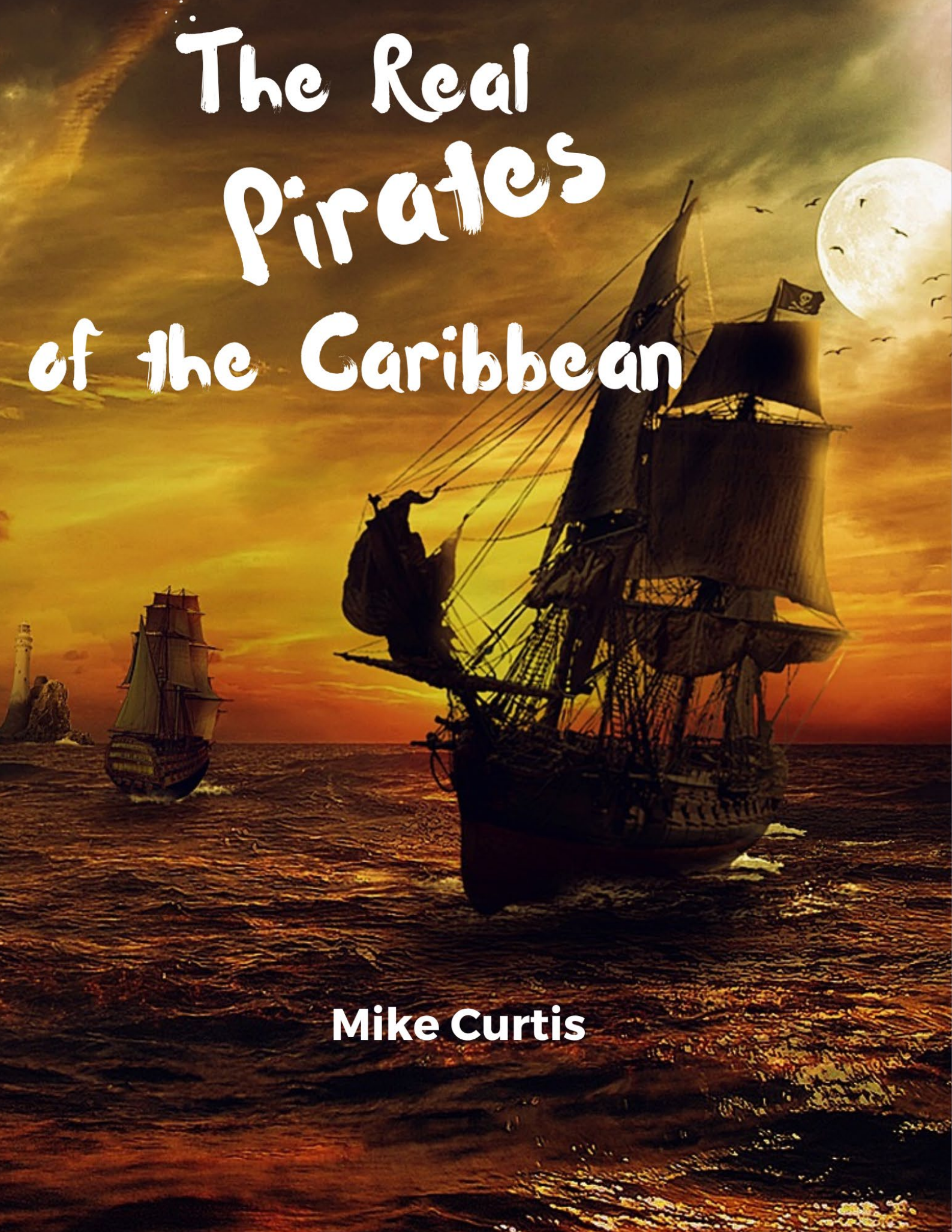


# The Real Pirates of the Caribbean

**Mike Curtis**



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## Some Famous (and Real) Pirates of the Caribbean

Let me introduce you to some famous pirates of the Caribbean. These infamous men lived way back in the 1600s.

### Black Bart (1682-1722):

Named Bartholomew Roberts, he was considered the most successful pirate of the Golden Age of Piracy in the Caribbean (1650-1720), having pillaged 400 vessels. He served on a slave ship for some time before his captain was killed and the crew voted him as their new captain. He famously raided seafaring merchant vessels in their journeys from the Americas to the west African coast. He was one of the first to produce an early version of the Jolly Roger, a skull and crossbones, as the ship's flag, generally hoisted just before attacking or during the battle itself.

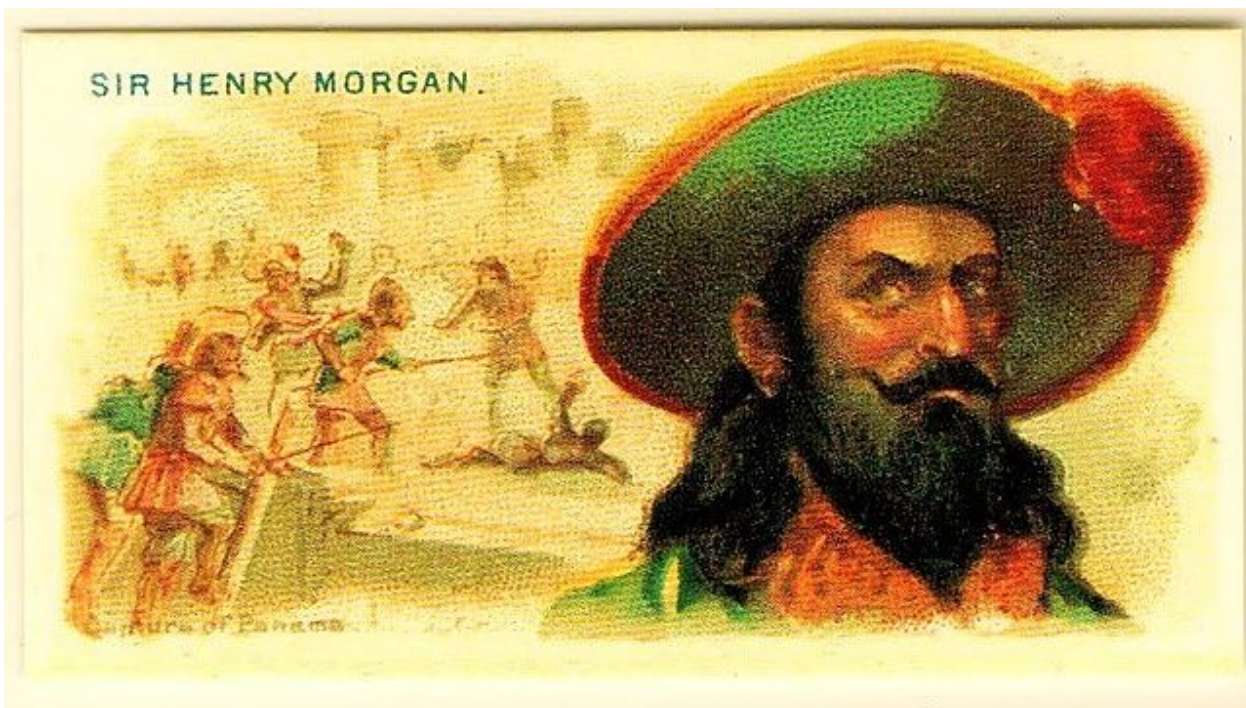
In 1722 the British Royal Navy hunted him down along with several ships under his command. In the battle that ensued, Black Bart declared to his crew that he refused to be taken alive. Seeing there was no escape, his shipmates took his life, throwing him overboard and granting him his favor.



## Sir Henry Morgan (1635-1688):

As was common in the Caribbean, Sir Henry Morgan began his career in piracy as a privateer, raiding Spanish ships and settlements for England. Generally, such contracts entitled the government to half of the plunder and the ship owner half, and from there being distributed in a rather unfair manner to the crew. Low wages and distrust of one's country often led "privateers" to turn to "piracy" (is there really a difference?). But Morgan managed to do well for himself and remained a "privateer" his entire career as a "pirate"... on behalf of England.

Though privateer law insisted that while raiding sea vessels was permissible, attacking land was not, in 1668 Morgan rationalized the need to attack Port Bello (in modern-day Panama), and held its inhabitants hostage for a sum of 350,000 pesos. In negotiations he settled for 100,000 pesos, making his crew very wealthy.



At the end of the war between England and Spain, peace was sought in the Caribbean, and the king of England tried to appease Spain by "arresting" Sir Henry Morgan, though reports say he was free to roam England as he pleased. However, he was soon knighted by the king of England and made lieutenant governor of Jamaica to reward him for his privateering efforts. Though ordered to put an end to piracy in Jamaica, he continued to collude with approximately 1,200 privateers to allow them safe haven in Jamaica. However, his constant heavy drinking appears to have led to severe liver damage, and he died at age 53.



## Calico Jack (1682-1720):

His birth name was Jack Rackham, but he acquired his nickname due to his flamboyant clothing style, preferring calico cloth from India. He is first mentioned in history as Quartermaster to Charles Vane. Through several circumstances the crew believed Vane to be too passive and voted Rackham in as captain, a thing that many crews had the freedom to do and not considered mutiny. Vane was given a smaller ship with plenty of supplies, while Calico Jack captained the *Ranger*, a brigantine ship porting in New Providence, Bahamas.



Anne Bonny and Mary Read (two female pirates) fought along his side. Not much is known of this pirate, except his style and some of his plunderous ways. Though pardoned in 1719 with clemency from the governor of Jamaica, he soon returned to piracy and was captured in 1720 in Jamaica, tried, and hung later that year.

## Mary Reid (1685-1721) and Anne Bonney

### (1697-1782):

Mary Reid started in the British navy disguised as a man in order to fight. When her ship fought against Calico Jack's vessel, she switched her allegiance and joined his crew. She and Anne Bonney are two of the most well-known female pirates of the Caribbean.



At a young age, Anne too joined ranks with Calico Jack and eventually married him. But both Mary's and Anne's demise came with his as well. Mary was executed, but after their capture and trial, Mary claimed to be pregnant and received a stay in her execution until the baby was born. However, there is no record of her execution. Some have suggested that she used a bribe to be freed, having grown up the daughter of a wealthy lawyer. There is no record of her death until 1782, some 62 years later!

## Blackbeard (1680-1718):

Born Edward Teach, Blackbeard was the most notorious and fiercest of all the Caribbean pirates. To spread intimidation to those he attacked, he frequently wore short pieces of burning rope in both his beard and his scraggly hair. His tactics worked and many ships quickly surrendered to his fearsome crew. While plundering ships in the Lesser Antilles in the eastern waters of the Caribbean, Blackbeard attacked a French slave ship in 1717, *La Concorde*, off the coast of the island of Martinique. He seized the ship and renamed her *Queen Anne's Revenge*, a forty-cannon fighter.

The next year in a brazen act of piracy, Blackbeard headed northward and blocked the entrance to Charleston for a week, holding several ships hostage until he received what he was demanding, a chest full of... medicine, that's right! He continued on to North Carolina with several sloops and about 300 men under his command, where he ran his ship aground on a sandbar. He claimed he had done so intentionally to break up the group. Hmm!



After Woodes Rogers, the First Royal Governor of the Bahamas, offered all pirates clemency if they left their marauding ways behind, Blackbeard continued to choose the life of a pirate. A few months later while cruising the coast of North Carolina again, he encountered another vessel quite contrary to his mission. Lt. Robert Maynard, under strict orders, had been methodically hunting down Blackbeard. When he had caught up to him, Rogers lured Blackbeard into a sea battle on his own vessel. Aboard that sloop, Blackbeard breathed his last pirate-y breath. Maynard won the sword fight with Blackbeard and lopped off his head. Some have suggested that for Blackbeard to have continued pirating after the offer of clemency, he must have lost his head. Now you know that came later! And so, the career of the famed pirate ended as quickly as it had started.



## “Red Legs” Greaves (1649-?):

Born on Barbados to Scottish slaves, Greaves became a pirate by stowing away aboard a pirate ship. How classic! Once discovered, he was forced to embrace their trade. At one point the captain ordered Greaves to kill a prisoner, but “Red Legs” refused. When reprimanded, he killed the captain, and the crew voted Greaves their new captain. He was a stickler for the pirates’ “moral code” (that is, being nice to some but killing others!). After making his money, he became a plantation owner, retiring to the island of Nevis in the eastern Caribbean.

Later, he was betrayed by an acquaintance and sentenced to hang, awaiting his execution on the island of Jamaica. But an earthquake hit the town of Port Royal where he was and two-thirds of the town slid into the ocean, allowing Greaves to escape. He was eventually welcomed aboard by a whaling vessel and became a **pirate hunter** of all things, turning his back on his old way of life. He received a pardon and eventually died of old age, something very uncommon for pirates!

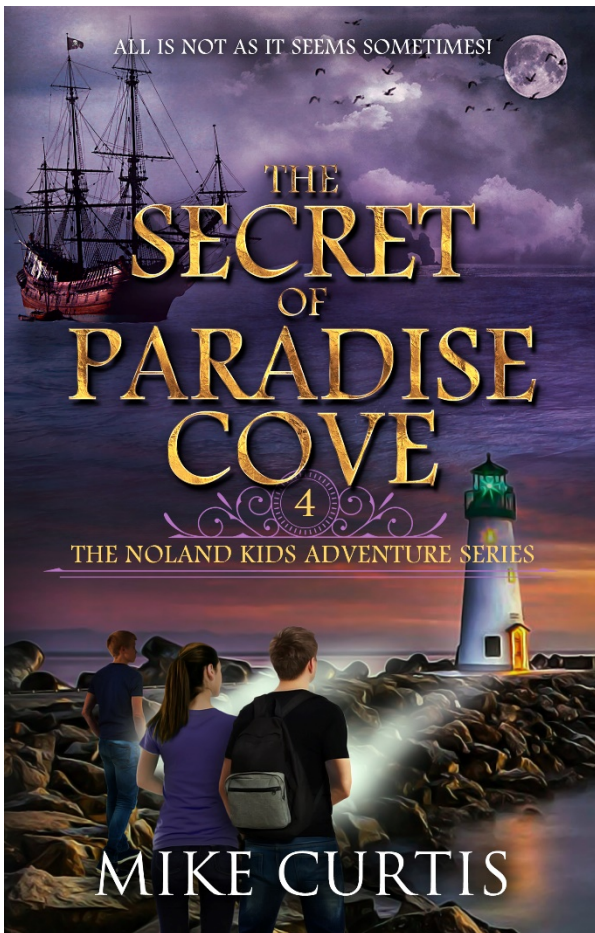
## Captain John Avery (or Henry Every, 1653-1696):



Captain John Avery is considered by many to be the most successful pirate in history. He served for some time in the British navy in the 1690's. At one point he served aboard a Spanish ship that mutinied and made John Avery their captain. Renaming the ship *The Fancy*, the crew stalked ships rounding Africa and pillaged them. On one famous occasion in 1695, *The Fancy*, joined by several other pirate ships led by Avery, sailed up the Red Sea between Africa and Saudi Arabia and plundered a convoy of twenty-five ships from India's Grand Moghul on their way from Mecca. Many say the haul was the largest in pirate history, being equivalent to \$118.2 million.

A price was placed on Avery's head and his crew quickly disbanded. Legend suggests that most of his men were killed but that Avery himself alluded the pirate henchmen and retired in the Bahamas after only a short stint as a buccaneer. His death date then is only what most have concluded apart from these

stories. It is also said that he hid much of his stolen treasures somewhere near Africa.



This becomes an important legend that plays into *The Secret of Paradise Cove*, the fourth book in *The Noland Kids Adventure Series*. A fictional grandson of his, Captain Avery Scott, “the last of the pirates of the Caribbean,” while captaining *The Phantom*, discovers his namesake’s hidden treasure off the coast of Africa on Madagascar (remember Dreamwork’s film by that name?) In the opening chapter, his ship is ambushed with the treasure onboard while heading into the port of Le Robert on the island of Martinique in the eastern portion of the Caribbean. The book devotes two whole chapters to this pirate, because the island’s dark, mysterious past plays heavily in its foreboding future and all that is wrong on the little island of Paradise Cove.

## Will the Real Jack Sparrow Please Stand Up?



*The Pirates of the Caribbean* film series by Disney created the character Jack Sparrow to fit this humorous adventure of pirates in the 1700's. Most say this fictional character was based on Jack Ward, nicknamed "Sparrow," or "Jack Sparrow." He, like many pirates of his day, were initiated into their trade to pillage enemy ships by the British government. When this type of living became outlawed, many privateers became pirates, pillaging **any** ship for personal gain.

Jack "Sparrow" Ward became famous in his day, inspiring both books and plays with his adventures. He was a flamboyant personality, but even more so in his later years due to his tendency toward drunkenness. For this reason Disney's character, Jack Sparrow, acted like a drunk, though attributing his odd behavior to his being marooned on a deserted island by his first mate, Hector Barbossa, who mutinied to become captain and steal *The Black Pearl*.

These are about the only similarities between Jack Ward and Jack Sparrow, especially when it comes to their pirating journeys, as Jack Ward lived a century earlier and sailed the Mediterranean Sea while Jack Sparrow sailed... well, you know!





## Talking Like a Pirate

**AHOY:** A way to call attention to something.

**ARRR:** An exclamation. Alternatively spelled “Arr,” “Arrr,” “Arrrr”... well, you get the point.

**AVAST:** A charge to stop.

**AYE:** An affirmation like “yes.”

**BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES:** A command to prepare a ship for a storm.

**BILGE-SUCKING:** A derogatory term for someone, implying they drank the bilge water that rests in the bottom of a ship.

**BLACK JACK:** A pirate ship’s flag.

**BLIMEY:** A contraction of “blind me” and therefore an exclamation of surprise.

**BLOW THE MAN DOWN:** To kill a man.

**DANCE THE HEMP JIG:** To hang someone.

**DANCE WITH JACK KETCH:** Also, to hang someone (“Jack Ketch” was slang for the “hangman”).

**DAVY JONES LOCKER:** A fictional place for the dead at the bottom of the sea.. A synonym of death.

**DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES:** A pirate’s reason for leaving no survivors aboard a ship.

**DOUBLOONS:** Spanish gold coins and often the contents of a pirate’s treasure.

**FIRE IN THE HOLE:** A warning given just before cannon-fire.

**FURL:** To roll up a ship’s sails.

**GIVE NO QUARTER:** Offer no mercy (“quarter” means “a place to stay”).

**HAUL WIND:** For a ship to head into the wind.

**HEAD:** The toilet aboard a ship.

**HEAVE:** An exclamation meaning to come to a halt.

**HO:** An expression of joy or surprise.

**JOLLY ROGER:** Generally, a white flag with crossbones on a black flag. Used only by some pirates.

**LAND LUBBER:** Someone not used to sailing at sea.

**LETTER OF MARQUE:** A document giving its bearer amnesty from laws forbidding piracy.

**LILY LIVERED:** An insult directed towards cowards.

**MAROONED:** To be left stranded on a deserted island.

**MATEY:** A fellow shipmate.

**ME:** My.

**MUTINY:** When shipmates overthrow the rule of the captain by force and choose another.

**OLD SALT:** An experienced sailor.

**PARLEY:** Used as the focus of a joke in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, meaning a discussion between two opposing sides that are seeking a truce.

**PIECES OF EIGHT:** Spanish coins.

**PIRACY:** Robbing another vessel at sea.

**POOP DECK:** The deck of a ship that is the highest and farthest back. Generally, the helm.

**REEF SAILS:** To partially roll up the sails so as to slow it's forward movement.

**RUN A SHOT ACROSS THE BOW:** To send a warning shot from a ship's cannon.

**SAIL HO:** An exclamation that another ship is in view.

**SAVVY?:** Ok? Do you understand me? (Not just a question Jack Sparrow off-handedly asks.)

**SCUPPER THAT:** A command to throw something overboard or merely an exclamation of anger.

**SCURVY DOG:** An insult.

**SEA DOG:** An old pirate.

**SEA LEGS:** The acquired ability to maintain one's balance aboard a vessel at sea.

**SHIVER ME TIMBERS:** An exclamation of surprise.

**SINK ME:** Another exclamation of surprise.

**SMARTLY:** Quickly.

**WALK THE PLANK:** Punishment for wrongdoing in which someone must walk to the end of a plank jutting out from the ship and fall into the sea to drown (this is more myth than anything else, as pirates chose other means of punishment than this).

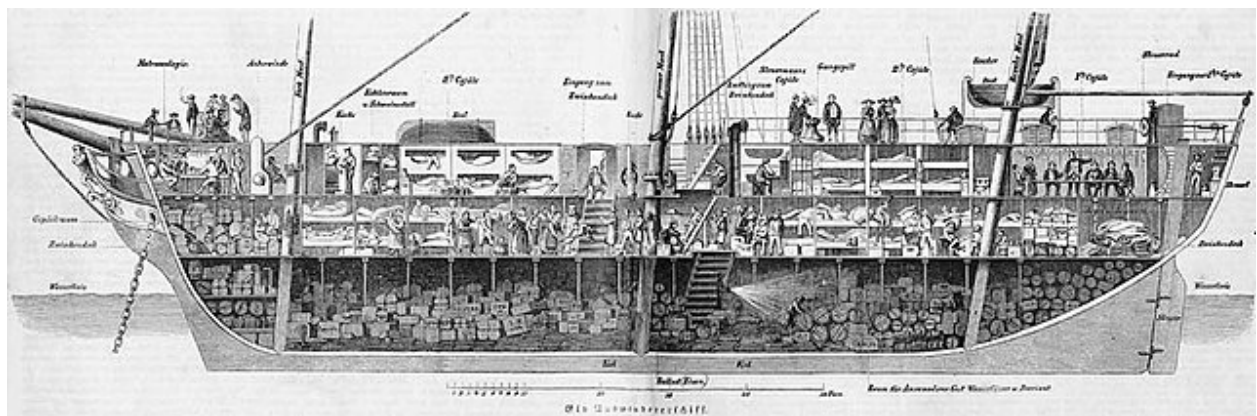


## The Real Pirates of the Caribbean

**WEIGH ANCHOR:** To pull in the anchor in order to set sail.

**YE:** You.









## Pirate Fun Facts

1. Did they really walk the plank?

Answer: No, this is more fiction than fact. Pirates usually marooned captives, whipped them, or just shot them.

2. The Jolly Roger Flag.

Generally, this is a white skull and crossbones on a black flag, though the term was at times used for any pirate flag design, and these varied greatly.

3. Were there actually women pirates?

Yes, there were several. Anne Bonney and Mary Reid were the two most famous Caribbean female pirates. But the wealthiest and most famous of all women pirates was Ching Shih, a Chinese buccaneer whose husband died, leaving his vast pirate legacy and wealth to her. She died in 1844 at the age of 68.

4. Did pirates really wear eye patches?

Answer: Yes, many actually did, but probably not for the reasons most people may think. Some did have injured eyes, but many wore the patches to keep one eye adjusted to the dark for when they went below deck, which could be frequent.

5. And what about wooden legs and hooks?

Answer: Hooks were not the invention of *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie and popularized by Disney. Captain Hook was not the only seafaring marauder to have a hook nor was Long John Silver in *Treasure Island* the only one to have a peg leg. Though not common, enough reports suggest this was indeed a real thing among the pirate community.

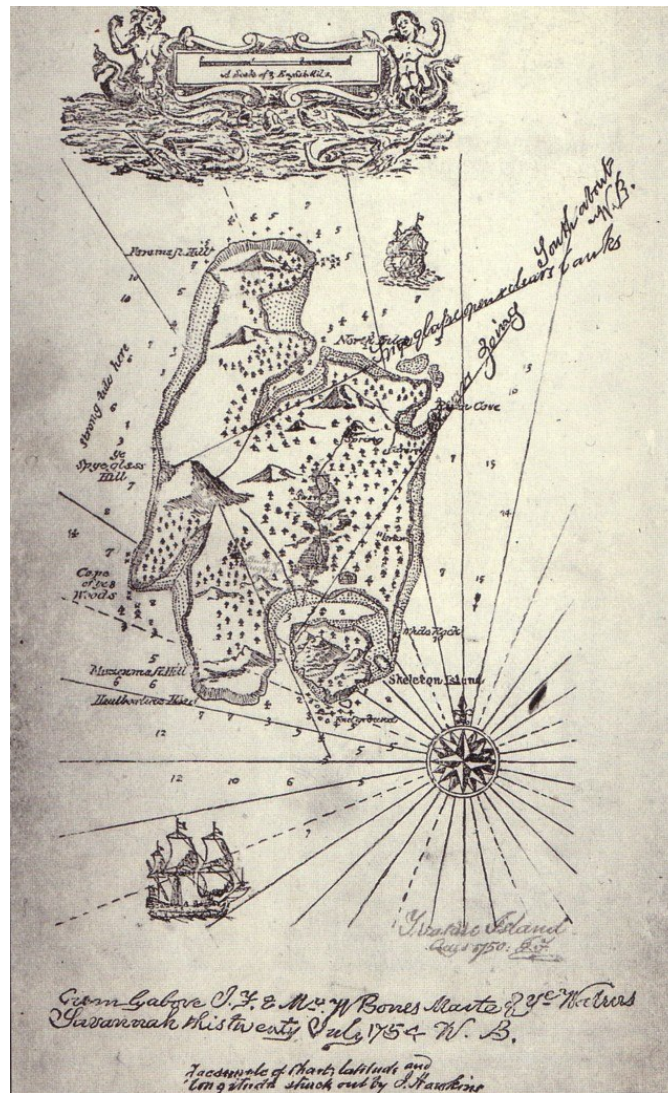
6. Did pirates bury their treasure?

Answer: Generally, they did not. A few were reported to have done so, but this was quite rare (if the stories are true). Buried treasure is more *Treasure Island* fiction than anything else. Most wealthy pirate captains either spent it all or it was seized.

7. Did “X” mark the spot on pirate treasure maps?

Answer: First, as discussed above, pirate treasure is more a thing of pirate lore. Second, pirate maps are few and far between and rest mostly upon legends. William Kidd and Olivier Le Vasseur are reported to have had maps, but much speculation surrounds these rumors. So, unfortunately, “X” did **not** mark the spot on pirate maps ( but boy, did we have fun with it as kids!).

### Map for *Treasure Island*



8. What was the Pirate Code?

Answer: This is a general term for rules aboard a pirate ship and how plunder would be divided among the crew. Interesting that even the lawless saw the need for law (or just the law they wanted to follow!). The most notable code was that set forth by the “Brethren of the Coast,” a band of buccaneers based in Tortuga, an island off the northern coast of Hispaniola (Haiti). And yes, “parley” was a thing!

9. Were treasure chests filled with gold coins and gems?

Answer: Perhaps some, but a pirate’s booty consisted of more than just gold coins and sparkling gems. Many hauled in clothing, **maps** (considered invaluable in navigating the seven seas), books, animals (though not in chests!), and the like. Not all that “glistened” in the eyes of a pirate was gold!

## The Real Pirates of the Caribbean



**Map: “Here There Be Dragons”**

10. Did pirates really speak with a “pirate accent” back then?

Answer: The only accents that pirates spoke with were of their own nationality. Pirate accents are an invention of Hollywood!

11. Did pirates wear earrings?

Answer: Yes, they did. Frequently, but not so much for looks. They believed that the pressure from the earring on the ear lobe would relieve seasickness. Stranger fads have arisen from misconceptions!

12. Did pirate captains really have pet parrots that sat on their shoulders?

Answer: Animals were considered a very valuable commodity to trade at port, especially the smaller ones that did not require much food, like birds. Since birds can be trained to stay on an arm or shoulder, such was not an uncommon practice. However, since they were usually traded at the next port, not too many received the luxury of being trained or remaining a pet for that matter.

13. Where did the crew sleep?

Answer: The captain and high ranking officials usually had their own quarters with the captain's just below the helm. Common shipmates, however, did not receive such accommodations, as they were quartered in a large room below deck called the Berth and slept in hammocks that could sway to the rocking of the ship.

14. Was Julius Caesar ever captured by pirates?

Answer: Yes, he was for 38 days! But he was a very unpleasant captive, ordering the sailors around, demanding his needs be met (they willingly complied in view of the steep ransom request!). When the



ransom was paid and Caesar was released, he threatened they would regret ever doing this. He was good to his word and had all his captors hunted down and executed!

15. Are there real pirates today?

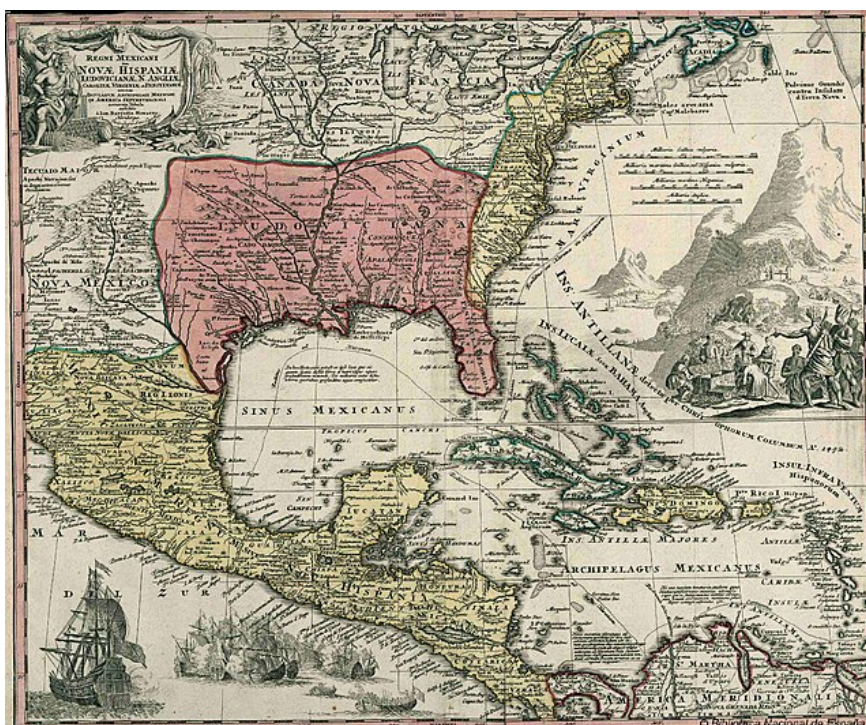
Answer: Yes, unfortunately. Too many reports of pirates off the coast of countries like Somalia (armed with machine guns instead of swords) are cited in the news these days. The movie ***Captain Phillips***, a 2013 thriller starring Tom Hanks, is based on the true story of a large merchant vessel being hijacked by Somali pirates. Regrettably, this is not uncommon.

16. Are gold doubloons real? And what about the Brasher Doubloon?

Answer: Yes, doubloons were Spanish coins minted in Spain and some of her territories. They would have been equivalent to a \$4 coin. Brasher doubloons are altogether different, however. Designed by Ephraim Brasher and minted in the U.S. in 1787, only about seven were reported to have been made. Consequently, the latest one sold in auction went for \$9.36 million. These coins are referred to in ***The Key House*** when Caleb recalls researching them in a unit study he did for homeschooling on Colonial times.



## Well-Known Pirate Lairs

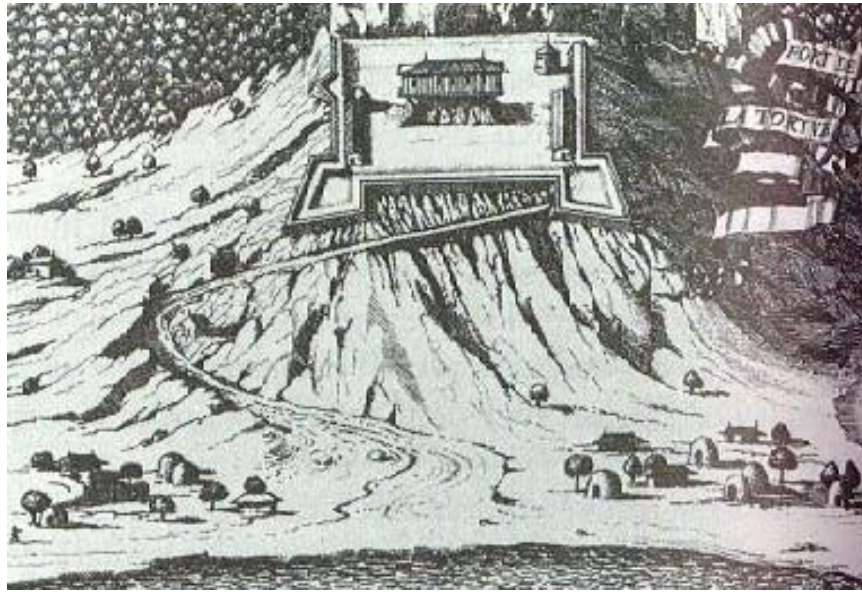


### Port Royal, Jamaica

In the mid-1600's Jamaica offered pirates safe haven in exchange for protection from the Spanish. It became overrun, however, with gambling, brothels, taverns, and drunkenness (so much for Jamaican politics—open the door to corruption and you reap corruption!). By 1720, with the passage of a clemency law to all pirates, any who continued in the trade would be executed. The famed buccaneer Charles Vane and the well-dressed “Calico Jack” were both hanged in Port Royal, Jamaica.

### Tortuga, Hispaniola

Tortuga is a focal point in *The Pirates of the Caribbean*. It is a rocky, mountainous island just off the north coast of Hispaniola (present-day Haiti). In the early 1600's, many unsavory characters began to settle there. Some were French raiders and loved to cure their meat (“boucaner”) and thus inspired the nickname “buccaneer.” Preying on Spanish treasure ships, they turned Tortuga into a fortified stronghold, where the likes of Jean Le Vasseur built a 24-gun castle called Fort de Rocher to help protect the island's harbor.



Many marauders settled on the island and formed what became known as the “Brethren of the Coast,” developing their own pirates’ code. Many of these buccaneers were hired by the British and French to attack Spanish ships. Sir Henry Morgan was among these scalawags.

## New Providence, Bahamas

New Providence is an island in the Bahamas known today as a luxury cruise pitstop. In the early 1700’s, its taverns were countenanced by such famous pirates as Blackbeard, Stede Bonnet, and Charles Vane. The island was ideal for pirates, because it lay in the trade lanes between Europe and the Caribbean.

Piracy became so rampant that in 1718 Woodes Rogers was made governor and cracked down harshly on the trade. He executed a band of pirates in December of that same year and sent a clear message to all who dared to continue marauding. It then slowly became a major headquarters for anti-piracy, and the Caribbean became a safer place for sea travel.



~~Bad~~

## Some Really ~~Good~~ Pirate Jokes

1. How do pirates know that they are pirates?  
Answer: They think, therefore they ARRR.
2. Why don't pirates wash before walking the plank?  
Answer: Because they'll just wash up on shore.
3. Why did the pirate go on vacation?  
Answer: Because he needed some ARRR and ARRR.
4. What kinds of grades do pirates get?  
Answer: High C's.
5. What do you call a pirate with both eyes and all his limbs?  
Answer: A rookie.
6. How did the pirate get his Jolly Roger cheap?  
Answer: He got it on sail.
7. What has 8 arms, 8 legs, and 8 eyes?  
Answer: 8 pirates.
8. How much did the pirate pay for his piercings?  
Answer: A buck-an-ear.
9. Why is pirating so addictive?  
Answer: Because once ye lose yer first hand, ye get hooked.
10. Why did the pirate go to the Apple store?  
Answer: Because he was in need of a new iPatch.
11. How much did it cost the pirate for his hook and peg?  
Answer: An arm and a leg.
12. What happened when Bluebeard fell overboard into the Red Sea?  
Answer: He got marooned.
13. A pirate walks into a doctor's office. After he examines the spots on his client's arm, the doctor says, "They're benign." The pirate replies, "No, doc, I just counted them and there be ten!"
14. What do you call a pirate with three eyes?  
Answer: A piiiirate.



15. Why does it take so long for pirates to learn the alphabet?

Answer: Because they spend years at C.

16. Where do pirates buy their hooks?

Answer: At second-hand stores.

17. A younger pirate is inquiring of an older pirate about how he got his peg leg, his hook, and his eye patch.

The old salt answers: "I got me peg leg one day during a great storm. I fell into shark-infested waters and, blimey, if one didn't chomp me hand off. Me hook I got in a sword fight with an old, brave British Admiral. I won the fight, but his sword got me hand."

The younger pirate waited, and then replied, "And yer eye patch?"

The seasoned buccaneer barely whispered his answer, so the other pirate asked, "I'm sorry, say again?"

The old man raised his timid voice, "I be standing on me deck, and a seagull did a poo right in me eye!"

The rookie seaman held back his laughter and stated, "But you don't go blind from a bit of bird poo!"

The old pirate humphed, "This be true, but it be me first day with me hook!"

Hey now, didn't I tell you these were some pretty good jokes? <sup>bad</sup>

## The Real Pirates of the Caribbean

I hope you enjoyed this fun, little history lesson on the **real** pirates of the Caribbean! I'm still trying to decide, however, if this last section was more historical or hysterical... or neither! Nevertheless, I am looking forward to you reading the rest of *The Noland Kids Adventure* books when they come out. Drop me a line and tell me how you like them and perhaps how they helped or encouraged you as well.

Until then!

Mike Curtis

[www.powerlineprod.com/the-noland-kids-adventure-series](http://www.powerlineprod.com/the-noland-kids-adventure-series)

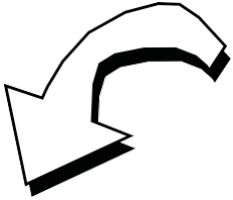




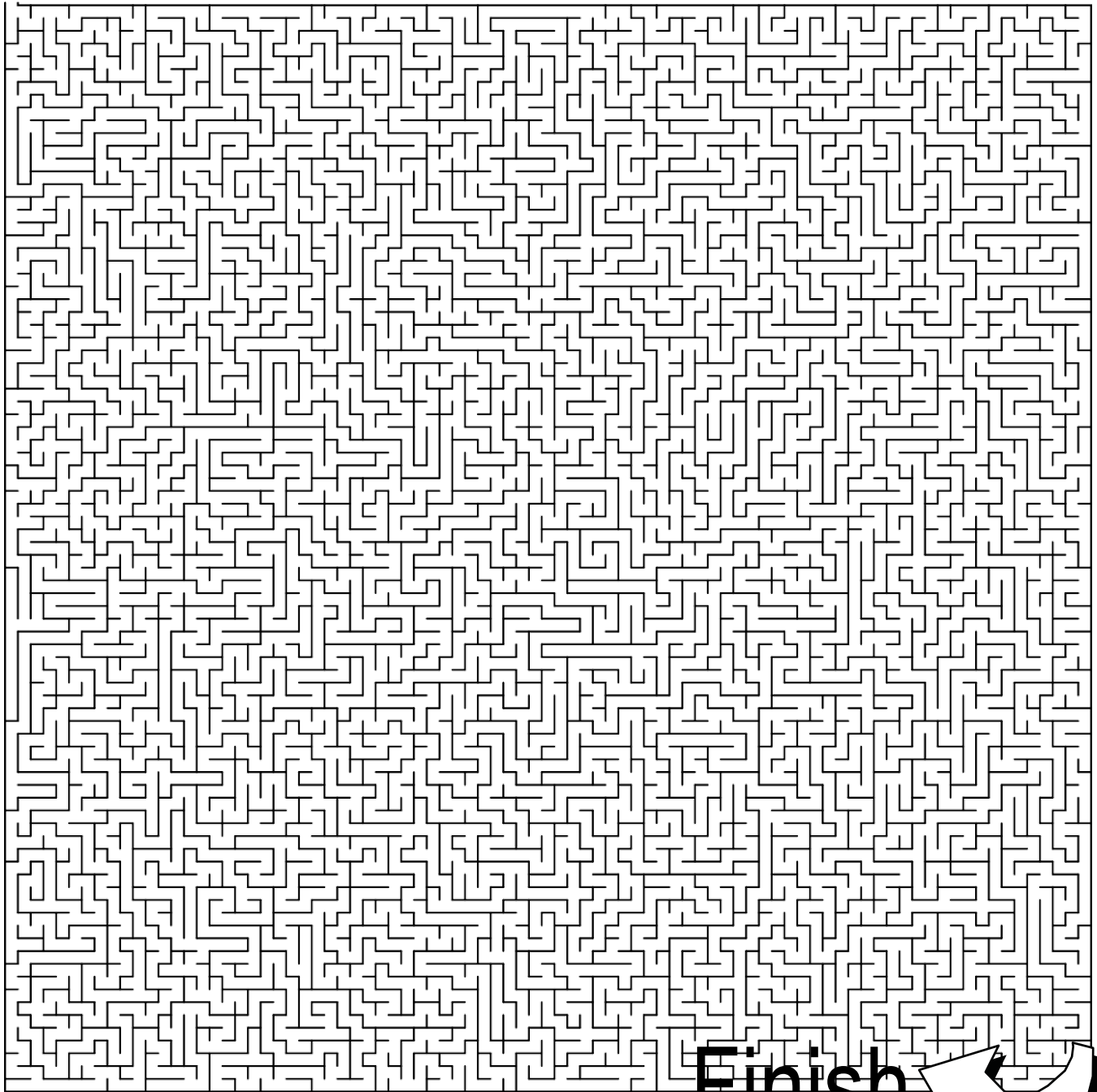
## Pirate's Treasure Map

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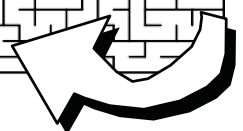
Find your way through the maze, from start to finish.



# Start



# Finish

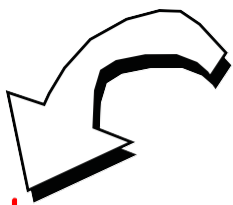




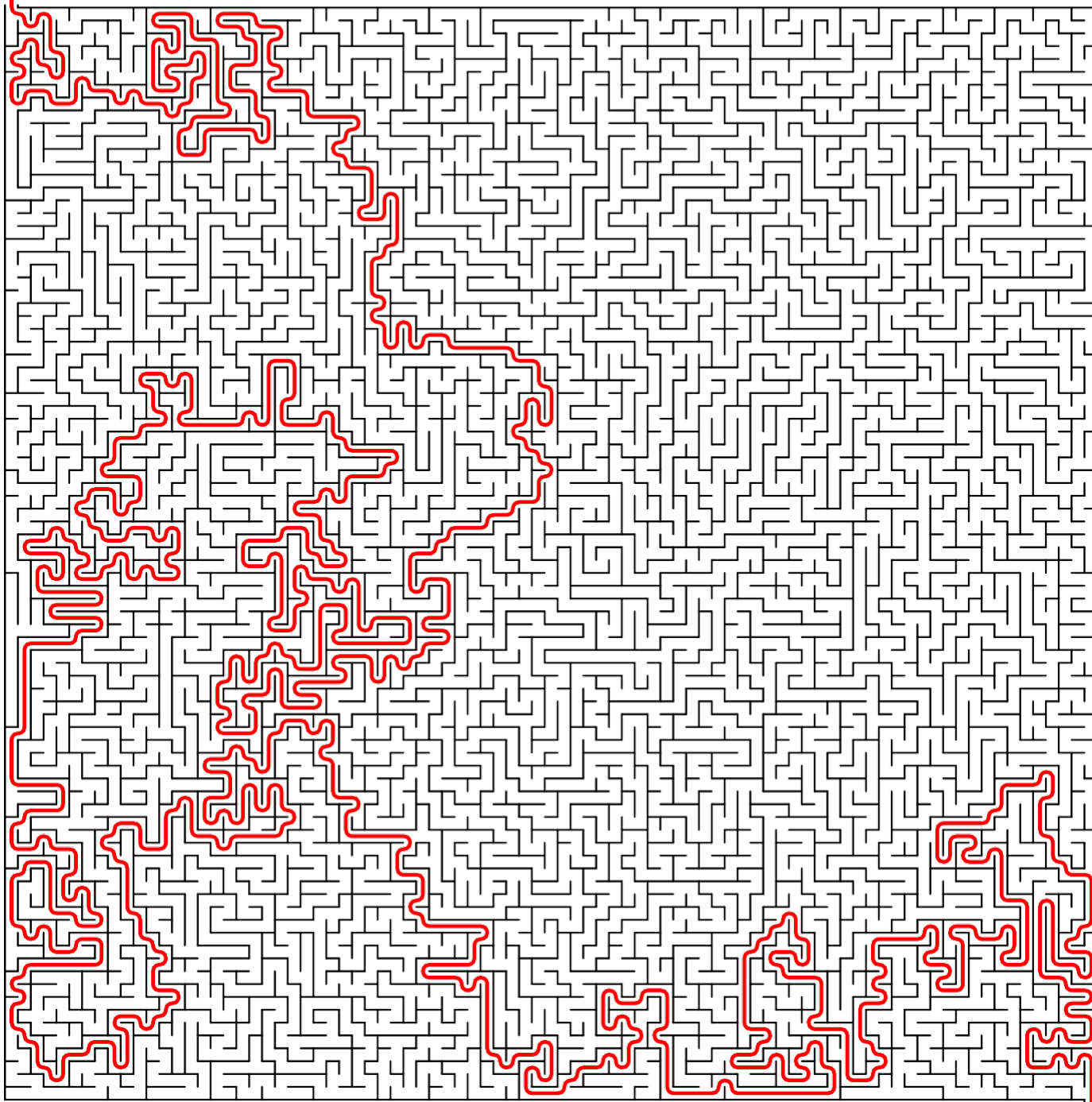
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# ANSWER KEY

Find your way through the maze, from start to finish.



## Start



## Finish



## Pirate Coloring Page

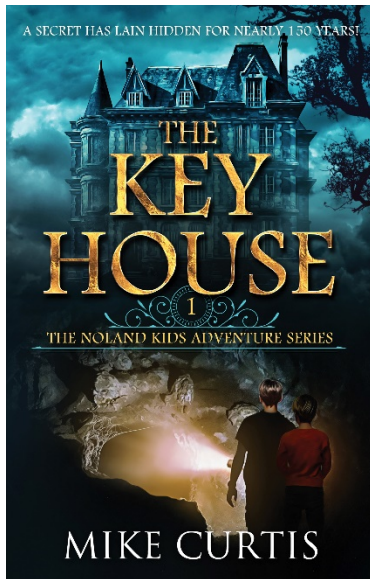




## The Noland Kids Adventure Series

We are so excited about The Noland Kids Adventure series.

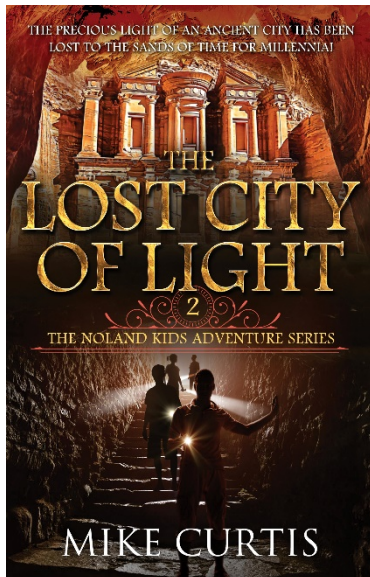
### The Key House



After moving into a newly inherited house, the Noland kids discover clues to a supposed treasure hidden by their great-great-grandfather. But when town rumors and some spiteful neighbors suggest foul play was involved, Caleb and David set out on a quest to prove otherwise.

With unexpected dangers looming large and threatening their mission, can the Noland kids discover the mysterious treasure or whatever lies at the end of their treacherous venture, before time runs out and all is lost?

### The Lost City of Light (Coming Soon!)



Twelve-year-old Lens' parents have gone missing in their search for a lost city. The Noland kids, Caleb, David, and Lizzy, now eight years older since their last adventure, suspend their missions trip in the Congo to help find them. But dangers lurk around every corner and the quest seems doomed from the start.

With incredible odds stacked against them and an unexpected enemy endangering their search, the Noland kids must uncover the dusty clues to this ancient city and discover its long, lost light in order to rescue Lens' parents... and themselves!



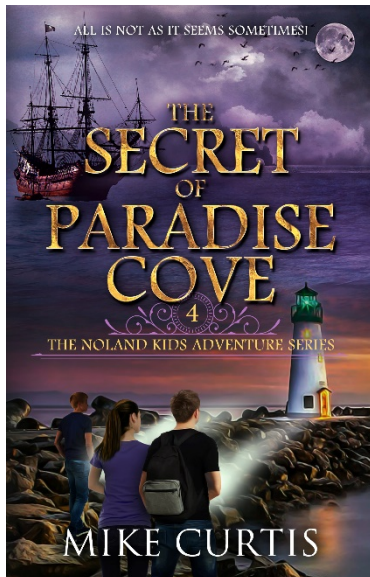
## The Legend of the Craftsman King (Coming Soon!)



In search of their father who has gone missing, the Noland kids travel to Viet Nam's world-famous Phong Nha cave system but find themselves in a whole new world vastly different from their own and on the brink of disaster.

Enmeshed in a deep history of distrust and feud, three tribal leaders guard their land, traditions, and possessions with a jealous eye and a misplaced focus. But can the Noland kids shine truth in this maze of dark, twisted lies and find a way out before these primitive civilizations self-destruct?

## The Secret of Paradise Cove (Coming Soon!)



At a camp on a Caribbean island with forty orphans, the Noland kids discover a two-century-old riddle that leads to something more than a pirate's treasure and realize that life is not always Paradise.

The dark, mysterious history of Paradise Cove is complexly entwined with its foreboding future. So, Caleb, David, and Lizzy must unravel the hidden (and, yes, at times very dangerous!) secrets of this little tropical island before utter evil is unleashed and the lives of these orphans, and more, are lost!