

# HMS VICTORY

## LIFE ON THE HIGH SEAS

Welcome to HMS Victory. This is **not** a pirate ship but it can tell you more about pirates and their lives if you look closely at the objects on board.



*Follow the trail to find out more about life on the high seas!*

### UPPER GUN DECK

Sailors and pirates used similar weapons.

Can you find .....

Muskets



Cutlasses



#### FANTASTIC FACT!

Pirates called Buccaneers invented cutlasses. They are shorter than normal swords.

Why was that useful on a ship?



*Visit Nelson's Great Cabin.  
Then go to the Upper Gun Deck.*

### UPPER GUN DECK



They used this object to punish sailors and pirates. What's its strange name?

#### FANTASTIC FACT!

This object got its name because the rope has been split into 9 strands. It was used to whip sailors when they did something bad like stealing or fighting.



*Now move along to the sick berth.*

# HMS VICTORY LIFE ON THE HIGH SEAS

## SICK BERTH

Pirates didn't just look for treasure.  
They also needed things for everyday life.



### FANTASTIC FACT!

Ships like HMS Victory had surgeons and medical supplies. Pirates often stole their medicine in case they got ill.

Can you see 2 bottles in this room that they might want?



Next move up to the top deck to continue the trail

## FOC'SLE

Look around. Can you see this flag?  
What's its name?



### FANTASTIC FACT!

Pirates had special flags to send messages. The Skull and Cross Bones is the most famous and meant 'surrender'! The most frightening pirate flag was the plain red one which meant nobody would be spared.



Move along the ship towards the stern (back)

## QUARTER DECK AND CAPTAIN HARDY'S CABIN

Pirates, like sailors, were excellent navigators because they needed to work out where to go to find treasure and avoid capture.

Look around this area. Can you find.....

A compass to help you find your direction

The wheel to steer the ship

Maps and Charts to plan your voyage

### FANTASTIC FACT!

Flags were a way of identifying ships. Pirates often used stolen flags to trick ships into thinking they were friendly.

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Go down the ladder to the upper gun deck to look at the guns.

### UPPER GUN DECK

Navy Gun Crews were well trained. They could fire and reload a gun very quickly. Pirates were not as well trained as though and usually only managed to fire one shot before boarding a ship.

To find out more about loading, look at the gun equipment.

Can you find the....

Gun lock



Sponge



Rammer



Powder horn



#### FANTASTIC FACT!

A single gun shot meant a ship had to show its colours (flags). This showed others whether it was friendly or the enemy!



Next move down to the Middle Gun Deck

### MIDDLE GUN DECK

During sea battles pirates often had to board enemy ships and fight. This was very dangerous and sometimes they had to be bribed with the promise of first choice of any stolen weapons. In the Navy things were different as there were specially trained Sea Soldiers to do this.

Look for the red uniform and find out who they were.

What are the sea soldiers called?

#### FANTASTIC FACT!

Sailors were often forced to join the Navy and this could cause problems. In contrast, sea soldiers were volunteers and wanted to be there. They lived on this deck and one of their jobs was to protect the officers from the men who lived below!

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## THE GALLEY (KITCHEN)

Both pirates and the Navy could be a sea for long periods. Their food and drink was similar.

Can you find .....

Ships biscuits

Barrels which might contain beer or rum

Something to stop sailors getting scurvy



### FANTASTIC FACT!

- Biscuits called 'hard tack' replaced bread
- Water went off quickly so sailors drank beer or rum instead
- Their diet lacked Vitamin C because they didn't eat much fruit or vegetables, so they often got scurvy



*Move down to the lower gun deck to find out more about life at sea*

## LOWER GUN DECK

Voyages could last for months. A lot of time was spent working and waiting-not taking part in battles.

### FANTASTIC FACT!

Wooden ships got covered in barnacles, which made them slower and difficult to steer.

To solve this the Navy took ships out of the water, using dry docks in port. Pirates ran their ships aground in shallow bays and pulled them onto their sides to clean.

Why do you think they didn't stop in port to get their ships cleaned?

This could get very boring.  
**Can you see two things to help them pass the time?**

**Congratulations you've finished!  
Enjoy the rest of your visit.**