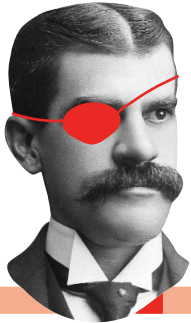


Knights of the Black Flag



I'm Fred Olds,
founder of this museum.
Find a few of my
favorite things—and see
if you can answer
my *questions!*

Fred's Finds

A **Painting, Forty Thieves**

One of the thieves in the painting is not human. Can you find this thief?

B **Nabataean Aila Amphora, 7th century CE**

How would you cork this container?

C **Black Tea Brick**

Find the tea (*clue: looks like a big, fancy chocolate bar*). What other foods can you name in this pirate loot?

D **Queen Anne Pistol**

Some modern pirates stay on dry land and don't have guns. What's a weapon they use?

E **Compass**

Using your arm as a compass needle, point north. ★ Did you get it right?

F **Alleged Skull of Edward Teach, alias Blackbeard**

Does your family have a legend or special keepsake?

G **Cannon C21**

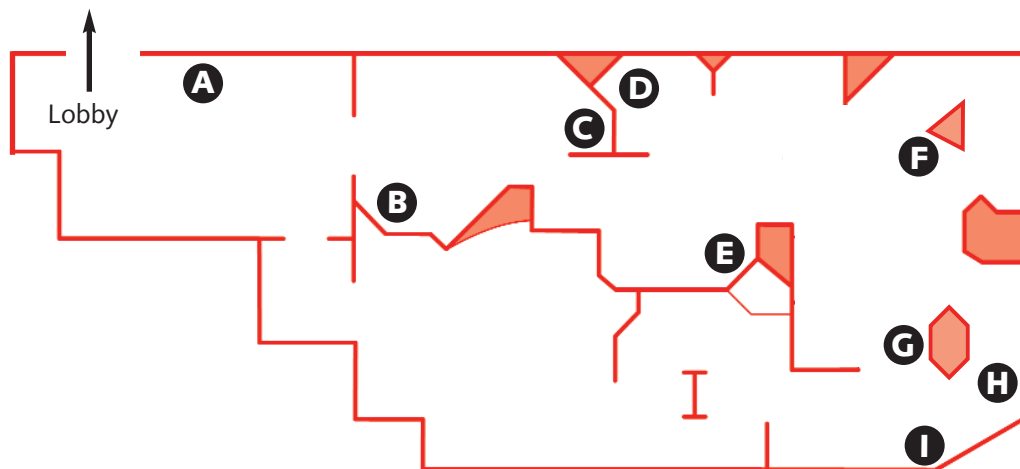
How loud do you think this cannon sounded?

H **Sailcloth Needle**

What do you think would happen if the crew didn't mend a ship's sails?

I **Bell**

Look for markings on the bell. What year was it made?



NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

History Happens Here

MORE Loot (Information)! →

Please return this guide to one of the gallery racks when you are finished with it!

★ North is toward the back of the gallery (look for Blackbeard's skull!).

Knights of the Black Flag

A Painting, *Forty Thieves*

Sailors have used flags to identify and communicate with other ships for hundreds of years. Pirates flew flags that displayed frightening images (see the black and red flags in the painting). The skull and crossbones stood for death. The spear piercing a bleeding heart meant that a slow and painful death awaited.

B Nabataean Aila Amphora

(na-buh-TEE-un AM-fuh-ruh) Pirates appeared almost as soon as ships began to carry goods for trade with other countries. The pottery vessel here was made by the Nabataeans, who were actively trading and engaging in piracy on the Red Sea over 2,000 years ago. Amphorae like this one might have been used to transport valuable liquids like olive oil or grains such as wheat and oats.

C Black Tea Brick

It didn't shine or sparkle, but tea was popular and expensive—good loot for a pirate. Dried tea leaves were packed into molds and pressed into block forms. These blocks were easier to transport and made the tea less open to damage.



NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

History Happens Here

D Queen Anne Pistol

Small pistols were a pirate's favorite weapon for boarding a ship because the sea-thief could carry several of the guns already loaded and tucked in his clothing. A flintlock pistol was good for only one shot, so carrying many pistols allowed a pirate to fire several times without stopping to reload. Once empty, a pistol could then be used like a club by holding the barrel and hitting someone with the handle, or butt, of the gun.

E Compass

Pirates had to be skilled sailors and would have had to know how to navigate using several methods. Ancient pirates had to depend on the water's depth and the sun, moon, and stars to help them navigate. The compass greatly helped with navigation because it used the earth's magnetic field to point north. Even on a cloudy day or night, a pirate would have known in which direction he was headed.

F Alleged Skull of Edward Teach, alias Blackbeard

In 1718 the governor of Virginia sent two ships to the Carolina coast to hunt down the pirate and his crew. They fought and killed Blackbeard on November 22 at Ocracoke Inlet. The ship *Adventure* sailed back to Virginia with Blackbeard's head tied to its bowsprit.* Legends about his death sprang up, including the claim that Teach's headless body swam around the *Adventure* before sinking.

*A piece of wood sticking out from the bow, or front, of a ship.

G Cannon C21

This gun was brought up from the *QAR* wreckage in 1999 and could have been mounted on the rail of the ship. Archaeologists discovered that this cannon was still loaded with a single one-half-pound cannonball! Pirates would use fire or a spark to ignite a charge of gunpowder at the gun's base. The resulting explosion would throw the cannonball toward the crew of an unlucky ship.

H Sailcloth Needle

Ships of this time had no motors. They depended on the wind in their huge sails to carry them across the sea. The sails consisted of strips of heavy cloth tightly sewn together. A crew member needed a very long and strong sewing needle to prevent it from snapping when he sewed through several layers of sailcloth to repair damage from storms or attacking ships. Who would have thought a pirate needed sewing lessons?

I Bell

This bell was one of two bells recovered from the *QAR* wreckage. Crews used bells like this one for signaling other ships, sounding alarms, and even keeping time. One of the ship's boys had the duty of watching the trickle of sand through an hourglass and turning it over when the sand had run out. When he turned the glass, he struck the bell to signal that he had done his duty. U.S. Navy ship crews still use bells to regulate daily routine.