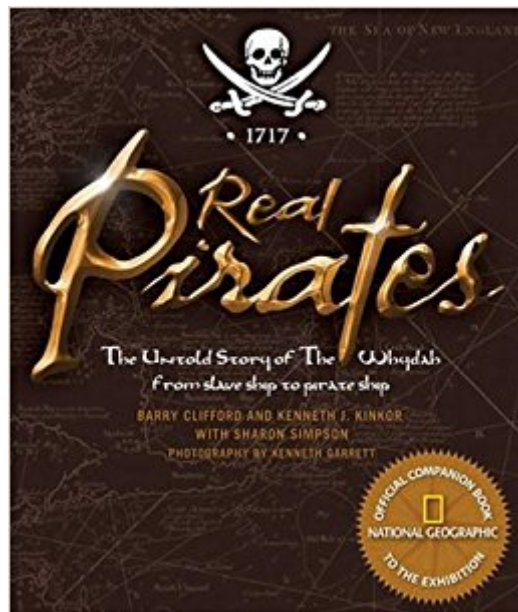


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Real Pirates: The Untold Story Of The Whydah From Slave Ship To Pirate Ship



Synopsis

The riveting story of the slave ship Whydah, captured by pirates and later sunk in a fierce storm off the coast of Massachusetts, energizes this lavish companion book to a unique exhibition on a five-year U.S. tour. Packed with plunder from more than 50 captured ships, the Whydah was discovered by underwater explorer Barry Clifford in 1984. Now, for the first time, its treasure holds are unlocked for public view. More than 200 items were retrieved from the ocean floor: the telltale ship's bell, inscribed "Whydah Galley 1716"; coins and jewelry, buttons and cufflinks; muskets, cannons, and swords; everyday objects including teakettles and tableware, gaming tokens, and clay pipes. The artifacts provide an unprecedented glimpse into the raucous world of 18th-century pirating and shed light on the link between the slave trade and piracy during those tumultuous times.

Built to transport human captives from Africa to the Caribbean, the Whydah made one such voyage before being captured in 1717 by Sam Bellamy, the boldest pirate of his day. Two months later, in one of the worst nor'easters ever, the ship sank, drowning all but 2 of the 146 people aboard. For anyone intrigued by the lore of piracy, the mystery of shipwrecks, or the sad and salty intertwining of slave and pirate history, Real Pirates has the answers. National Geographic supports K-12 educators with ELA Common Core Resources. Visit www.natgeoed.org/commoncore for more information.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1020 (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: National Geographic (September 18, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1426202628

ISBN-13: 978-1426202629

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 4

Clifford, an underwater archaeological explorer, used research and the artifacts recovered from the Whydah to tell the story of its life as a slave galley and pirate ship. In the process, he dispels many myths about buccaneers. Beginning when it was built in 1715, the author provides brief background information on the horrendous conditions under which people were sold and transported, and the Whydah's part in the trade. However, when it was captured by Sam Bellamy, its use shifted to piracy. Clifford profiles several members of the pirate crew, including 11-year-old John King. He outlines the pirates' organization and adherence to "Ye Articles of ye Gentlemen of Fortune," a list of laws covering such matters as how decisions will be made and prizes divided. Photographs of artifacts (cufflinks, buttons, utensils, weapons) and the recovery crew at work combine with large visually appealing paintings of dramatic battle, storm, and courtroom scenes. Unfortunately, the text font is small and difficult to read, complicated by the textured background of the pages. Nonetheless, the book is a fascinating blend of history, ocean-diving recovery, and archaeology, and demonstrates archaeology in action and the role artifacts play in informing us about the past.

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Barry Clifford is one of the world's best-known underwater explorers. Born and raised on Cape Cod, he has been involved in underwater surveys and recovery missions for more than half of his life. After locating the wreck of the legendary Whydah in 1984, Clifford and his team successfully located the main body of the shipwreck in 1998. He has preserved the Whydah artifacts as an intact collection, establishing a museum, the Expedition Whydah Sea Lab & Learning Center, in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Clifford is also an accomplished mountaineer and jungle explorer, a member of the Explorers Club, and a Discovery Quest Scholar. He is the author of Expedition Whydah, The Lost Fleet, and Return to Treasure Island.

I purchased Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship for a presentation I had to do for class on Phillips, Thomas, Buying slaves in Whydah 1694. I started taking bit and pieces from the book but I found it to be so interesting that I read the book. (Not into History!). I love the passion the author had about the Whydah and the picture were breathtaking

which also aided in my interest. After my presentation, my professor complimented me on the visual aid but little did he know I had the book with me as a gift to him. He's such an historian nut that I wanted him to enjoy what I had the pleasure of enjoying.

I liked this book very much. If you want to know all of the history of the Whydah, including what was found from the wreck, this is a great book.

This National Geographic Society masterpiece, written by Barry Clifford (the explorer who discovered the Whydah Galley) and the late great Ken Kinkor (noted pirateologist and the chief project historian for Clifford's Expedition Whydah), gorgeously presents the history and discovery of the world's only fully authenticated pirate ship wreck. Though it does fully function as a companion to National Geographic's "REAL PIRATES" traveling Whydah artifact exhibits, as it was originally designed to be, it stands on its own as a true work of piratical history.

A great story for history and/or pirate buffs. The recovery of the Whydah yielded a wealth of new and specific knowledge of pirate culture. Kids who read well and are interested in the details of history may love this book. We bought a copy after seeing the Whydah exhibit in Denver in 2011. My then-10-year-old son read it daily for quite some time. We misplaced the book during our move last fall. We thought it well worth replacing with a new copy.

Ken could have included more about some of the original crew who contributed greatly to the finding of the Whydah. I guess you can forgive him, because he wasn't working for Maritime Explorations with us when we found her.

A great companion for the Pirates museum exhibit. I saw the museum showing a year or so back, and didn't pick up the book then. Finally came across it in my recommended list and thought I should get it. It's a great read for anyone who saw the exhibit, goes in all the details and a lot of info on the teams who found the wreck.

Very interesting story of early pirates and the recent find of their ship and booty. Well done and is a perfect accompaniment to the exhibition if you get a chance to visit a museum that has it on display.

saw this exhibit in Philadelphia years ago. was thrilled to find this book, loved reading it. will read it

again.

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