

International Talk Like a Pirate Day

Actual Holiday: September 19

First Celebrated: 1995



Introduction

International Talk Like a Pirate Day originally began as a joke between two friends. They sent columnist Dave Barry an email about their made-up day, he promoted it in his newspaper column, and talking like a pirate took the world by storm. It's a fun, lighthearted day with no actual pillaging included. Celebrate with your class by learning a little about pirate speak.

Materials

- *Talking Like a Pirate* activity sheet (page 57)
- pencils

The Activity

- Give students an introduction to International Talk Like a Pirate Day by greeting them with some pirate speak, such as "Ahoy, mateys! Ye be welcome to class! Take yer seats unless you want to walk the plank!" Then tell them that today is International Talk Like a Pirate Day and that you are going to learn more about how pirates speak.
- Tell students some background information about pirates. Pirates are definitely not heroes. They are robbers who travel on the sea. Being a pirate was not a safe or easy way to live. Pirates had to follow the rules of the ship or risk being killed. They often went hungry or did not have medicine. Emphasize to students that it's fun to talk like a pirate and much less fun to be a pirate.
- Introduce some pirate speak to students. Tell them that pirate speak means using the sound "arr" often and saying "ye" instead of "you." Write the words below on the board, and ask students if they know what each word means. Have them practice saying the words with you.

- aye: yes	- jolly roger: pirate flag	- scallywag: someone you don't trust
- bounty: a reward	- lad: a young man	- shanty: song
- buccaneer: pirate	- lass: a woman or girl	- thar: opposite of here
- cackle fruit: chicken eggs	- marooned: stuck on a desert island	- vittles or grub: food
- doubloons: money	- me hearties: my friends	- ye: you
- hornswaggle: cheat	- Savvy?: Do you understand?	

- Now that students know some pirate speak, distribute the *Talking Like a Pirate* activity sheet. Have them silently read the phrases in pirate speak on the left-hand side of the page. They can then draw lines to match the phrases in English on the right-hand side of the page.
- When students have finished that section, have them use the lines at the bottom of the page to try to write some pirate speak of their own.
- Go over the answers to the top part of the page as a class and allow volunteers to read their pirate speak aloud. Discuss whether or not the class enjoyed talking like pirates today. Was it as fun as they thought it might be?

Name: _____

Talking Like a Pirate

'Ave ye any vittles? I be
marooned without even
cackle fruit for grub.

My friends, will you give
me a reward for a song?

Did ye see a young
lad and lass? Them
thar scallywags took
my doubloons!

Yes, any pirate on a
ship with a pirate flag
is probably going
to cheat you.

Me hearties, will ye give
me a bounty for an
old sea shanty?

Do you have any food?
I'm stuck on an island
without even chicken
eggs to eat.

Aye, any buccaneer
on a ship flying a jolly
roger is bound to
hornswaggle you.

Did you see a young
boy and girl? Those
robbers took my money!

