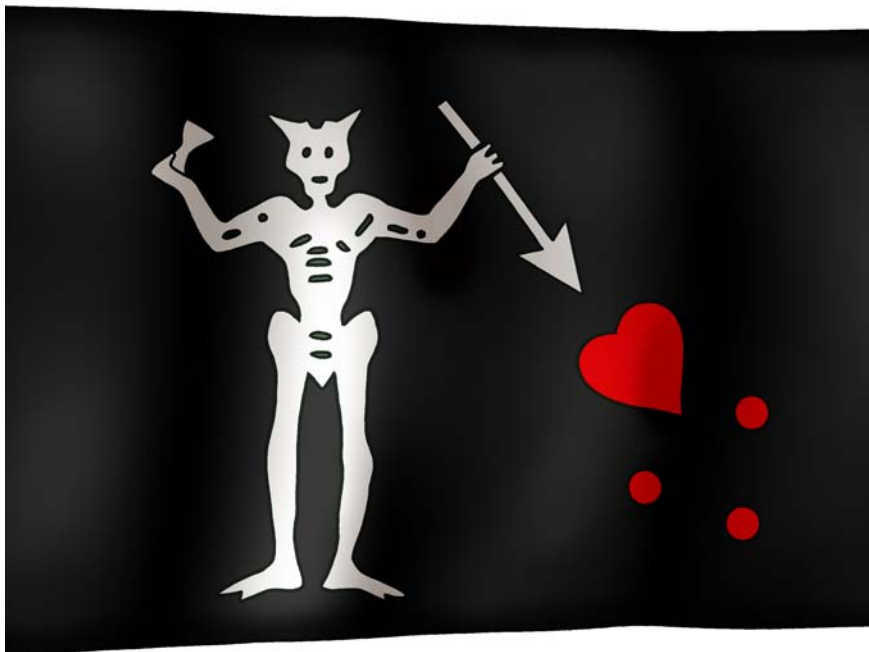
Blackbeard was a very big man.

He had a thick black beard.

People were afraid of him.

People gave up when they saw him.





Blackbeard's black flag showed a skeleton stabbing a heart and holding an hourglass. The hourglass showed that the victim only had a short time to give up or Blackbeard would attack.

Blackbeard's pirate flag scared people, too.

His flag had a **skeleton** on it.

Many ships gave up when they saw his black skeleton flag.

### Do You Know?

Blackbeard took ships as well as treasure.

In his pirate life, Blackbeard took over forty ships.



This map shows where the wreck of Blackbeard's ship was found near Beaufort Inlet off the coast of North Carolina.

## A Pirate's Life

Blackbeard had four good ships.  
One day, his best ship got stuck  
in the sand.  
It couldn't move.



The wreck of the *Queen Anne's Revenge* was found near the Beaufort Inlet, off the coast of North Carolina, in 1996.

All the pirates' treasure was on  
Blackbeard's ship.

The pirates didn't know what to do.



### Do You Know?

Blackbeard had over 350 men in his pirate crew.

They had to rob a lot of ships to support that many men.



Blackbeard thought fast.

He put their treasure on his other ships.

He sailed away with it and left many of his men behind.



Blackbeard's life was quiet for a few months.

Then, he began to rob ships again.

Many ships were sent to stop him.





Blackbeard's last battle became famous. Writers and poets made Blackbeard's life and death into a colorful tale.

## **Blackbeard's Last Fight**

During a long ship fight, Blackbeard was shot dead.

Many stories were told about Blackbeard's life.

He became the most famous pirate of all.

## Glossary

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>pirate</b> ( <i>n.</i> )   | a person who attacks and robs ships at sea (p. 4)            |
| <b>real</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )   | something that is not imagined; true (p. 4)                  |
| <b>rob</b> ( <i>v.</i> )      | to steal from a person or a place (p. 7)                     |
| <b>sailed</b> ( <i>v.</i> )   | traveled across water in a boat or ship (p. 5)               |
| <b>skeleton</b> ( <i>n.</i> ) | all the bones in the body of a person or other animal (p. 9) |
| <b>treasure</b> ( <i>n.</i> ) | something that is very special or valuable (p. 4)            |

**Photo Credits:**

Back cover: © REUTERS/Karen Browning/N.C. Department of Cultural Resources; page 3: © Moviestore collection Ltd/Alamy; page 6 (top): © Superstock; pages 6 (bottom), 7 (bottom), 9 (bottom), 12: © iStockphoto.com/Peter Zelei; page 7 (top): © Paul Moore/123RF; page 9 (top): © Learning A–Z/Nora Voutas; page 11: © Robert Willett/The News & Observer/AP Images; page 15: The Capture of the Pirate Blackbeard, 1718 (detail of 39781), Ferris, Jean Leon Gerome (1863-1930)/Private Collection/The Bridgeman Art Library

Back cover: a heavy cannon from the wreck of Blackbeard’s ship, *Queen Anne’s Revenge*. The wreck was found in 1996. Thousands of items have been taken out of the water to be studied and put in a museum.

Blackbeard the Pirate  
Level H Leveled Book  
© Learning A–Z  
Written by Kate Follett  
Illustrated by John Walker

All rights reserved.

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

**Correlation**

| LEVEL H           |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Fountas & Pinnell | H     |
| Reading Recovery  | 13–14 |
| DRA               | 14    |



# Blackbeard the Pirate

*A Reading A-Z Level H Leveled Book*  
*Word Count: 236*



Reading a-z

Visit [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)  
for thousands of books and materials.