

Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

A

Acts of Pardon – A Letter of Marque for a reformed pirate, making him a privateer; also an act that sets a pirate free

Aft – Situated at the back part or stern of a ship

Aloft – At the mast head or in the higher yards and rigging

Amidships – The middle of the ship, either with regard to her length or breadth

Articles of Piracy – A list of ship's rules, guidelines and punishments sworn to by each member of the ship's crew to help create a more successful environment aboard pirate vessels

Avast – Stop

B

Backstaff – Navigators used this instrument to calculate latitude by measuring the sun at noon or the North Star at night before longitude was used

Barbary Coast – The North African coast of the Mediterranean Sea where Islamic corsairs, also known as Barbary corsairs, raided European trading ships

Barnacle – Small, razor-sharp shellfish that collect in large numbers on the ship's hulls

Baseline – A device used by underwater archeologists to plot wreck sites; a rope or tape stretched between two fixed points which runs the length of the site. By using marks along the baseline, artifact locations can be plotted for documentation and future relocation.

Beam – Measurement across the ship at its widest point

Becalmed – When a sailing ship cannot move because there is no wind

Before the Mast – The position of the crew whose living quarters on board were in the forecabin; also describes seamen in phrases such as 'he sailed before the mast'

Bilged on Her Anchor – A ship pierced by her own anchor

Binnacle – The wooden housing for the ship's compass, usually situated beside or before the wheel

Black Bart's Code of Conduct – Bartholomew Roberts, better known as Black Bart, created a very successful code of conduct for his pirate vessel. His 'articles of piracy' quickly spread throughout the pirate community and was universally accepted.

Block and Tackle – An arrangement of pulleys and ropes used to raise heavy loads and to increase the purchase on ropes used for running the rigging

Boatswain (or Boson) – The warrant officer in charge of sails, rigging, anchors and associated gear

Bonny, Anne (1697-?) – Anne Bonny was a rare female pirate! Anne was a crew member onboard The William captained by Calico Jack Rackham. They were captured in 1720 off the coast of Jamaica, but Anne and Mary Read, another female pirate aboard, were given a stay of execution because they were both pregnant. Mary Read died in prison, but Anne Bonny disappeared into the pages of history.

Boom – A spar used to extend the foot of the sail

Bow – The pointed front of a ship, also known as the prow

Bowline – Rope made fast to the leech or side of a sail to pull it forward



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

B continued

Bowsprit – A long spar that projects out of the front of the ship

Brethren of the Coast – Nickname given to privateers and buccaneers in the Caribbean, along the coast of Hispaniola, the Tortugas and Jamaica during the 1600s and 1700s

Brigantine – A two-masted vessel with a full square-rigged foremast and fore-and-aft rigged mainmast with square sails on the main topmast

Bring to – Check the movement of a ship by arranging the sails so they counteract each other and bring the ship to a halt

Broadside – The simultaneous firing of all cannons on one side of the ship

Buccaneer – A pirate or privateer who attacked Spanish ships and prosperous ports in the West Indies and Central America in the 1600s

Bulkhead – A vertical partition inside a ship

C

Cannon – A mounted gun for firing heavy projectiles; a gun, howitzer, or mortar. In the Golden Age of Piracy, muzzle-loaded black powder cannons were common weapons on military and pirate ships and were used to protect forts and other military locations.

Cape Horn – A headland on a small island on the southernmost point of South America that belongs to Chile. The treacherous seas around it are known as the Straits of Magellan.

Cape of Good Hope – The southernmost tip of the African continent, known for dangerous ocean currents, large colonies of seals and an abundance of great white sharks. During the Golden Age of Piracy this was the gateway from the Atlantic into the Indian Ocean.

Capstan – Vertical rotating cylinder used for winding up the anchor or other cables

Careen – An operation that involved beaching a ship, heeling her over, and cleaning weeds and barnacles from the bottom

Cartagena – A port now located in NW Columbia on the Caribbean, it was a key center for the slave trade in the 16th century and a shipping point for the Spanish during the colonial period for shipping silver and gold back to Spain, part of the Spanish Silver Trail.

Castillo de San Marcos – A 17th century coquina stone fort located in St. Augustine, Florida, directly across the street from the **St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum**. Completed in 1695 by the Spanish, it still stands today and is the oldest masonry fort in North America.

Castle of Castile – Also known as the Kingdom of Castile or Land of Castles, it was a region of central Spain, which played a key role in the development of Spain. It occupied the eastern region of the Castilla y Leon, the forerunner of Spain.

Cat-o'-nine-tails – A whip used to punish sailors, made by unraveling a piece of rope to make nine separate strands; knots on the end of the strands made the punishment even more painful

Caulk – To repair leaking gaps between the timbers of a ship by filling them with fiber and sealing them with oakum and pitch (tar)



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

C continued

Chain Shot – A weapon made up of two metal balls chained together, it was shot from a cannon to destroy a ship's rigging, masts and sails

Chart – A map of land and sea used by sailors for navigation

Chase Guns – Forward-facing cannon on the bow of a ship

Clap in Irons – To bind someone in manacles and chains

Clean Bill of Health – Document issued to a ship showing that the port it sailed from had no epidemic or infection at the time of departure

Cob Coin – A type of Spanish coin hand struck by carved wooden dye. The coins were unique due to the human error of hand striking; no two coins were exactly alike. Name refers to the Spanish term meaning cut from the end of a bar.

Coinage Act of 1874 – Also known as the Mint Act. Created in 1872 and ratified in 1874, it established the United States Mint and regulated coins to be used throughout the U.S. It established the US Silver Dollar as the primary unit of currency in the United States, effectively ending the use of the Spanish Piece of Eight as viable currency in the U.S.

Colonial Period – A period of expansion by European powers into the western hemisphere by colonization. It can be defined as Columbus' discovery of the new world in 1492 to the establishment of the independence of the United States in 1783 by the Treaty of Paris.

Colors – The flags worn by a ship to show her nationality

Compass – A device used to determine direction by magnetic needle or needles turning freely on a pivot and pointing to the magnetic north

Consort – A vessel sailing in company with a pirate ship

Convoy – A group of vessels that travels together for protection against pirates

Corsair – The term used to describe pirates or privateers who operated in the Mediterranean; also referred to the ships sailed by such pirates

Coxswain – The helmsman of a boat

Crow's Nest – A small platform high up on a mainmast, used as a lookout position

Cutlass – A short sword with a broad blade, first used by buccaneers. Also a popular weapon for battles at sea; because of its short stature, it did not get caught in the ship's rigging.

D

D'Oyley, Edward – Governor of Jamaica from 1655-56 and 1657-61, he lured privateer captains away from Tortuga by offering privateering commissions, which legally permitted them to raid Spanish ships and lands throughout the Caribbean, and established Port Royal, Jamaica, as the premier pirate stronghold in the New World.

Davy Jones' Locker – The seaman's name for death, Davy Jones was the sea devil who ruled the evil spirits of the deep. When a ship sank she was said to have gone to Davy Jones' Locker.

Deadeyes – A round wooden block with three holes for extending the shrouds



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

D continued

Doubloon (two escudo coin) – A Spanish coin made of gold, worth 32 reales (four pieces of eight)

Draft – The minimum water depth necessary to float a ship

Drake, Sir Francis (1540-1596) – Knighted in 1581, he was one of the very first privateers. This English sailor became famous for circling the globe from 1577 to 1580. He was an incredibly successful privateer for the English Crown, pillaging vast treasures from the Spanish. Drake attacked and burned the city of St. Augustine in 1586 as part of England's campaign against Spanish settlements in the New World.

E

East Indiaman – A large armed English or Dutch merchant vessel used to transport valuable cargoes of porcelain, tea, silks, and spices in trade with Asia

Elizabeth I (1533-1603) – Queen Regent of England and Ireland from November 17, 1558, until her death. The daughter of Henry VIII, she commissioned Francis Drake to find new trade routes for England around the world, setting into motion his famous voyage around the world.

Escudo – A Spanish gold coin worth about one half of the gold doubloon or 2 pieces of eight i.e. 8-reales. It allowed for larger transactions to take place. The escudo was minted in denominations of 1, 2, 4 and 8 escudos. The 2-escudo was commonly known as a gold doubloon.

Every, Henry (1653-?) – Known as the Arch Pirate because of all the wealth he plundered raiding Mogul treasure ships in the Red Sea during his only year as a pirate, Every returned to New Providence (now Nassau) in the Bahamas and vanished. See the real wanted poster issued by the King of England in 1696, demanding Every's capture, on Execution Dock at the **St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum**.

F

Fathom – A unit of length equal to six feet of depth at sea

Fireship – A ship loaded with gunpowder and explosives, set on fire and sent to drift into enemy ports

Florida Division of Historical Resources – The state organization in charge of all artifacts relating to the history of the state of Florida, modern or ancient. It is responsible for the preservation of the artifacts located in or around the state of Florida and surrounding waterways.

Flota de Indias – A convoy system adopted by the Spanish from 1566-1790, these Spanish treasure galleons made semi-annual trips from Seville, Spain to the Spanish Main of Central and South America, Havana (Cuba) and back to Seville. They would bring supplies to the colonies and return to Spain with treasure and coins from the colonies.

Fore – Situated in front or the front part of a ship at the bow

Frigate – A fast warship, usually armed with between 20 and 30 guns

Furl – To wrap or roll a sail close to the yard, stay or mast to which it belongs



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

G

Galleon – A large square-rigged warship with three or more masts used between the 1500s and 1700s for transporting Spanish treasure

Galley – A large ship powered by oars and usually operated by galley slaves, also refers to the ship's kitchen

Gallows – The wooden frame used for hanging criminals

Garrote – A form of execution favored by the Spanish where a rope was threaded through a hole in a post about neck high, around the condemned man's neck and back through the hole. The end was tied together forming a loop. A stick was placed in the loop and twisted to tighten the rope until the windpipe was crushed or the neck broken.

Gibbet – A wooden or iron frame used for displaying dead bodies of criminals as a warning to others

Go on Account – Buccaneers' description of their intent to spend their lives at sea; it sounded more respectable than saying they were 'turning pirate'.

Golden Age of Piracy – Roughly estimated as the period from 1690 to 1730, it marks the height of pirate activity worldwide. It spans England's King James I making peace with Spain in 1689 to the end of piratical activities of British ex-privateers.

Golden Hinde (or Hind) – The ship captained by Francis Drake to circumnavigate the world from 1577 to 1580

Grappling Iron – A metal hook thrown onto an enemy ship to pull it closer and make boarding easier

Grog – Rum and water. In 1740, Admiral Vernon, who was nicknamed 'Old Grog', decreed that the pint of rum issued to all seamen should be diluted with two pints of water.

Gunwale – The upper planking along the sides of a ship

H

Halyard – A rope used to hoist a sail or a flag

Hardtack - A tough dry biscuit that made up the main part of a sailor's diet

Haul Wind – To direct a ship's course as nearly as possible in the direction from which the wind is blowing

Havana – A port city on the southwest coast of the island of Cuba, it served a major shipping port during the Golden Age of Piracy. During the English period in St. Augustine, most citizens relocated to Havana.

Heave To – To turn the ship into the wind in order to come to a halt

Helm – The tiller or wheel, which controls the rudder and enables a vessel to be steered

Hispaniola – The former name of the island that is today made up of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, it was the home of the first buccaneers in Tortola

Hold – The storage area at the bottom of a vessel



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

H continued

Holystone – Soft sandstone used to scrub the decks

Hulks – Naval ships used as floating jails for keeping prisoners

Hull – The outer shell of a ship

I

Isthmus of Darian (Isthmus of Panama) – A thin stretch of land that connects South America with Central and North America, it was the narrowest land between the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea, and home to the famous Silver Mule Train

J

Java – An island in present day Indonesia and the most populated island in the world. During his voyage around the world, Francis Drake used Java as a launching point across the Indian Ocean.

Jib – A large triangular sail set on a forward stay

Jolly Roger – The common term for a black pirate flag with a skull and cross bones

Junk – A wooden sailing ship commonly used in the Far East and China

K

Keel – The bottom or flat underneath part of a ship or boat

Keelhauled – A punishment where the offender is dragged by a rope from one side of the ship through the water, under the keel and to the other side

Ketch – A small, two-masted ship or boat

Kidd, William (1654-1701) – Kidd was a privateer and pirate hunter for the British before becoming a pirate. He was believed to have buried his treasure in a secret place and so, a crowd of 200,000 curious onlookers attended his execution, hoping to find out its location. The ship's log of Captain Kidd's final voyage in 1699 and the faded recording of Kidd's boarding can be seen in Captain's Cabin in the **St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum**.

Knot – A measure of a ship's speed in nautical miles per hour; so-called after the knots tied at regular intervals in the logline

L

Ladle – A metallic scoop on the end of a stick, it was used to insert gunpowder when loading a muzzle-loaded or front-loaded cannon

Land Lubbers – An unseasoned sailor or someone unfamiliar with the sea, commonly used by pirates to refer to those who aren't sailors, many times an insult



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

L continued

Lanyard – Any rope that ties something off

Las Cruces Trail – Also known as the Silver Mule Train, it was a path across the Isthmus of Darien (present day Panama) from the Pacific side of Panama to Porto Bello's Caribbean side

Latitude – Position north or south of the equator, measured according to a system of lines drawn on a map parallel to the equator

League – Three miles at sea

Lee – Side or direction away from the wind

Letter of Marque – A license or certificate issued by a monarch or government authorizing the bearer to attack and plunder enemy ships

Lima – A port town in present day Peru. Located on the Pacific Ocean, it was once a major port for shipping silver mined in Potosi to Panama for transport back to Spain.

List – When a ship leans to one side

Lion of Leon – Also known as the Kingdom of Leon or land of the lion. A region of northwest Spain which played a key role in the development of the country, it occupied the western region of the Castilla y Leon, the forerunner of the country of Spain.

Llama – A woolly-haired South American ruminant of the genus *Lama*, believed to be a domesticated variety of the guanaco. Often used as a beast of burden, Spanish used llamas to transport silver out of Potosi in the mountains of Peru to the port of Lima.

Loaded to the Gunwales – Very intoxicated

Logbook – The book in which details of the ship's voyage are recorded

Longboat – The long wooden ships powered by sail and oars for transportation from the main ship to land

Longitude – Position east and west in the world, measured according to a system of lines drawn on a map from north to south

M

Mainmast – The ship's principal mast

Malucos Islands – Also known as the Moluccas, Moluccan Islands and Spice Islands, these are an archipelago that is part of Indonesia and part of the larger Maritime Southeast Asia region. Most of the islands are mountainous, some with active volcanoes, and enjoy a wet climate. During his worldwide voyage, Francis Drake traded for rare spices while visiting them.

Marlinspike – A pointed tool used for unraveling rope in order to splice it

Maroon or **Marooning** – A common punishment where the guilty party was deserted on a remote island

Midshipman – A non-commissioned rank below lieutenant in the Navy

Mizzenmast – Aftermost mast in a three-masted vessel



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

M continued

Modyford, Sir Thomas – Governor of Jamaica from 1664-69. When Port Royal, Jamaica, reached its peak of pirate activity, he ignored England’s orders to suppress the Brethren of the Coast’s activities and continued to encourage raiding of Spanish treasure in the region, to his own personal benefit.

Mutiny – To refuse to obey an officer’s orders or to lead a revolt onboard ship

N

Navigation Acts – These acts outlawed any foreign interaction with English colonies, stating that colonists could only buy goods from English suppliers and sell goods in English ports. The highly unpopular Acts led to an explosion of pirate and smuggling activities in the New World.

Navy Press Gang – England often forced many unwilling men into naval service. Common along the coasts of England by order of the King, they were allowed to drag men from their homes into military service—no questions asked. It was not uncommon for the Royal Navy to chain these men to their ships so that they would not attempt escape. Many freed crew members welcomed the democracy on a pirate ship and joined willingly.

New World – The continents of North and South America, called ‘New’ because they were only discovered by Europeans after 1492

No Quarter Given – No mercy would be shown and all souls on board killed, usually accompanied with the hoisting of the red flag

Nuestra Señora de la Concepción – A Spanish treasure galleon captured by Francis Drake in the Pacific Ocean between Valparaiso and Panama in February 1579. It marked the first time the Spanish had faced a hostile ship in the Pacific Ocean.

O

Oakum – The packing material used to fill the planks in a wooden ship

Octant – A more sophisticated navigational tool inlaid with mirrors used to measure latitude, it was useless on cloudy days because sightings of the sun, stars, and landmarks could not be taken

P

Palau Islands – An island nation in the Pacific Ocean, 500 miles east of the Philippines, it was the first land sighted by Francis Drake when crossing the Pacific Ocean during his sail around the world

Passage – A dice game created by pirates to pass the time during long and sometimes boring sea voyages, this game can be played by any number of participants

Pewter – A mixture of lead and tin used to make hard-wearing cups and dishes by pirates



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

P continued

Piece of Eight – Spanish silver pesos that were worth eight reales, pieces of eight could be torn into pieces to make change

Pinnacle – A small, fast vessel decked like a ship that could be rowed or sailed

Piracy Act of 1698 – An Act of the Parliament of England passed in the 11th year of William III. The long title of the Act is "An Act for the more effectual Suppressions of Piracy". It enhanced the Offenses of Sea Act of 1536 and added the death penalty for piracy.

Pirate – A general term for any person involved in robbery at sea, including buccaneers, corsairs and privateers

Pizarro, Francisco (1471 –1541) – A Spanish conquistador, conqueror of the Incan Empire, and founder of Lima, the modern-day capital of the Republic of Peru

Port – The left side of a vessel facing forward

Port Royal – The port city that guarded the harbor at Kingston, known as the richest and wickedest city in the world. A renowned pirate stronghold, it was destroyed by an earthquake and tsunami in 1692.

Porto Bello – A Spanish port city on the Caribbean side of the Isthmus of Darien (Panama), it was the end of the Silver Mule Train. The port was an important destination for the Spanish treasure galleons preparing to take treasure back to Spain.

Powder – Common term for gunpowder

Press Gang – A group of people who rounded up men and forced them to join a ship's crew

Privateer or **Privateering** – A person legally entitled by letter of marque to attack enemy ships; also the term used to describe the ships privateers used

Q

Quarterdeck – The deck above the main deck, located at the stern of the ship where the captain and officers controlled the ship

Quartermaster – The officer who represents the crew in all issues aboard ship, he was in charge of food and supplies, division of the booty, and distributing punishment to the guilty.

Queen Anne's War – From 1702 to 1713, this was war between England and Spain for control of the North American continent. It led the English to use privateers to bolster their inferior navy, causing an explosion of pirate activity at the war's end.

R

Rackham, Jack (1682-1720) – He was most famous for his colorful clothing and also for having two female pirates among his crew: Anne Bonny and Mary Read. In 1720, Calico Jack was hanged at Gallows Point, Jamaica, where his body was tarred and displayed on the docks as a warning to all pirates. Calico Jack's flag has become famous as Jack Sparrow's flag in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie series.



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

R continued

Rail – The timber plank on top of the gunwale along the sides of a vessel

Ram – A tool used to push contents of a cannon to the rear of the barrel of the weapon. The head of the tool is the same size as the circumference of the barrel's opening.

Ranson, Andrew (1650-?) – He was born in England, but went to the West Indies and then the Spanish Main in his early 20s. He was also imprisoned in Havana, Cuba, for some time for smuggling before turning to privateering. Ranson was captured on September 30, 1684, while planning a raid on St. Augustine. Sentenced to death by garrote, Ranson escaped death when the rope snapped and monks claimed his sanctuary by act of God. He helped the Spanish complete the Castillo de San Marcos and so earned his freedom. His descendants still live in St. Augustine.

Ratlines – Crossed ropes on the shrouds i.e. the ropes which run from the side of the ship to the mast, that form a rope ladder, enabling sailors to climb to the top of the mast

Read, Mary (1690-1721) – She was one of only two women (along with Anne Bonny) to be convicted of piracy in the 1700s. As a child, Read's mother dressed her as a boy after the death of Mary's older brother, and she lived much of her life as a man. During her second stint in the English Navy, Read's ship was captured by pirates and Calico Jack asked her to join his crew. Calico Jack's crew was captured by the English Navy and Read was sentenced to death. They spared her life because she was pregnant, but she died in prison from a fever related to childbirth.

Reale – A Spanish unit of currency made of silver meaning royal. A coin worth eight reales or a piece of eight was the premier worldwide currency throughout the Golden Age of Piracy; it was the basis for many world currencies including the US dollar.

Reef – To shorten sail by rolling up the bottom section and securing it by tying short lines attached to the sail

Rigging – The general name for ropes, chains, and wires which hold masts, spars, and yards in place and control movement of the ship

Roberts, Bartholomew (1682-1722) – He was known as the most successful pirate of all time. During his brief pirate career from 1719 to 1722, Black Bart captured 470 ships and their treasures. He also created the Articles of Piracy, a set of guidelines for running a fair and successful pirate ship. Find Black Bart's Articles of Piracy at the entrance to Captain's Cabin in the **St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum**.

S

Salmagundi – A pirate stew made from an assortment of fish fowl and heavily seasoned with spices

Sandglass – An instrument used to measure time. The sand at the top of the instrument runs through the bottleneck to the bottom of the instrument in exactly one half-hour.



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

S continued

Santa Maria de la Consolación – This Spanish Treasure ship sailed alone in 1681, heavily laden with silver coins from Chile. Pursued by the infamous buccaneer, Bartholomew Sharp, the ship ran aground on a reef near Santa Clara island, known as Isla de Muerto (Island of the Dead or Deadman's Island), in the Bay of Guayaquila, Ecuador. The ship was set afire by the crew and neither the pirates nor returning Spaniards were able to salvage the treasure. The treasure was finally discovered in 1998.

Schooner – A small, fast sailing ship with two or sometimes three masts, the fore (front) mast is shorter than the mainmast

Scribe – Mariner or pirate slang for the person or persons responsible for documenting events in writing

Scuppers – Holes pierced in the deck near bulwarks to allow surplus water to drain off

Scurvy – A disease with symptoms including bleeding gums and sores, caused by lack of vitamin C, which is found in fruits and vegetables

Searle, Robert (Dates of birth and death unknown) – He was an English privateer, who served as a lieutenant for Henry Morgan during Morgan's raid on Panama. Searle attacked and burned the city of St. Augustine in 1668 as retribution for a Spanish attack on New Providence (now Nassau) in the Bahamas. The Castillo de San Marcos, a 17th century Spanish coquina stone fort, was built in St. Augustine as a result of Searle's attack. This fort still stands today, directly across the street from the **St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum**.

Seville – A Spanish city, known as the gateway to Spain for all goods coming into the country from the New World. Located in southern Spain, it served as the end of the Spanish Silver Trail for the treasure fleets returning with treasure from the New World.

Sheet – A line running from the bottom aft corner of a sail by which the sail can be adjusted to the wind

Ship Shape – All in order onboard the ship

Shiver me Timbers – An expression of surprise; when a wooden ship runs aground her timbers shiver

Shrouds – Standing rigging stretched from the side of a ship to support the mast

Silver Mule Train – A team of mules used to transport silver across the isthmus of Darien (Panama) from Panama (on the Pacific) to Porto Bello (on the Caribbean), the silver mule train followed the Las Cruces trail through the jungle.

Sloop – A small, light single-masted sailing ship

Son of a Gun – A male child born aboard a ship

Spanish Main – The name for the area of South and Central America once ruled by the Spanish. The term later came to include the islands and waters of the Caribbean.

Splice – To weave two rope ends together in order to join them

Sponge – A device used when reloading a muzzle- or front-loaded cannon, this was dipped in water and run down the length of the interior of the barrel. Water extinguished any embers left burning inside the barrel that could cause premature igniting of the gunpowder.

Spyglass – A monocular device that provides magnification. It was nicknamed a 'Bring 'em near' and was used to spot land, enemy ships, and fortune. It is also referred to as a handheld telescope.

Squadron – A group of 10 or less warships



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

S continued

Square Rigg – The term for a ship carrying square sails set at right angles to the mast

St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum – Located in St. Augustine, Florida, it was founded by Pat Croce and has one of the largest collections of authentic pirate artifacts in the world. With over 800 artifacts, it also features interactive activities such as the World Map of Piracy and the immersive Below Deck experience of Blackbeard's final battle, which was created by Disney Imagineers.

Starboard – The right side of the vessel when facing forward

Stay – Standing rigging fore and aft that supports a mast

Stern – The back end of a ship

Straits of Magellan – A treacherous waterway south of Cape Horn which connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean

Strike the Colors – To haul down a ship's flag as a signal of surrender

Swab the deck – To clean a ship's deck

Swabbers – Unhandy seamen, fit only to clean the ship

Swinging the Lead – A rope marked in fathoms with a lead weight at one end was tossed overboard to measure the water's depth and nature of the seabed. Swinging the lead was an easy job and come to be known as a phrase for avoiding work.

Swivel Gun – A small gun or cannon mounted on a swivel and set on the rail of a vessel

T

Tack – The ship's course in relation to the wind

Teach, Edward (1680-1718) – Born in Bristol, England, Teach was better known as Blackbeard and was considered the most notorious of all pirates, hunted throughout his short-lived, 3-year pirate career. Just a few months after losing his flag ship, the 40-gun Queen Anne's Revenge, the British Royal Navy's Lt. Robert Maynard tracked down and beheaded Blackbeard in 1718 off the coast of North Carolina. Discover aged artifacts from Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge at the **St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum**.

Tew, Thomas (?-1695) – Tew was one of the few American pirates and was raised in Rhode Island. Tew began his career as a privateer, but took up piracy because it was more profitable. He successfully raided the Mogul of India's treasure ships in the Red Sea, capturing a treasure trove of gold, silver, spices, and ivory. During a return trip to the Red Sea, Tew was killed by a cannonball to the gut. The pistol, cutlass, and treasure chest that Tew actually used can all be found at the **St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum**. Tew's treasure chest in The Pirate Museum's Shipwreck Island exhibit is the only pirate treasure chest in the world!

Topgallant – The sail above the topsail

Topmast – Mast next above the lower mast

Topsail – Sail above the mainsail



Glossary of Pirate Terms and Phrases

T continued

Tricorn – A traditional pirate hat. It is actually a wide brimmed hat with three sides tacked up, created to allow soldiers to march with muskets on their shoulders, but caught on as a popular form of head gear.

U

Underwater Archeology - A way to study the past by observing a collection of artifacts found in bodies of water, usually on the ocean floor. These artifacts are often remnants of lost ships and treasure ships.

V

Valparaiso – A port city on the west coast of South America in present day Chile, it was a key shipping port for the Spanish during the colonial period, shipping silver mined in Potosi north to Panama on its way back to Spain.

Vaporing – The pirate ritual of screaming war cries and banging weapons against the ship's gunwales to scare their prey prior to attacking

W

Wadding – A small piece of cloth placed in the barrel of a pistol or cannon after the powder

Waggoner – A pirate term for a sea atlas or book of sea charts

Weather – The side from which the wind blows

Weather Observation Journal – A precise written record of observed weather occurrences. When combined with other observations, it can be a useful tool for predicting future weather conditions.

Weigh – To lift, such as weighing the anchor of a ship

William III (1650-1702) – He reigned as King of England and Ireland from 1689 until his death and enacted the Piracy Act of 1698 in an attempt to rid the seas of high seas robbers. He brought the death penalty upon the heads of convicted pirates.

Worm – A tool used in the reloading of muzzle- or front-loaded cannon, it resembles a coiled spring on the end of a stick that is inserted into the cannon barrel. The spring head is the exact circumference of the barrel and is used to scrape out any residue remaining from any previous firings; this residue can build up and cause a misfire or explosion.

Y

Yard – The wooden pole to which the top of a sail is attached, also known as the yardarm

Yellow Jack – The seaman's name for yellow fever

