

May 4 - May 8, 2020

Eighth Grade Reading Students.

Ahoy! Maties!!

You are receiving the fifth digital weekly assignment from me. Your assignments will come to you in this form the remainder of the year. Your assignments are on my Teacher Page under lohn isd.net. Complete your work and email it to me. Your work is coming in very slowly. Please remember you are required to complete all your work to get credit for the year. Please do not fall further behind.

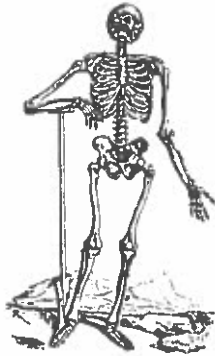
Your assignment for this week is a lesson over the famous pirate **Blackbeard!** Very "bad" character. Enjoy reading. Wow!!! Attached are vocabulary words you will meet as you read. Follow the directions on the page to complete it. Send it to me by email on Friday, May 8th.

Have a wonderful week. Watch for my emails or phone calls.

Stay well and safe

I miss you,
Mrs. Martin

Blackbeard



The name Edward Teach probably means very little or nothing at all to most people. The name Blackbeard, however, is instantly familiar. Blackbeard's real name has been said to have been Teach or Thatch or Tache (no one seems to know for sure). What is certain is that Blackbeard migrated to the West Indies from his native Bristol, England where he had been a starving ragamuffin of an orphan. At the time half the population of England lived in poverty, and for a poor, young boy to survive took a great deal of determination and an enterprising spirit. Young Edward Teach had both qualities in abundance. He found a berth on a merchantman and made his way to New Providence, where he crossed paths with Ben Hornigold.

The mean streets of Bristol had schooled him well; they had hardened his character and left him with a brooding desire for revenge. From the beginning, as an eager young hand aboard Hornigold's ship, Teach displayed a gift for marksmanship, a talent for dirty, close-at-hand work, and a thirst for blood unmatched by any pirate of his time. Hornigold was quick to recognize these "attributes" and made the young Teach his protégé.

After his "apprenticeship" with Captain Hornigold, Teach went out on his own. Within a few months he had become the most feared and despised pirate in the Americas. There was not a merchant skipper on the Spanish Main who did not go cold at the mention of his name.

His repulsiveness was part genuine and part affectation. He took his name from the spectacular beard he had grown, a matted greasy mess of jet-black hair, that covered nearly his entire face and hung down to his chest. He was as dirty as he was hairy. The mixture of smells — liquor, sweat, and swill made it physically challenging to remain for long in his presence. His coat and pants were typically streaked with food, slime, and blood. His enormous hands were caked with the dirt and grime of many voyages. His countenance was fearsome, marked by a pair of oversized mutilated ears, bulging red-veined eyes, a twisted, broken nose, and raw, curling lips that blubbered when he was in his usual state of drunkenness. His entire appearance, partly by design, partly by nature was calculated to strike fear in the heart of any honest citizen unfortunate enough to cross his path.

In action Blackbeard was a terrifying figure. Loaded down with pistols and cutlasses, he was a walking arsenal. He braided his beard. At the moment of boarding his prey, he stuck slow burning matches in his hair. Sailors are on the whole a superstitious group, and many, at the sight of Blackbeard's illuminated face, believed they were being attacked by the Devil himself. This is how it happened that time after time merchant ships that might otherwise have strongly resisted instead fell prize to Blackbeard with scarcely a struggle. Blackbeard rarely killed his captives or even burned their ships. In fact, if everyone did exactly as ordered, looting was the extent of the damage. But the slightest resistance moved Blackbeard to set an example. If a victim did not volunteer to remove a diamond ring, Blackbeard chopped it off, finger and all. This not only left its mark on the victim, but infected all those who heard the tale with terror. Often the mere mention of the pirate's name was enough. The most important function of these tactics was to spread the word that, while Blackbeard could be merciful to those who cooperated, woe to those who did not. The success of this strategy exceeded Blackbeard's wildest expectations.

Within a few months of the time he had set out on his own in the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, he had become the most notorious pirate captain in the Americas.

Blackbeard had the highest regard for his own achievements. He looked down on other pirate captains. Aboard his ship he was a tyrant. His own men suffered under his heavy hand, but they never voted him down because he brought them so many rich prizes. Ashore, he was loud, belligerent, and perpetually drunk; but again his fellow pirate captains put up with him largely for fear of his well-deserved reputation for barbaric cruelty.

Although his reign of terror lasted only two years, during that time he managed to amass a vast supply of booty, ranging from grains, to alcohol, jewelry and much more. In 1718, Lieutenant Robert Maynard of His Majesty's Royal Navy, tracked Blackbeard's ship and ran it into a sandbar. Blackbeard could not escape.

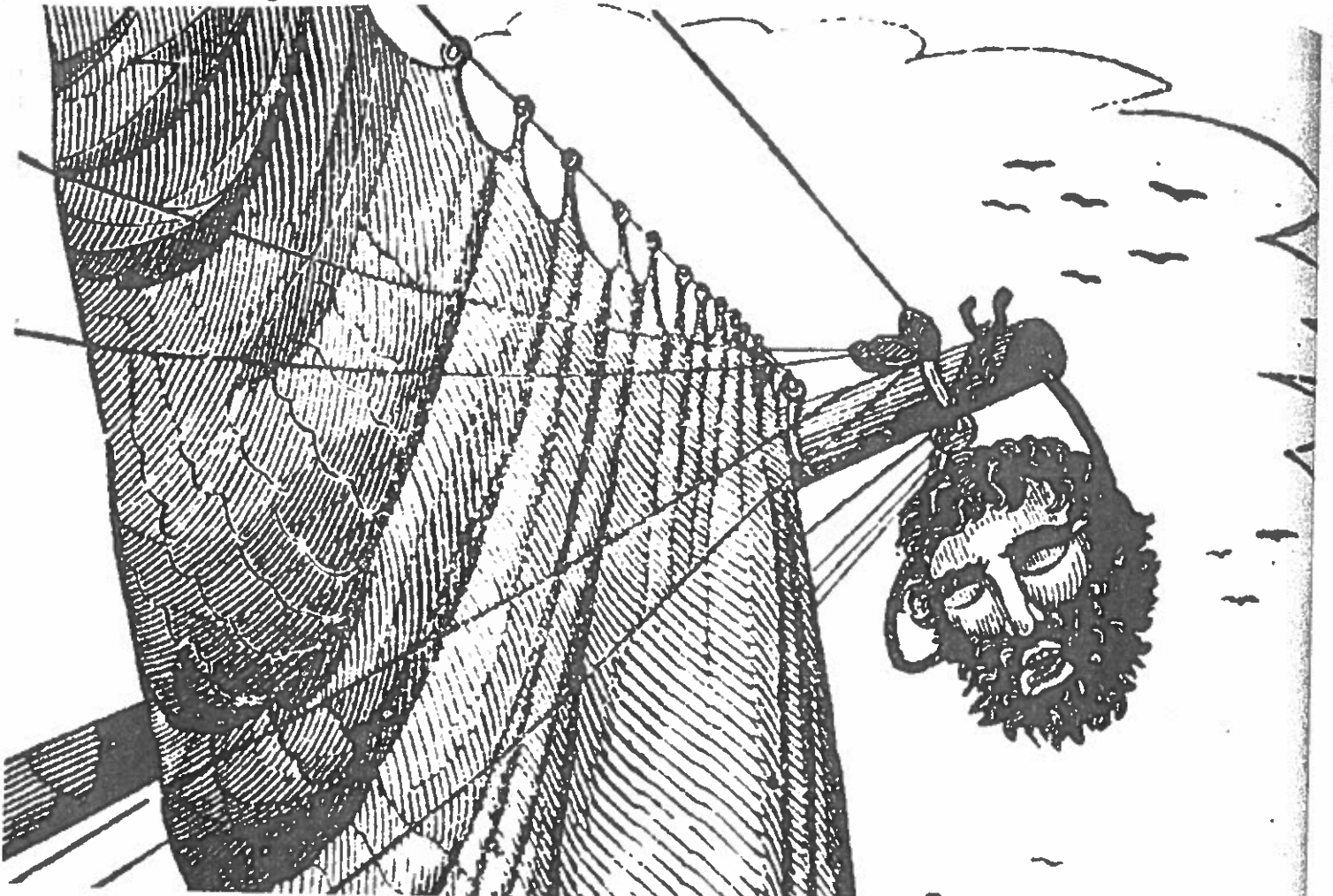






What followed may well have been the bloodiest battle in the history of piracy. Men cut and slashed one another in hand-to-hand combat. Blackbeard, mangled and bloody from the fighting, took a bullet in his shoulder that slowed but did not stop him. Suddenly, as Blackbeard was about to slice Lieutenant Maynard in two, a sailor heaved a pike at Blackbeard from behind. It caught him between the right shoulder and the ear. A second blow caught him squarely on the forehead. The huge man was dazed and could barely see through the blood that flowed freely down his face and through his long beard. By now, all the pirates had surrendered and quit the fight. Nearly the entire crew of Maynard's ship was gathered in a joint attack on Blackbeard. Repeated jabs, cuts, and slashes could not seem to stop the crazed pirate captain. It was a macabre scene. This enormous ghastly looking man oozing blood, his flesh ripped to shreds, just kept swinging his cutlass with all the fury of the Devil defending Hell. Finally, it was over, Blackbeard collapsed dead. Lieutenant Maynard ordered his head chopped off and hung from the bowsprit as a warning to anyone who would dare question the authority of His Majesty's Royal Navy.

The survivors of Blackbeard's crew were all convicted of piracy and hanged.



Assignment for May 4-8, 2020,

Vocabulary for Pirate Unit: Blackbeard

Define these terms in your own words using context clues.

If you have to use a dictionary, that's ok.

1.migrated_____

2. ragamuffin _____

3. marksmanship_____

4. protege' _____

5. mutilated_____

6. arsenal_____

7. notorious_____

8. amass_____

9. macabre_____

10.collapsed_____