

April 27 - May 1, 2020

**Eighth Grade Reading Students,**

Ahoy! Maties!!

You are receiving the fourth 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 "Pirate Ships". Very interesting info on these guys. Enjoy reading. I have included some pictures of pirate ships. Wow!!! Attached are three little questions to answer over your reading. Send them to me when you finish. Have a wonderful week. Watch for my emails or phone calls.

Stay well and safe

I miss you,

Mrs. Martin

Life on the  
High Seas



# Pirate Ships



Nothing was more indispensable to the pirates than the ships they sailed. The ship was not only the chief instrument of their piracy, without which they could not have carried out their attacks, it was also their home, transportation, and means of escape.

Most pirates stole their ships during attacks or came across them as a result of mutiny. There were also many cases in which ships were purchased and outfitted for privateering and ended up as pirate vessels. Most pirates preferred to stay with one ship. However, some captains switched ships several times, some out of necessity, others out of personal preference.

From ancient times, pirates have favored small, light ships. These allowed them to escape larger galleons. The early buccaneers raided in sloops or small frigates frequently captured from Spanish traders.

Pirates, whose business was to prey upon merchant shipping, had to keep up with these developments. Since surprise and a speedy escape were key to their success, they needed small fast ships to catch merchantmen and escape pursuers. Ships of smaller size had an additional advantage. They were able to enter shallow waters or sail across reefs where warships were unable to follow. Blackbeard in his final battle relied upon the shallow draw of his sloop and his superior knowledge of the coast to elude pursuit. A navigational mistake cost him his life.

Finally, and just as important, smaller ships were easier to maintain. One of the primary elements of proper maintenance was careening. Careening involves turning a ship onto its side, so that its bottom can be cleaned or repaired; this adds greatly to the speed of sailing vessels. Clearly smaller ships were easier to careen. Pirates sought safe havens to careen their vessels. This was usually an exceptionally anxious time because the ship's guns had to be taken ashore. Secured with block and tackle to sturdy trees on the shore, the ship was completely vulnerable to the sudden approach of a government warship.

Today the word "sloop" has a definite meaning: a sailing vessel with a fore-and-aft rig. (A square rigged sail is perpendicular to the length of the ship as opposed to fore-and-aft rigging which is parallel.) During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the term was used more loosely and described a wide variety of small ships. An American designed variation on the sloop, called the schooner, was developed in the United States at the very beginning of the eighteenth century.

The profitable trade of attacking merchantmen in the West Indies gave rise to the demand for vessels fast enough to escape capture. The ship-builders of Jamaica rose to the challenge and developed a sloop which acquired a well-deserved reputation for seaworthiness and speed. The Jamaica sloop was built of red cedar and became easily identifiable for that reason.

Similar in appearance and equally renowned for her speed was the Bermuda sloop, which was built in considerable numbers. Privateers also made use of the Bermuda built schooner.

Although armaments were extremely important aboard a pirate ship, pirates would not be deterred from taking a poorly armed vessel because they could, and usually did, refit the ships to suit their needs and liking.

One of the first things done by pirates upon taking a ship was to undertake alterations in order to prepare the ship for their own use.

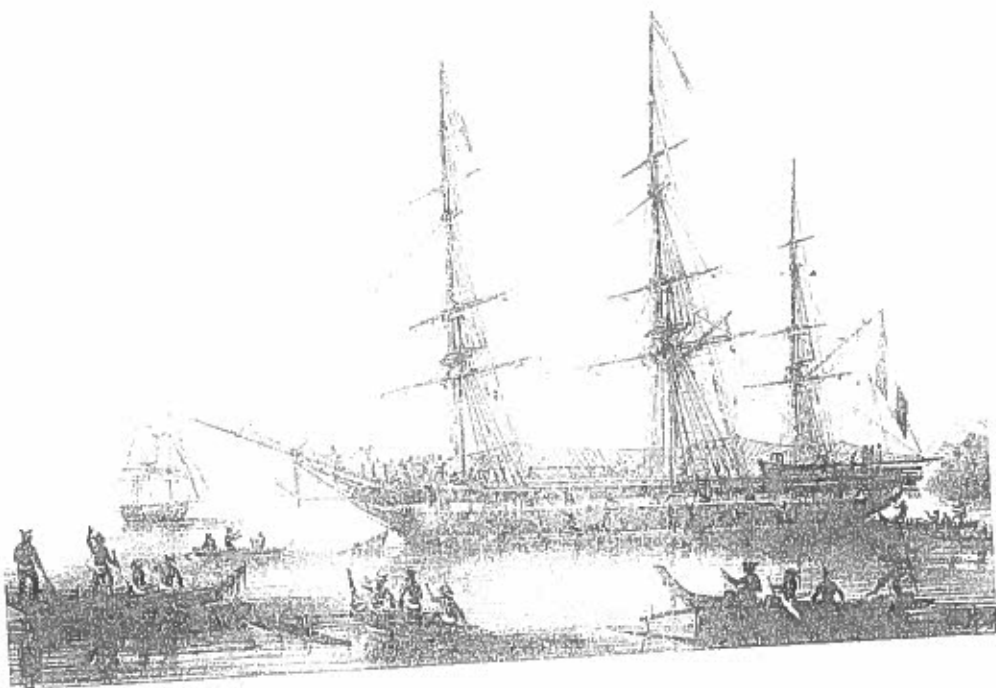
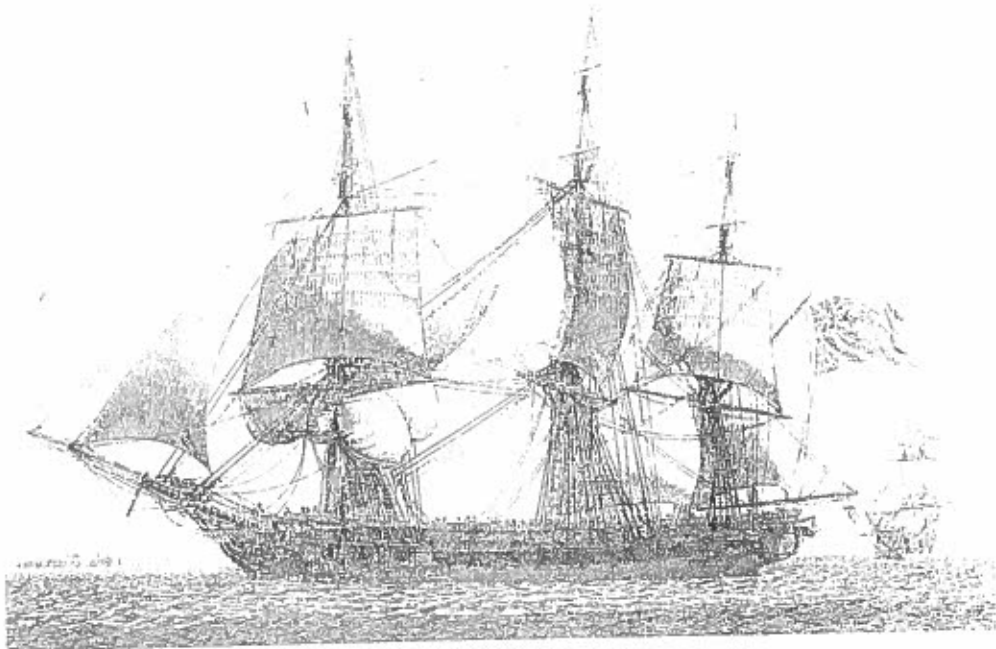
Though most pirates favored smaller ships, there were advantages to a larger ship — large ships were more seaworthy and provided a platform for more guns. Many pirates, including Bartholomew Roberts and Charlie Vane sailed in ships. In these they could take on most merchant vessels, which were as a rule undermanned — the priority of merchant ship owners was always to maximize profits by reducing their overhead. Pirates on the other hand had no overhead since there was no pay as such. They signed on knowing that they would be paid only when plunder was taken. Consequently pirate crews typically outnumbered those of their prey and that gave them a terrific advantage in hand-to-hand combat.

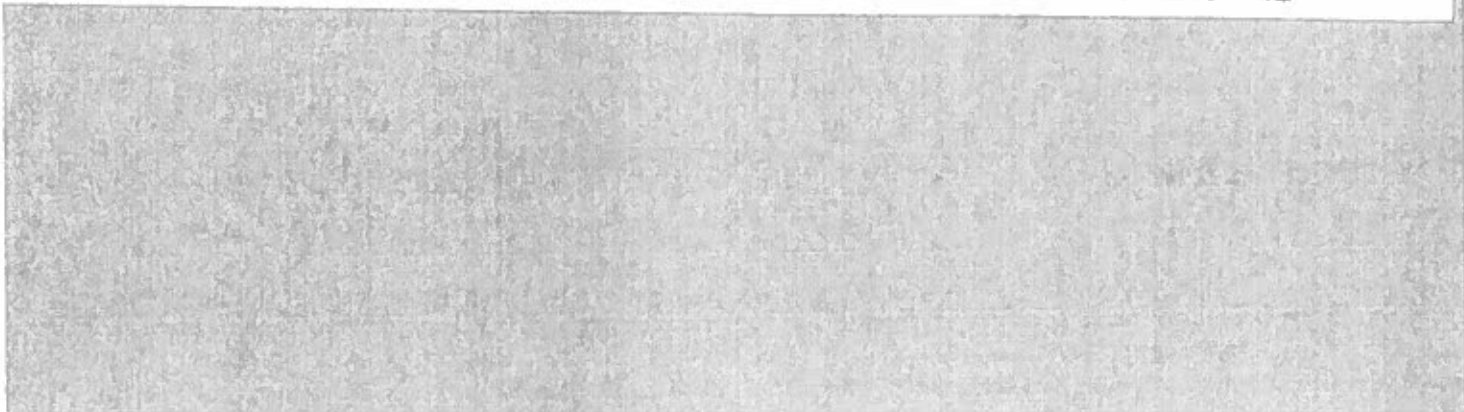
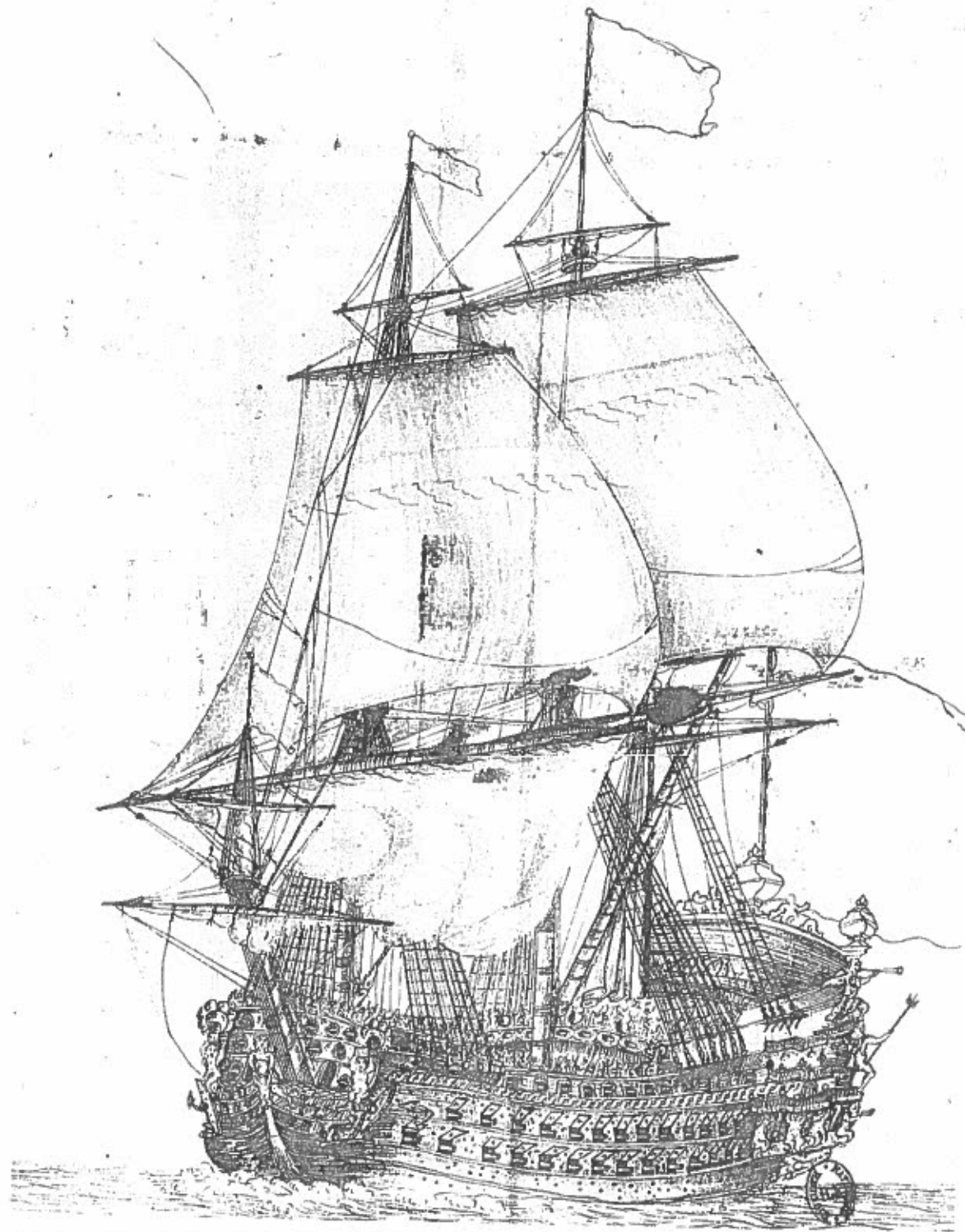


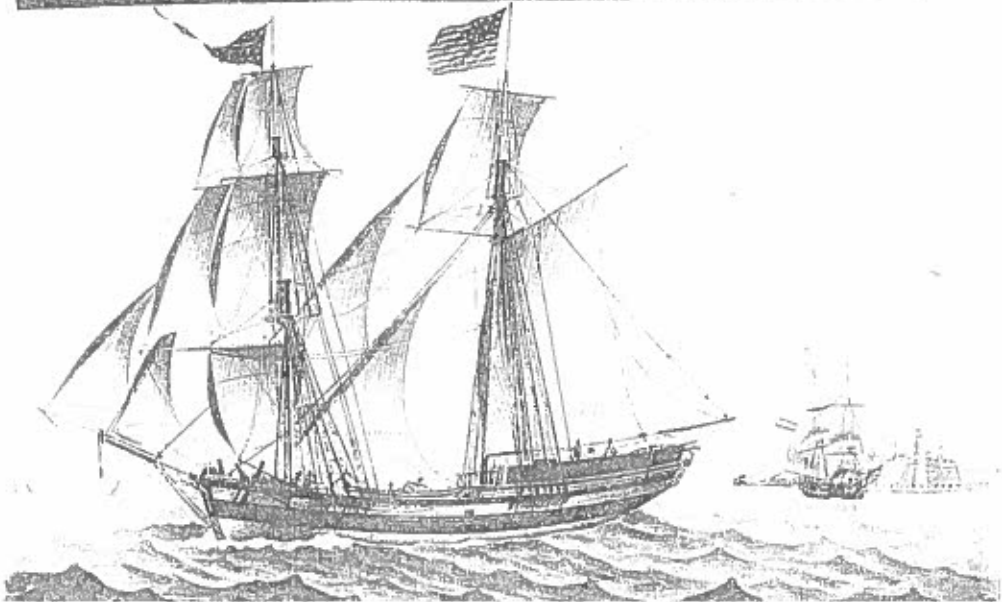
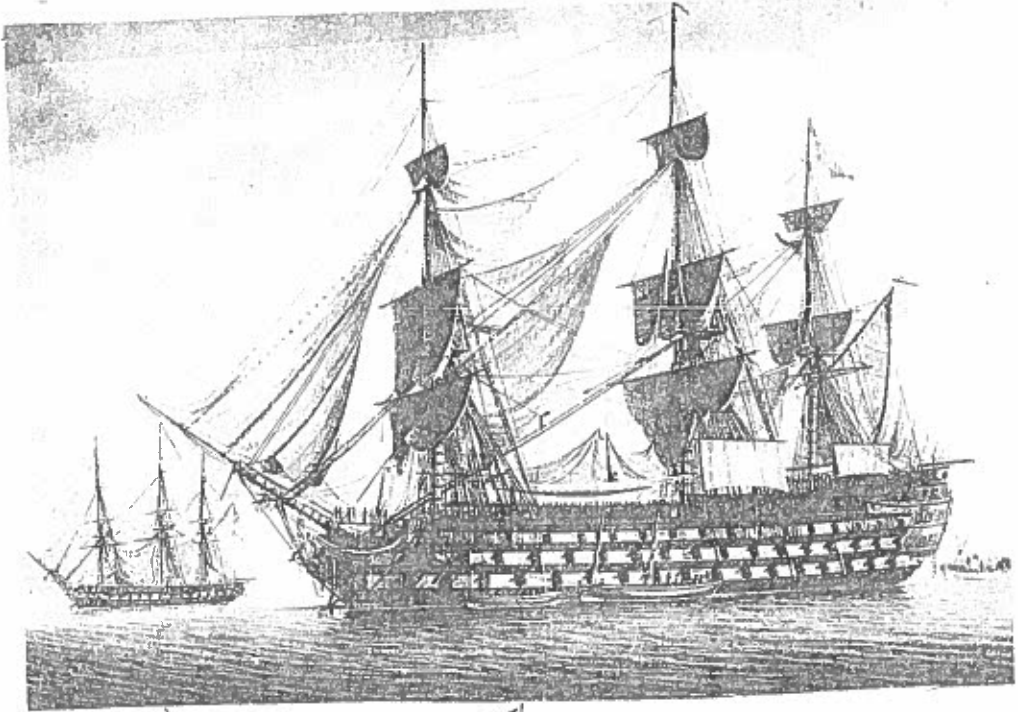
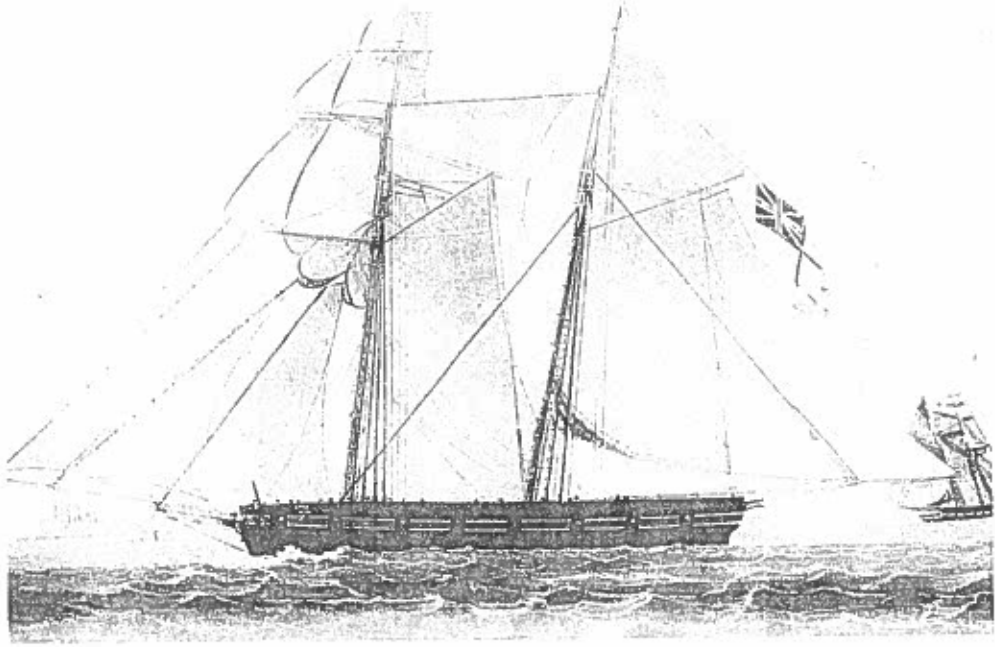
## *Pirate Ships*



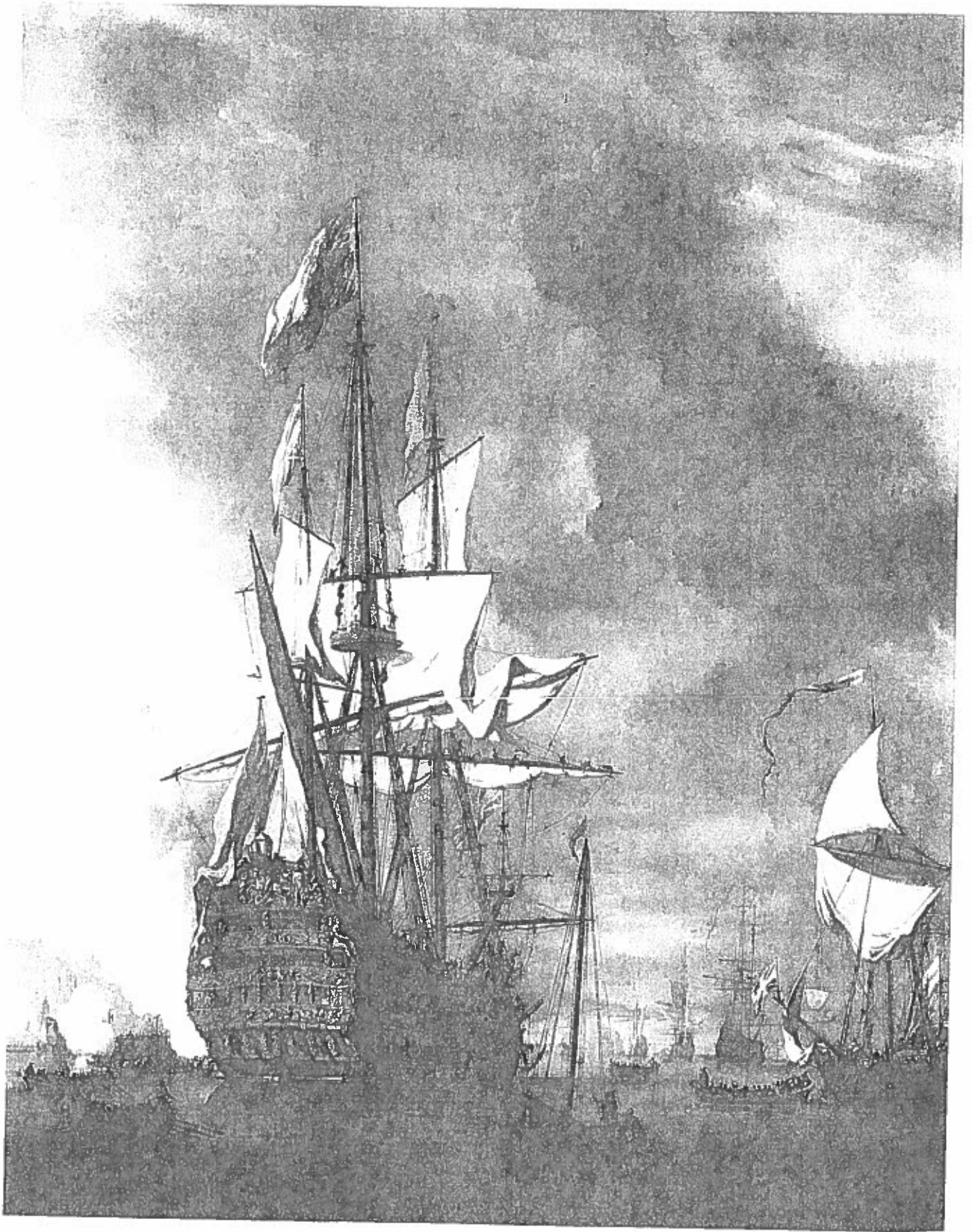
Here are some examples of the kinds of ships in which pirates sailed. As you can see, some are very large and some are smaller. Depending on the reason for their voyage, the size of the ship mattered.











## FAMOUS PIRATE SHIPS AND THEIR CAPTAINS

<i>Black Joke</i>	Captain Benito de Soto
<i>Bravo</i>	Captain Power
<i>Flying Horse</i>	Captain Rhoades
<i>Fortune</i>	Captain Bartholomew Roberts
<i>Royal Fortune</i>	Captain Bartholomew Roberts
<i>Good Fortune</i>	Captain Bartholomew Roberts
<i>Bachelor's Delight</i>	Captain William Dampier
<i>Delight</i>	Captain Francis Spriggs
<i>Flying King</i>	Captain Sample
<i>Night Rambler</i>	Captain Cooper
<i>Cour Valant</i>	Captain La Vivion
<i>Most Holy Trinity</i>	Captain Bartholomew Sharp
<i>Flying Dragon</i>	Captain Edmund Condent
<i>Sudden Death</i>	Captain Derdrake
<i>Scowerer</i>	Captain Evans
<i>Queen Anne's Revenge</i>	Captain Edward Teach (Blackbeard)
<i>Happy Delivery</i>	Captain George Lowther
<i>Snap Dragon</i>	Captain Goldsmith
<i>Revenge</i>	Captains Cowley, Bonnet, Gow, Phillips, and others
<i>Blessing</i>	Captain Brown
<i>New York Revenge</i>	Captain Cole
<i>Mayflower</i>	Captain Cox
<i>Childhood</i>	Captain Caraccioli
<i>Liberty</i>	Captain Thomas Tew

## **Questions over “Pirate Ships”**

- 1. What were two ways pirates obtained their ships?**
- 2. Name two reasons pirates preferred smaller ships.**
- 3. What does “careening” mean to a pirate?**