



UNDER THE BRAVE BLACK FLAG



The history of piracy educational interactive workshop

suitable for children aged 6 to 11

Under the brave black flag is a workshop programme run by AMA Theatre Co. and is designed for students to study the history of pirates of 18th century. The workshops look at why some people became pirates and what their life was really like. The workshops enable students to understand the truth about piracy rather than the romantic versions often presented in films and books. The workshops encourage students to ask questions and discuss the topics covered.



The students also get involved by role playing short scenes led by the actors. They are encouraged to imagine themselves in the situations that pirates lived through and how they might react to the similar situations themselves.

The workshops are led by two actors who portray the pirates Anne Bonny and John Rackham. These characters currently feature in AMA Theatre Co's touring production, The Buccaneers.

Anne Bonny and John Rackham were a well-known pirate couple who lived 300 years ago. John Rackham was known for his flamboyant dress and gained the nickname, Calico Jack. The two characters are ideal for study on famous people.

The workshops are designed to cater for 60 children and last for approx 1 ½ hours.

Props and scenery are also supplied complete with treasure chest!



"It was brilliant! I have heard so much about it and also from the snippets I was able to see, you had the pitch and pace just right. It was an engaging presentation and one which had the pupils engrossed. Both members of staff suggested to me that it would be something we would look to have back in school if the time was right. That is praise indeed. "

Thank you again.
Steve Mills
Headteacher
Whitehill Junior School - Hitchin



The Workshop Session

Anne Bonny and John Rackham meet the students and introduce themselves. They tell the students about themselves, their lives and why they became pirates. They interact with the children and ask them questions about what they think pirates were really like. They discuss a life at sea both for pirates and sailors of the Navy.

The students then physically enact a sailor's duties on the ship. They have to learn how to pull up the sails, lift the anchor by turning the capstan and "scrubbing the deck." The actors create a scene set upon a ship of the 18th Century with all the children being part of the crew.

The children then immerse themselves in the war with Spain and discover how the king employs them as privateers. A kind of private navy to help fight the Spanish. The privateers get paid by keeping food, clothing and valuables they can get from any Spanish ship they capture. The children discover this is why pirate captains are always dressed in nice clothes as they have taken them from the rich men on the Spanish ships and the poorer pirates are in rags as they can only get the clothes from the poor sailors. They then learn that when the king made peace with Spain, privateers were banned and so they became criminals so they could survive.

Being Fearful

The pirates made themselves look really frightening to make people scared of them. One pirate called Blackbeard put little fireworks in his beard to make him look terrifying! What things could you do to make yourself scary?

Weapons

The pirates show the children how they used to fight. There were no weapons in those days like we have today and so they used weapons like swords and flintlock pistols. The pirates show how the flintlocks worked and they demonstrate a sword fight. The children then learn the basics of sword fighting with foam swords!



Follow up ideas

The children go away from the workshop with ideas of things that they can do later. For example, the pirates tell the children that each pirate captain made his own Jolly Roger flag. John and Anne show the children their flag with a skull and two crossed swords. The children can design their own Jolly Roger flag.

We have many years experience devising and running educational workshops across the UK.

The actors are DBS checked.

We have full public liability insurance.

All electrical equipment is PAT tested.

Prices

1 workshop in a day = £350.00 inclusive

2 workshops in a day = £695.00 inclusive

Tel: 01462 481 969 Email: enquiries@amatheatre.biz



www.amatheatre.biz

