

A pirate's life for me

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Have you ever thought about being a pirate? You may have read about pirates in stories and thought that it would be a great life. Pirates sail all day and never have to go to school. But think again! A pirate's life may not be as much fun as you think.

Food is not easy to find at sea. There are no refrigerators onboard so you can forget about eating fresh food. Meat goes bad after just a few days. Dry food like flour and bread has weevils and other nasty creatures crawling inside. Imagine eating a sandwich full of insects or meat served with maggots.



Pirates' hammocks are often hung over barrels of stored food. That's the perfect place for rats and mice to live. If you become a pirate you could wake up each morning sharing your bed with a few friendly rodents.

Going to the toilet is not that easy either! Over the side of the ship is the only place for this. Rough weather makes this really tricky, even for the most experienced sailor.



It's not all plain sailing on a pirate ship. Some of the time you will have to do battle with other large, hairy pirates with long swords, huge guns and very loud cannons. This could be extremely dangerous — deadly even!

So if you are thinking of being a pirate, maybe you should go back to school and find out a few more facts before you set sail. Being a pirate might not be as much fun as you think.

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Name Date

1 The writer thinks being a pirate would be

- full of problems.
- fun but dangerous.
- a great way to live.
- better than going to school.

2 The writer says that fresh food on a ship

- rots quickly.
- can be easy to find.
- is used for sandwiches.
- needs to be stored in a refrigerator.

3 Weevils can be found in

- flour.
- meat.
- fresh fruit.
- vegetables.

4 The writer uses the words, *a few friendly rodents*, to

- show that only a few are good.
- make you believe they are good pets.
- make an awful thing sound not so bad.
- show you how friendly rats and mice are.

5 Going to the toilet on a ship is

- easy in good weather.
- difficult for all pirates.
- tricky only in bad weather.
- easy for experience pirates.

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6 *It's not all plain sailing on a pirate ship*

In this sentence the words *plain sailing* means pirate ships

- are not easy to sail.
- decorated beautifully.
- can be dull and boring.
- need smooth seas to sail.

7 *This could be extremely dangerous* (paragraph 5).

The word *This* is referring to

- being a pirate.
- rough weather.
- fighting other pirates.
- putting up the sales.

8 The writer gives four facts to support the argument in this text. Briefly state what these are.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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