



Black John - the Bogus Pirate



The infamous pirate William Teach (1680 – 1718), better known as ‘Blackbeard’, understood the value of a powerful frightening image to strike terror into the heart of his victims. He was a tall man with broad shoulders and a thick black beard that he braided into pigtails, sometimes tied with ribbons. When going into battle, he wore knee length boots, dark clothes and a brace of pistols hanging in holsters on bandoliers around his neck. The whole outfit was topped with a wide brimmed hat, under which he would stick slow burning matches, which pirates normally used to fire their cannons, to give him the appearance of a monstrous smoking devil. It was this frightening image that Teach relied on to scare his enemies into surrender, rather than brute force. But, in spite of his fearsome appearance, ‘Blackbeard’ was never known to murder or harm any of his prisoners and was well respected by his crew. Blackbeard died in a battle with two English warships – the *Adventure* and the *Jane* – off Orakoke Island, on the coast of North Carolina on the 21st November 1718.

You can learn more about Blackbeard at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackbeard>

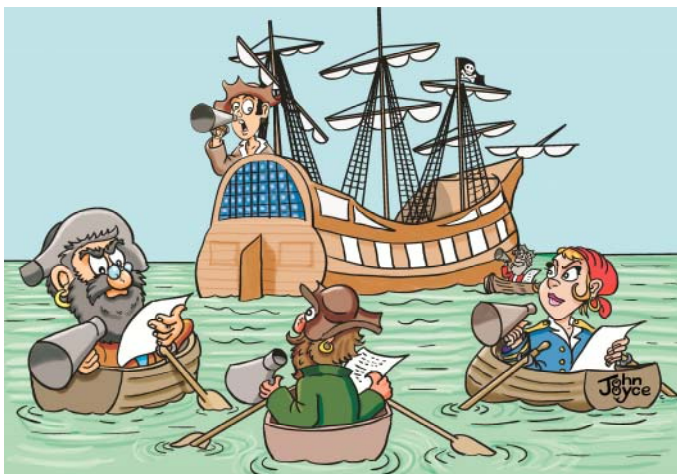
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By John Joyce



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Blackbeard the Pirate—Master of Menace!



Conference Calls for Pirates?

While the Ocean is the largest natural feature on our planet, it is still a delicate living ecosystem that can be upset by everyday actions you and I make. One way to help protect it is to cut down on the exhaust fumes

given off by cars by simply using them less. When petrol and diesel are burned by car engines they create the gases carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide – both of which lead to ‘Global Warming’ and ‘Ocean Acidification’.

In our everyday work activities, we can decrease the emission of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide by our cars, buses and trains (as well as saving a great deal of time and money) if we replace face-to-face meetings, that require people to travel long distances to attend them, with conference calls they can make from their homes or regular work stations.

Here’s a picture of a conference call I once organised for the annual general meeting of S.C.A.R.A.B. – the Society of Cutthroats, Rapsallions and Buccaneers. Mind you, my communications technology back then wasn’t as sophisticated as yours is today!

You can learn more about ocean acidification at <http://www.oceanacidification.org.uk/>

Follow ‘Black John the Bogus Pirate’ on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>

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