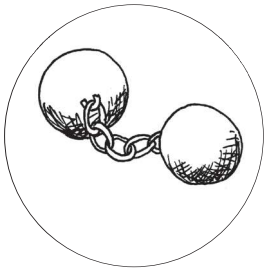
Pirates II

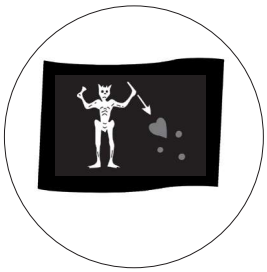
A **Glossary** is a bit like a mini-dictionary. It is an alphabetical list of specific words and phrases used in a book, together with their meanings.



Becalmed - when a sailing ship cannot move because there is no wind.

Buccaneer - a pirate who attacked Spanish ships in the West Indies and Central America during the 1600s.

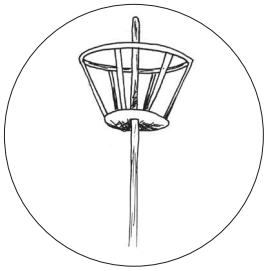
Cat o' nine tails - a whip used to punish sailors, made by unravelling a piece of rope. A knot was often tied at the end of each strand to make the punishment more painful.



Chain shot - a weapon made up of two metal balls chained together. It was shot from a cannon in order to destroy a ship's rigging, masts and sails.

Colours - the flags flown by a ship.

Crow's nest - a small platform high up on a mast where a lookout would keep watch for enemy ships.

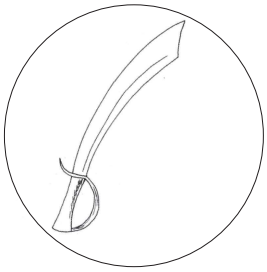


Cutlass - a short sword with a broad blade. A popular weapon when fighting, as it rarely got caught up in rigging.

Doubloon - a gold Spanish coin worth sixteen pieces of eight.

Galleon - a large sailing ship with three or more masts used between the 1500s and 1700s.

Gallows - the wooden frame used to hang criminals.



Gibbet - a wooden frame used to display the dead bodies of criminals as a warning to others.

Grappling iron - a metal hook that was thrown onto an enemy ship in order to pull it closer and make boarding easier.

Log book - the book in which the ship's voyage was recorded.

Maroon - to leave someone on a remote island – a common pirate punishment.

Rigging - the ropes that support a ship's sails and masts.

Scurvy - a disease, caused by a lack of vitamin C, which brought bleeding gums and spots. This vitamin is found in fruit (especially citrus) and vegetables.

Waggoner - A pirate term for a book of sea charts and maps.