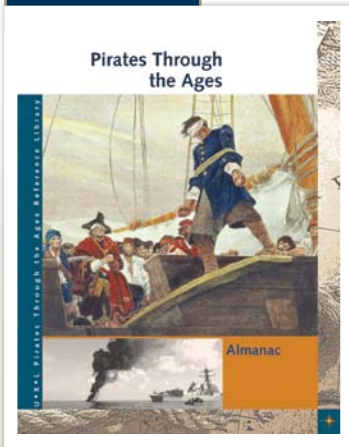


NEW TITLE



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Pirates Through the Ages Reference Library

From fearsome Blackbeard to fun-loving Captain Jack Sparrow, pirates can spark students' imagination and foster interest in history, geography, biography and other core subjects.

Build on that interest with *Pirates Through the Ages Reference Library*. This richly illustrated new 3-volume set covers the colorful story of piracy from ancient times to the present day.

Designed to engage and inform middle- and secondary-school students, *Pirates Through the Ages Reference Library* can deliver stand-alone history lessons or support cross-curricular study in subjects like math (pirates traded money regularly) and geography (pirates had to be experts in trade routes and maps).

Students can examine piracy in the context of major world eras and events, and contrast the romantic images of pirates in popular culture with the harsh, violent reality.

THE SET IS ORGANIZED INTO THREE VOLUMES:

- **Almanac** begins in the ancient Mediterranean, where the Greeks and Romans fought to control the growing scourge, and continues to piracy's golden age in the late-18th and early-19th centuries, when the Jolly Roger heralded the arrival of seagoing outlaws. The story concludes with a study of today's pirates, including efforts to thwart these 21st-century criminals
- **Biographies** spotlights famous names such as William Kidd and John Paul Jones, as well as lesser-known but intriguing and influential figures like Barbarossa and Kanhoji Angria, and female pirates such as Cheng I Sao and Grace O'Malley
- **Primary Sources** includes the kidnapping of Julius Caesar by pirates, a transcript of the trial of Anne Bonny and Mary Read, and an interview with a modern-day Somali pirate. The volume also features literary works such as "Treasure Island" and "The Corsair"

FULL COLOR

Piracy in Medieval Europe

The Vikings as pirates

The word *Viking* applies to raiders from present-day Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. The term probably comes from the Norse word *Vik*, which means inlet or creek, perhaps because many of the Vikings surprise attacks were launched from the small rivers they followed inland from the sea in their longboats. The Norse word for a man who went out raiding was *vikinger*. The Viking raiders were, at least in the early years, people who plundered for their own profit, not for political or religious reasons.

When Vikings of the ninth and tenth centuries went to sea on raiding expeditions, they pillaged and looted a region, and then returned to their homes or other bases with their booty. (Booty is goods stolen from ships or coastal villages during pirate raids or attacks on enemies in time of war.) This type of activity is piracy. In the later part of the Viking age, though, the Vikings began to invade foreign territory, attacking with military strength and then remaining, often as rulers. They assimilated, or bleded in, with the rest of the people of the region, marrying into local families and adopting the Christian religion. While the invasions were frequently very brutal, as most wars were in that age, the Vikings would go on to contribute greatly to their new cultures. These invasions and the later Viking migrations and explorations, do not necessarily fall under the definition of piracy. Viking history is full of illegal raiding interspersed with acts of war.

Masters of the sea

Most Scandinavians were farmers, fishermen, artisans, or traders, and did not go out on pirating expeditions. For reasons not entirely clear to historians, in the late eighth century pirating became an attractive means of getting ahead for many Scandinavian men (and perhaps a woman or two). This was partly because Scandinavia had become overpopulated and there was not enough farmland to sustain everyone.

An important factor in the sudden surge in Viking piracy in the eighth century was the Vikings' mastery at sea. Their well-designed boats gave them supreme power and range. Viking vessels were clinker-built, meaning that they were constructed with overlapping oak planks. Skilled Viking shipbuilders began with a strong oak keel, the beam that extends along the entire length of the bottom of the ship and supports the frame. They fixed a few shaped timbers to the keel, using clinch bolts

Piracy in Medieval Europe

An eighth-century Viking ship. The Vikings success as pirates was due in large part to their vessels, which could easily navigate inlets and rivers and were easy to pull ashore. © BETTMANN/CORBIS

to fasten them. (Timbers are the frames or ribs of a ship that are connected to the keel and give the hull its shape and strength.) The rest of the framework was added on to this structure, with rows of oak planks, each overlapping the one below. Waterproofing was then applied between planks. Viking vessels were long, narrow, and shallow, making them navigable in inlets and rivers, and they were easy to pull ashore. This gave Vikings the capacity to raid towns and religious centers that were far inland.

The smaller Viking longboats that were used in the early years of raiding generally had from ten to thirteen oars on each side. The larger Viking ships, called *drakkar*, or dragon ships, might have had as many as sixty oars, and they were also equipped with large square sails to be raised when the winds were favorable. These ships could travel swiftly across the open sea using their sails, and the crews could then switch to their oars for coastal attacks. Viking ships were far more efficient than other northern European ships, making the Vikings' hit-and-run attacks along the coastline very difficult to stop.

Historians say that Vikings were the most skillful navigators (people who chart the route of their ships) in Europe at the time. They were able to cross open seas using acute visual observation of distant shores. They also used their knowledge of tides, winds, and currents to orient

Full-color photos and illustrations complement authoritative, accessible text.

Henry Morgan

The HMS Oxford

In 2001 divers off the coast of Haiti found the remains of the HMS Oxford, a frigate under Morgan's command which sank in the 1670s. Morgan and his crew of buccanniers had captured two French warships and were engaged in rowdy celebration while anchored near L'Île à Vache off Haiti's coast. The men had plundered (robbed of goods by force) the French ships and loaded the Oxford with loot. According to some reports, they had even stuffed treasure inside one of the frigate's cannons. Then they prepared a huge feast. Rum flowed freely, and the buccanniers roasted a pig on deck. But a spark from this fire ignited the ship's supply of gunpowder, causing a huge explosion that blew off the front third of the ship.

As the Oxford began to sink, the French vessels capsized on top of it, pushing it quickly down to the bottom of the sea. Morgan, who had been

dining in his private cabin at the time, was thrown through his window by the force of the blast but survived. He escaped in another captured French ship, but 350 men were killed in the disaster. And all of the treasure they had loaded onto the Oxford was lost.

Morgan returned to the area later in an attempt to locate the wreck, but he never found it. In 2001 divers Rick Haupt and Bruce Leeming discovered the wreck in shallow but treacherous waters. "When I saw the whole reef littered with cannons and thousands of artefacts tumbling from the deep it was the most extraordinary sight in all my years of diving," said Haupt in a London Times article by Adam Sherwin. Haupt also recalled, "Black clouds of powder spiraled off one of the cannons when I scratched it with my knee."

Outside the city, Spanish soldiers battled the buccanniers, but the defense was useless. After a two-hour fight, Morgan's men had killed about five hundred soldiers, sustaining only a few casualties of their own. The buccanniers then swarmed into the city. Before they fled, surviving soldiers set fire to the buildings and most of the city burned down. The buccanniers spent four weeks ransacking every corner of the town before making their way back across the isthmus and then to Port Royal. The city of Panama lay in complete ruins.

Morgan presented an official report of his activities, claiming to have taken treasure worth about thirty thousand English pounds—the equivalent of about ninety million dollars today. But it is likely that the real amount was more than twenty times more and that Morgan kept much of the unreported treasure for himself after giving a share to Governor Modyford. Jamaica hailed Morgan as a hero. But when word of the attack reached England, King Charles II (1630–1685) was furious. For several years he had struggled to improve relations between England and Spain, and he had promised to clamp down on piracy in the Caribbean.

Helpful sidebars bring more context to content.

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- Piracy in Asia
- Life Aboard Ship in the Golden Age of Piracy
- Pirates in Popular Culture
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