Pirates were often at sea for months at a time. Food and drink supplies were worth taking as pirate loot. In 1613, five pirates who landed at Yarmouth in the Seahorse were hanged for stealing the ship and her cargo: 22,000 lampreys (eel-like fish), 30 barrels of beer and six barrels of red herrings.

Children can make a shopping list for a pirate picnic inspired by a story from a book about pirate food such as ‘A Very Fishy Battle’ by Jeremy Strong, and the Live like a pirate film.

Activity

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Resources

Maps: large world map and example from the Pirates Gallery or Collections online

Pirate-food-themed book such as ‘A Very Fishy Battle’ by Jeremy Strong

More ideas

Bake a ship’s biscuit to an authentic recipe. Children can prick out their initials on the top. What words can they form from the initials?

Recipe

For one ship’s biscuit you will need coarse stone-ground wholemeal flour:

Add enough water to 500 grams of wholemeal flour and seven grams of salt (or larger quantities in similar proportions) to make a stiff dough.

Leave the dough for 30 minutes, then roll it out fairly thickly (0.5 – 1cm)

Bake the biscuits in a hot oven at 420F/220C/Gas Mark 8 for about 30 minutes.

After this, leave them in a warm, dry atmosphere to harden and dry out.