

IN  
PICTURES  
AND  
CONVERSATIONS



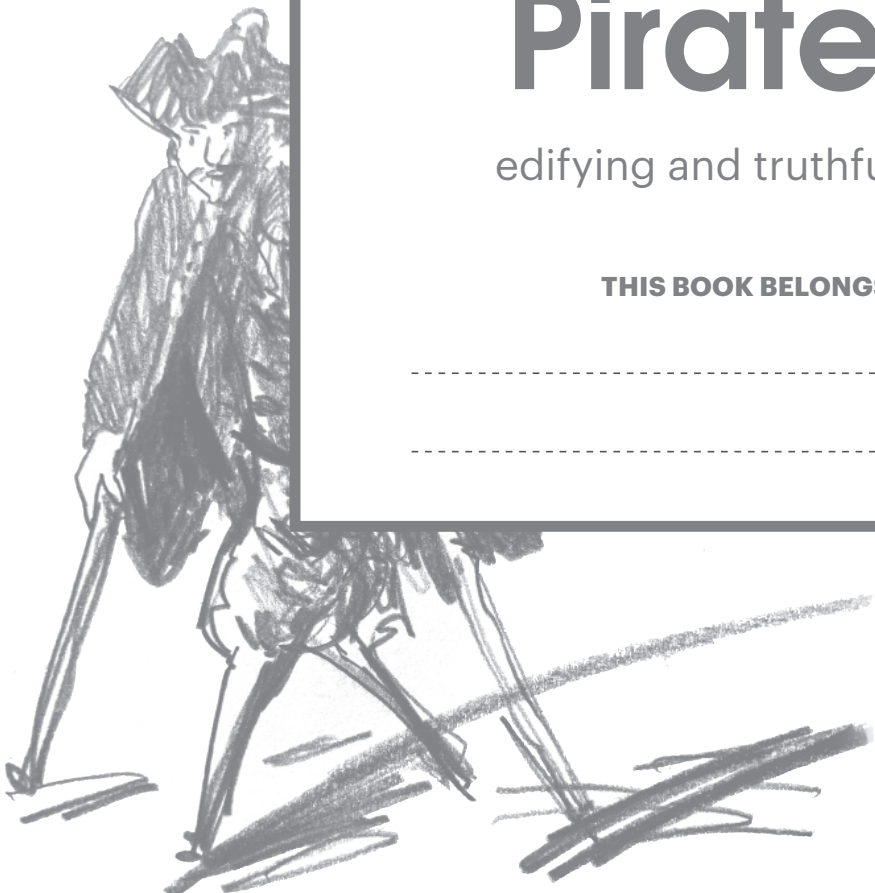
David Graeber  
Nika Dubrovsky

# What are Pirates?

edifying and truthful stories

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

-----  
-----



ANTHROPOLOGY  
FOR KIDS

2010-2022



# Introduction

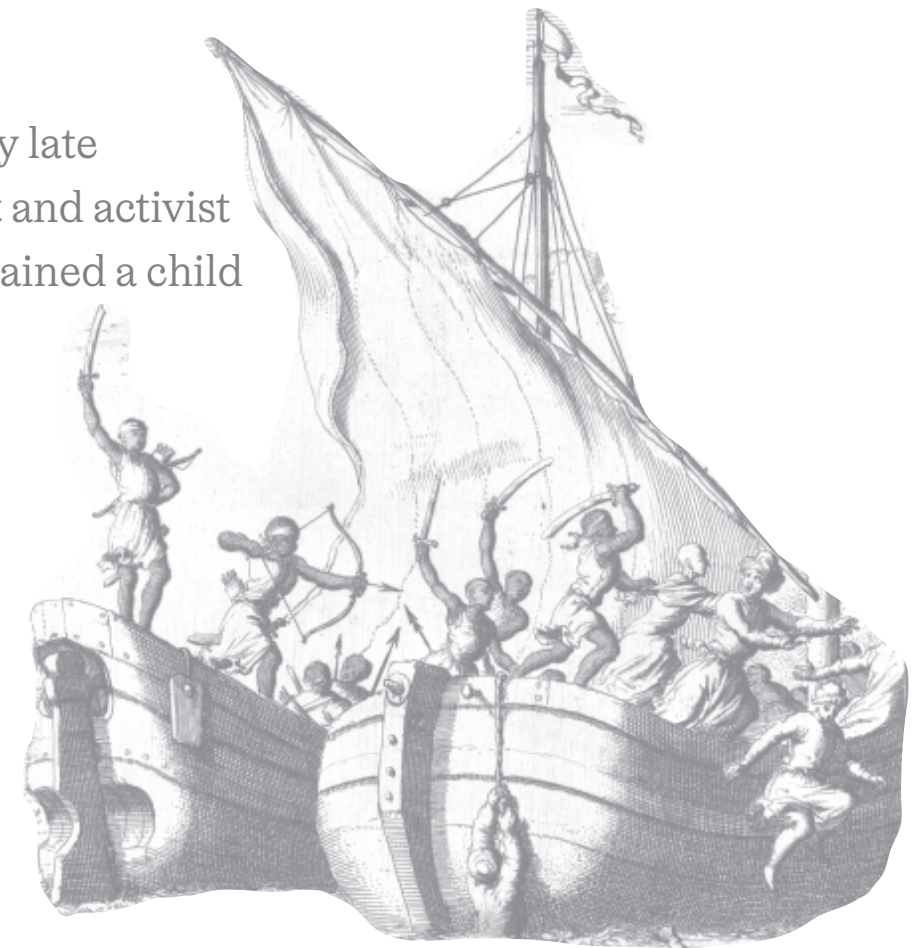


Who are the Pirates? - A continuation of the Who are the Kings? series. - a conversation with anthropologist David Graeber about the nature of power and equality, magic, violence, and how the past relates to the present and the future.

Where did the pirates come from? How did they live before becoming pirates? What is true and what is made up in the pirate stories that became part of our collective childhoods? We made this doodle book for you to play and invent things together. On each page you'll find our questions, short notes, or advice. Write your own fascinating stories, draw over pictures and engravings, ask your own questions, and look for your own answers.

Each book in the series In Pictures and Dialogues, is about characters from childrens play: they are Kings and Queens, Pirates and Ghosts, Witches and Knights.

I began writing it with my late husband, anthropologist and activist David Graeber, who remained a child until his death.



# Ghostship

The pirate world is made up of many superstitions and legends.

One such legend is that of a ghost ship whose haunted crew sails forever between life and death, between nothing and eternity.

**DRAW THIS  
SHIP AND  
ITS GHOSTLY  
CREW  
MEMBERS.**



1



2



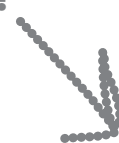
**MAKE IT A  
LITTLE SCARY,  
BUT ENDLESSLY  
FASCINATING!**

# Pirate Party

Empires run on prohibitions, punishments, and obligations to Kings. However, pirates were imperial outlaws and so had nothing to lose! Always on the run, they made sure to have as much fun as they could in the time that they had.

**Everyone must  
have a good time!**

**DRAW A  
PIRATE  
PARTY!**



**DREAM UP SOME MERRY  
COSTUMES, MAKE UP  
WILD DANCES, AND  
WRITE SOME SONGS  
FOR THEM TO SING.**



# Pirate *King*

Was there ever a real  
Pirate King who ruled the  
seas?

It is said that the pirates  
never had such a leader,  
that he was a joke told by  
the pirates themselves.

5

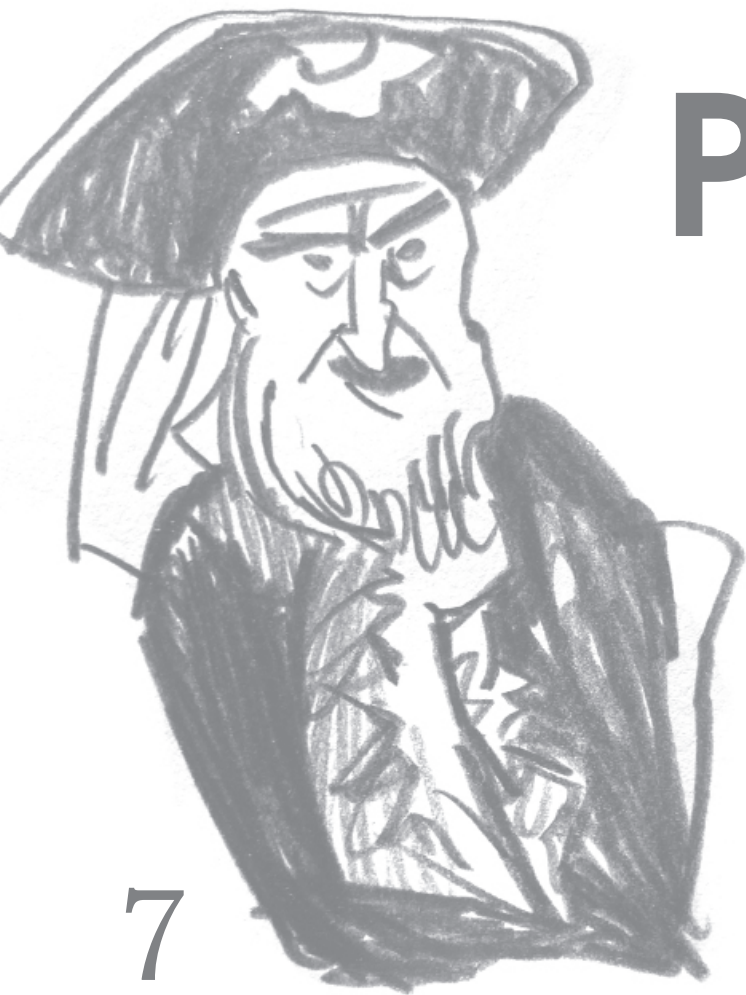
That's why you can draw  
him to look any way you  
want!



Come on!

6

LET HIM BE  
UNBELIEVABLE,  
IMPOSSIBLE  
AND INFINITELY  
BEAUTIFUL!



7

# Retired Pirate

*Pirates rarely lived  
to very old age*

But some of the tricksters  
managed to get old in  
distant villages or in remote  
islands where the authorities  
couldn't catch them.

**DESCRIBE AN OLD  
PIRATE'S DAY.**

**WHAT DOES HE  
DO AFTER HE  
WAKES UP?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**TO WHOM  
DOES HE  
TELL HIS  
STORIES?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



**START IN THE MORNING  
AND STAY WITH HIM  
UNTIL SUNSET.**



8

Here's an example of the routine.

.....

If I were a pensioner hiding from the justice of the Great Empires, I might be constantly in fear.

.....

Perhaps long walks along the sea, talking to my parrot, would calm me down.

.....

But you write the daily routine of a retired pirate, as you yourself might have been.

.....

If you want to remove what  
I wrote, just cross it out and  
write your own over it:

.....

.....

.....

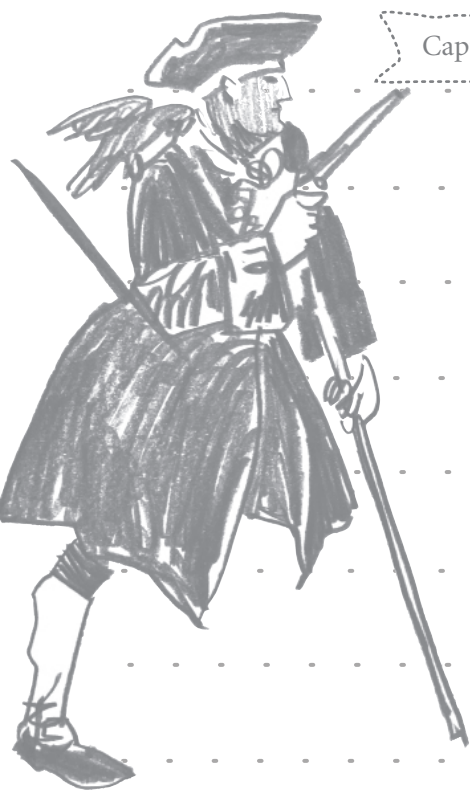
.....

.....

# How to make decisions

Great Britain, which ruled the world during the time of pirates, was a huge empire ruled over by a Queen. The Queen oversaw a massive navy and each of her majesty's royal ships was ruled by one captain. These captains were extremely harsh and cruel towards their crews, mostly made up of very poor and quite powerless young men. Everyone had to do what the Queen said and so everyone had to do what the captains ordered. No ifs, ands, or buts.

9



Captain

Ranks in a crew at the Pirate ships:

Cabin Boy



Quartermaster



First Mate

But pirate ships organized power very differently. We might call them floating republics, where big decisions were made by the entire crew.

**HOWEVER,  
THEY DID ALSO  
HAVE RANKS!**

Second Mate



Boatswain  
(often named  
"Bo'sun")

Third Mate

**WRITE NEXT TO  
EACH CREW MEMBER  
WHAT YOU THINK  
THEY DID ON THE  
REAL PIRATE SHIP.**

10



Ranks in a crew at the Pirate ships:

THEN, WRITE WHAT THEY  
WOULD DO ON A PIRATE  
SHIP WITH YOU AS THEIR  
CAPTAIN.



Carpenter

Gunner

Navigator



Cooper

Deckhand

11



Master-at-Arms

12

Powder Monkey

Cook

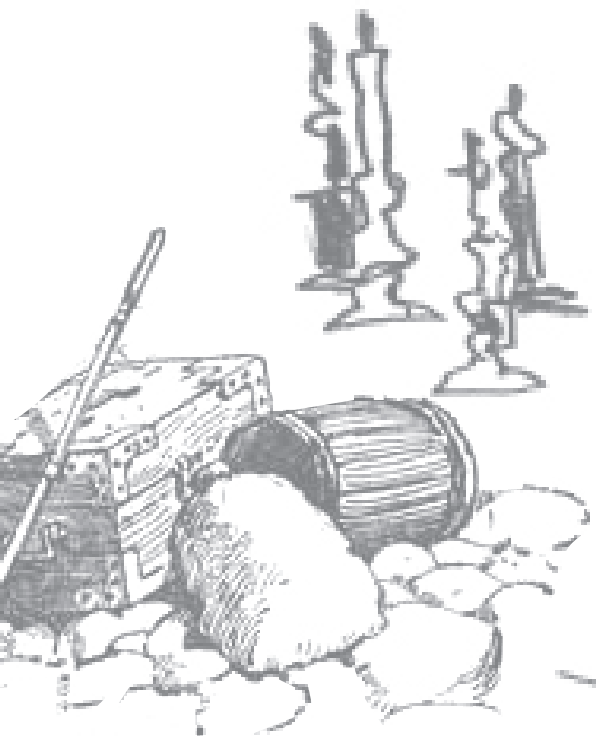
Surgeon



Striker

Helmsman





# *Dividing* the Treasure

Here is some loot plundered by the pirates after a successful raid.

**NOW DIVIDE THE  
TREASURE FAIRLY  
AMONG YOUR  
CREW 'LET'S SAY 20  
PEOPLE**

**HOW MUCH  
GOES TO:**

Those who  
lost an arm,  
an eye, or  
a leg



The Quartermaster

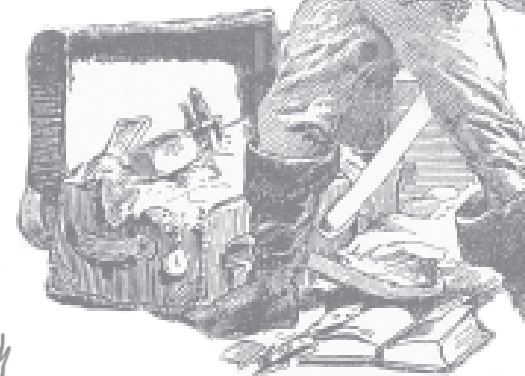
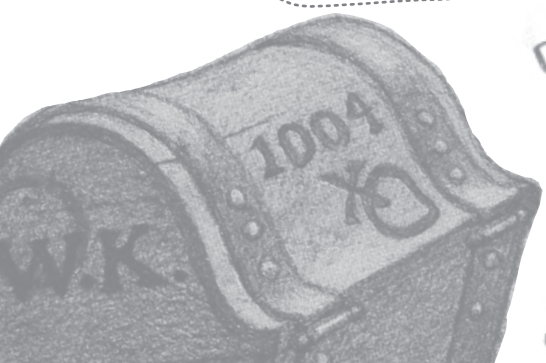
13

14

To the families of  
those who died in the  
battle

The captain of the  
pirate ship

The bravest pirates  
who rushed first into  
the attack



army.

**MADAGASCAR**

15

They were  
than-true  
took the  
with their  
wrath of



**WRITE A PIRATE  
STORY HERE ABOUT  
THE GREAT MIGHTY  
PIRATE KINGDOM  
ON THE ISLAND OF  
MADAGASCAR.**

16



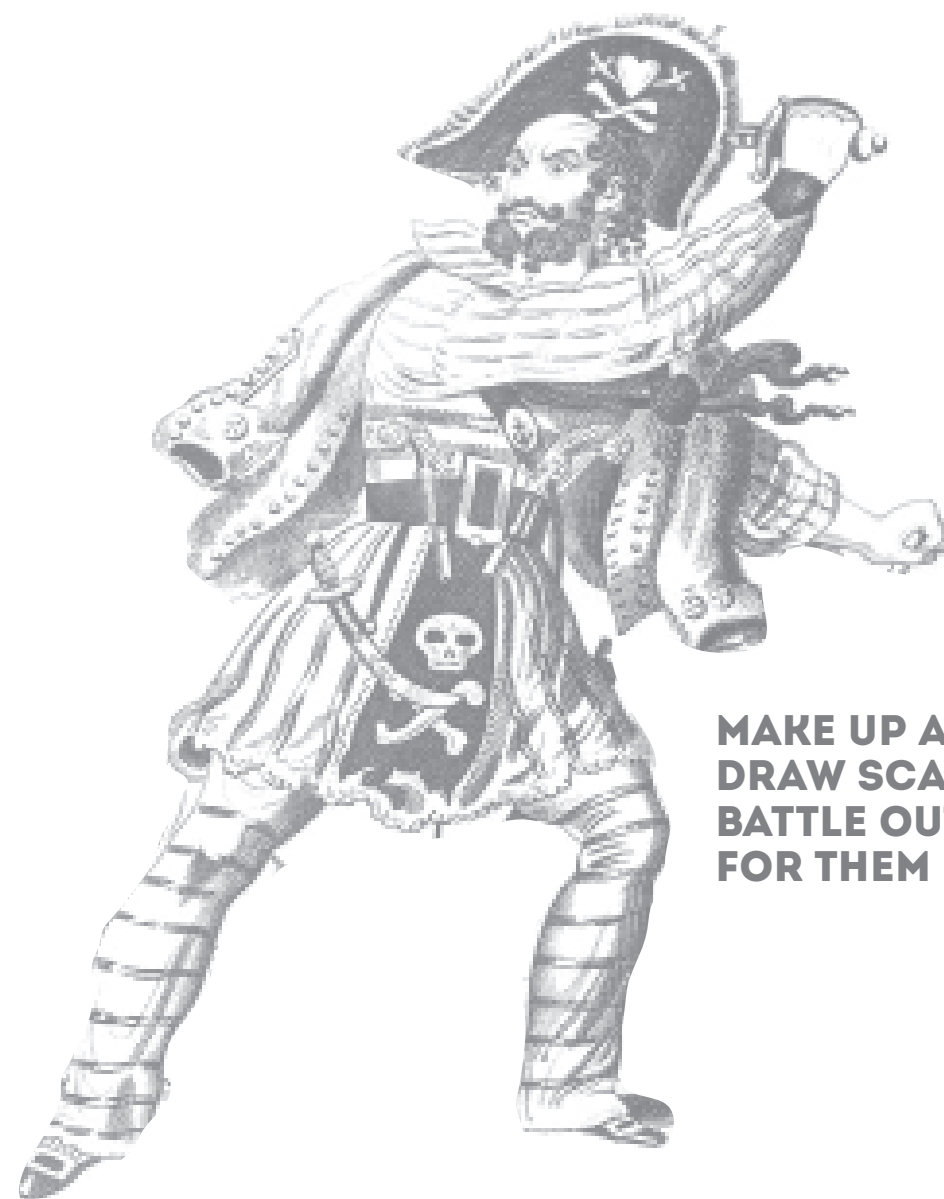
17



**DECORATE  
THESE  
PIRATES**



To make themselves appear even scarier, they wore masks, painted their faces, wore fangs, and made a huge racket by rattling and banging musical instruments.



**MAKE UP AND  
DRAW SCARY  
BATTLE OUTFITS  
FOR THEM**



18

**Pirates in**  
*buttle*

During battles, pirates were both fierce and frightening.



# Pirate *Flag*

Other ship captains feared the pirates' black Jolly Roger flag with its white skull and crossbones. But it wasn't a symbol saying «we'll kill you all,» but rather one that exclaimed of its crew «we're already dead and thus afraid of nothing.» Most pirates weren't in the business for the murder.

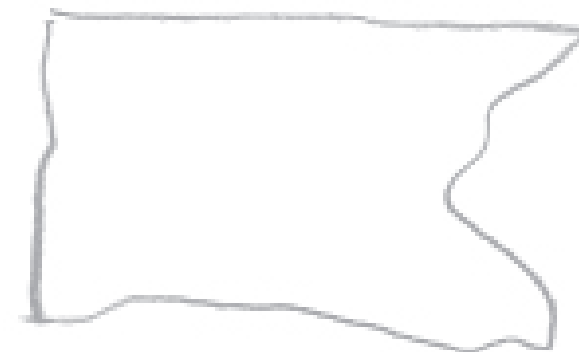
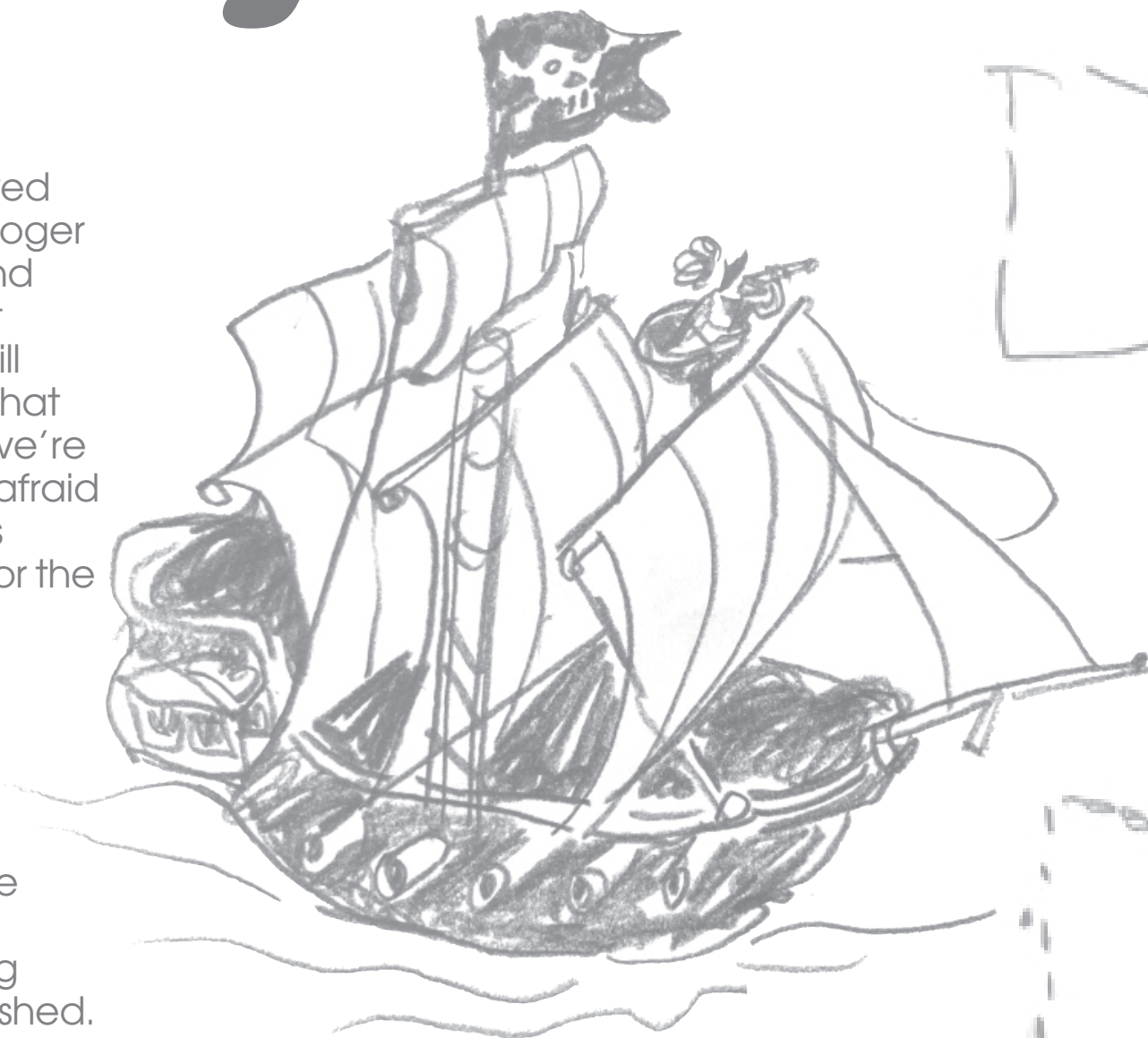
## 19

Most of the time, they preferred to simply scare other ship captains into handing over everything they had without bloodshed.



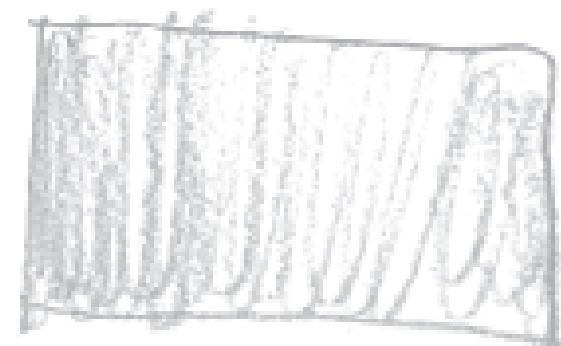
You are the captain of the ship sailing under the Jolly Roger flag. Soon, you will be raiding an enemy ship. Your rivals may be wealthy merchants, or slave traders, or ships, bringing treasure from the New World to the royal vaults of Spain, England, or Holland.

**DRAW THE  
FLAGS OF  
THESE ENEMY  
SHIPS.**



**LET THESE FLAGS  
TELL THE TALE  
OF PEOPLE WHO  
BUY AND SELL  
HUMAN BEINGS OR  
TRANSPORT LOOTED  
GOLD TO EUROPEAN  
KINGS.**

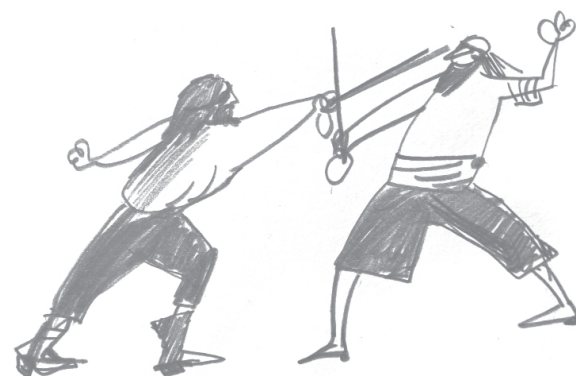
## 20



# Battle

Between who

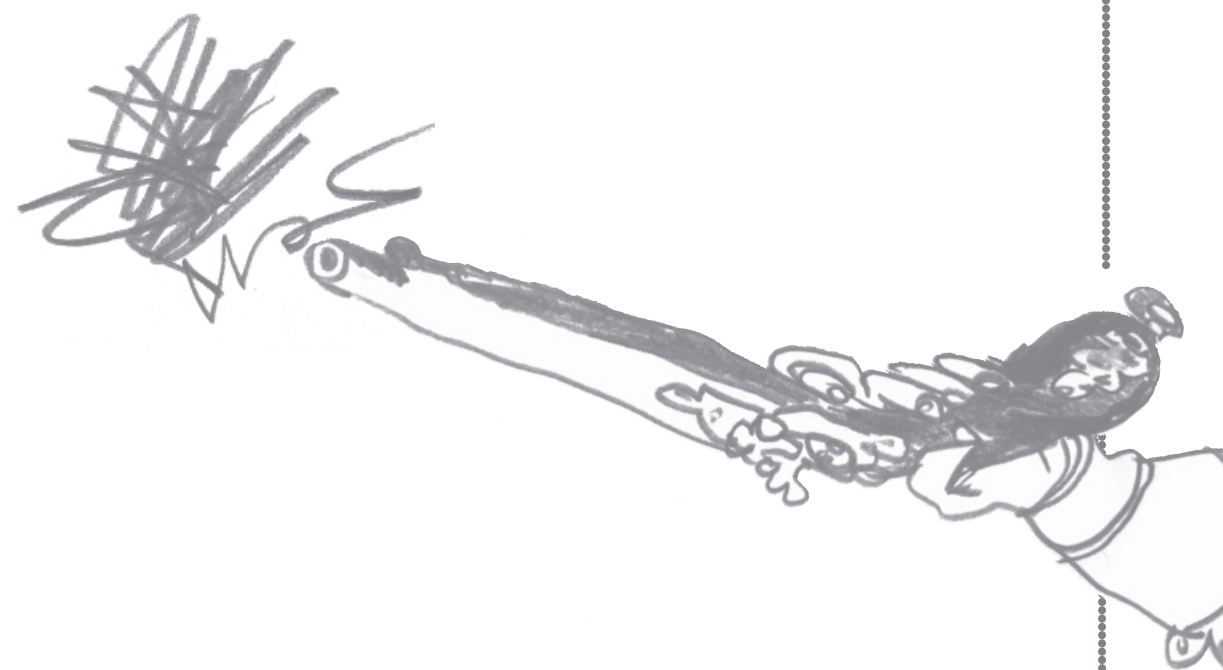
DRAW THE  
BATTLE!



21

22

And this is a fight!

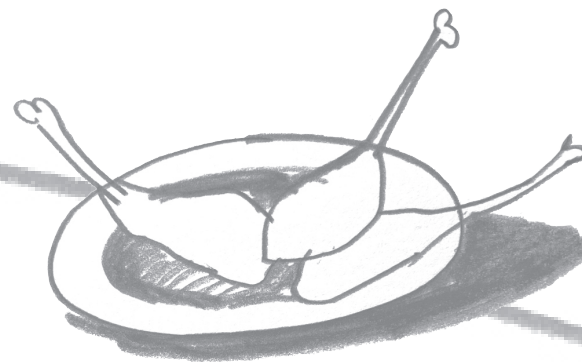


23

# Feast!

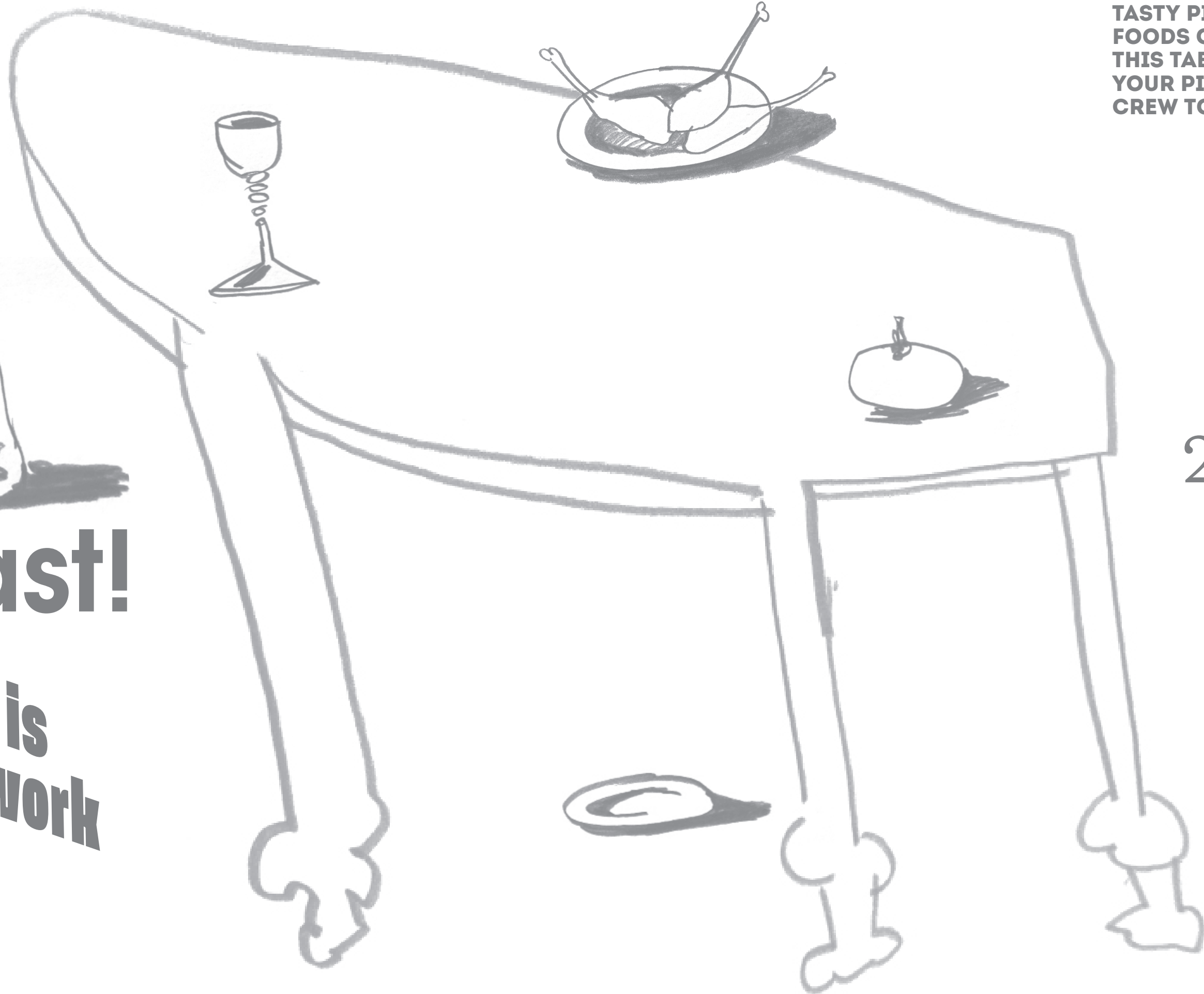
Plundering is  
hungry work

When pirates  
could sit down to  
eat, they could  
really eat.



24

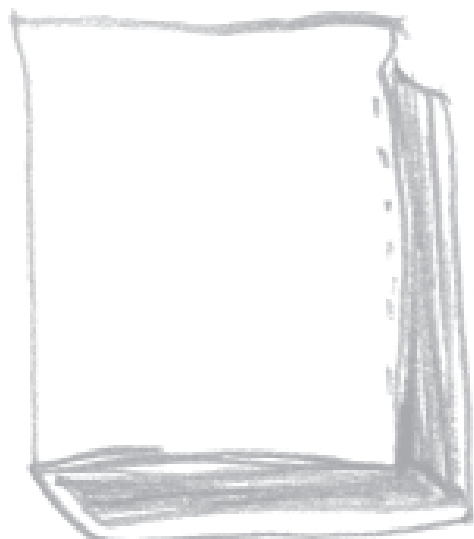
DRAW LOTS OF  
TASTY PIRATE  
FOODS ON  
THIS TABLE FOR  
YOUR PIRATE  
CREW TO EAT.





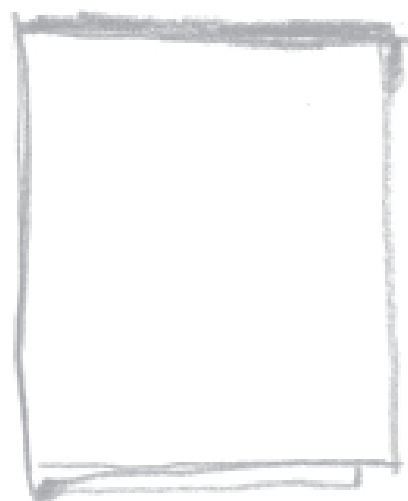
# Books about *Pirates*

There are a lot of pirate books.



25

**WRITE THEIR  
TITLES AND  
DRAW WHAT  
YOU WANT  
ON THE  
COVERS.**



26

---

---

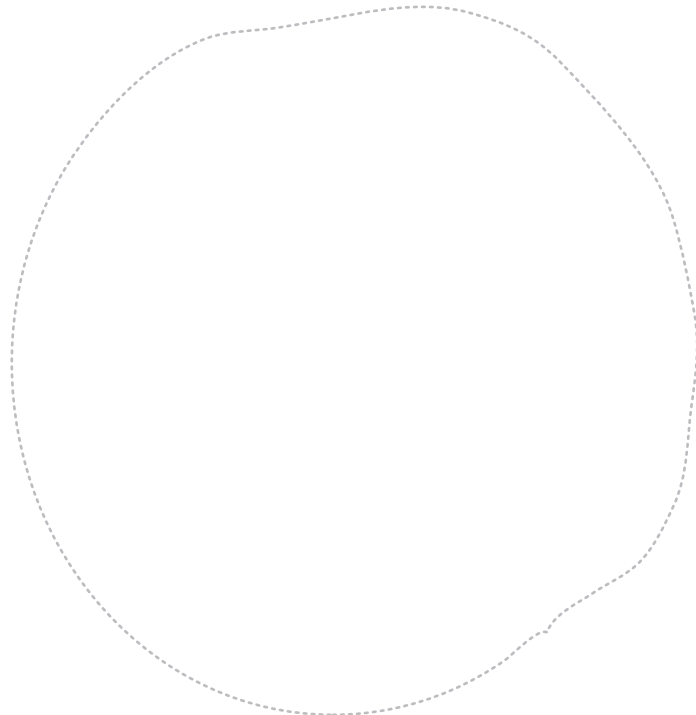
---

# So different...

Pirate crews consisted of people from many different backgrounds and from countries all over the world. There were Asian pirates, European pirates, African pirates, and even Native American pirates!



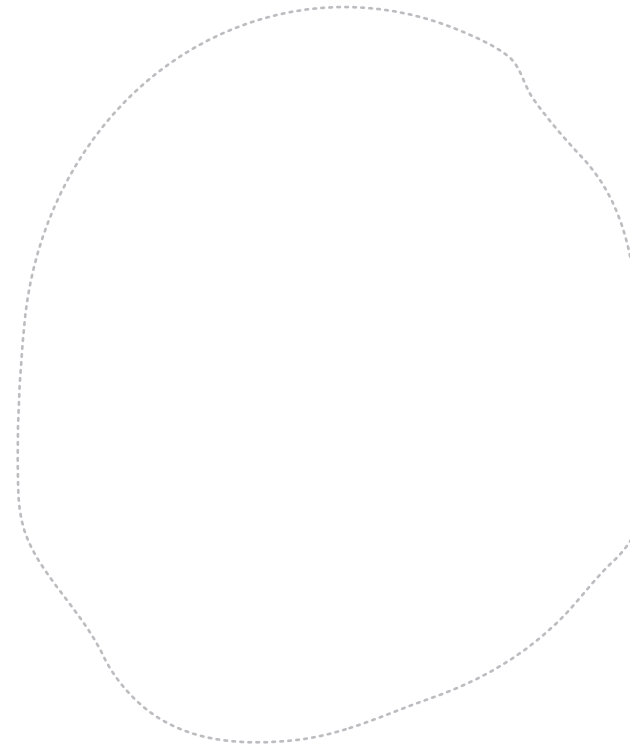
27



**MAYBE  
YOURS  
WILL HAVE  
MARTIANS,  
ROBOTS,  
GHOSTS, OR  
EVEN SOME  
ELVES IN IT.**



**IMAGINE  
YOUR OWN  
PIRATE CREW  
HERE.**



28



# Pirate secret *map*

Pirates were famous for  
hiding treasure.



29

HERE IS A MAP OF  
AN UNINHABITED  
ISLAND IN THE  
CARIBBEAN.



MARK ON IT WHERE  
YOU WOULD HIDE  
YOUR TREASURE SO  
THAT YOUR FRIEND  
CAN FIND IT FOR  
YOU LATER.

30





AND THE LAST ONE '  
IS YOURS! YOU JUST  
FINISHED WRITING  
AND DRAWING IT.



Each book in the series «In Pictures and Dialogues,» is about characters from children's play: they are Kings and Queens, Pirates and Ghosts, Witches and Knights.

I began writing it with my late husband, anthropologist and activist David Graeber, who remained a child until his death.

This doodle book is about pirates, adventure, violence, magic, and freedom.

Now it's filled with your drawings and stories, so it' become our shared book and game.

Thank you, dear co-author!

