

Directions: Read the text entitled “Lieutenant Robert Maynard and Blackbeard, the Pirate” and read the poem entitled “Piracy Runs Aground,” then answer the questions that follow.

Lieutenant Robert Maynard and Blackbeard, the Pirate

- 1 In the early eighteenth century, the best known figure in the "Golden Age of Piracy" was slain in North Carolina waters by an officer of the Royal Navy. The story is one of the best-known tales associated with North Carolina history and, like most stories involving pirates, it has become the province of legend.
- 2 By the fall of 1718, the reputation of Edward Teach (Thatch)—better known as the fearsome pirate Blackbeard had spread far and wide. Colonial governments (particularly that of Virginia) grew concerned about their shipping, and acts of piracy along the coast of Virginia and North Carolina, regardless of facts, were attributed to Blackbeard and his crew. Teach and his band of sea robbers had taken to using North Carolina’s treacherous coast (with its shallow inlets and sounds) for protection. Virginia’s governor Alexander Spotswood hatched a scheme to destroy Blackbeard.
- 3 Two British warships, the *Pearl* and the *Lyme*, had been furnished by the Crown to help protect Virginia from pirates. The ships, however, were too large and heavy to navigate the shallow inlets of North Carolina’s barrier islands, forcing Spotswood to commission the use of two sloops (at his own expense) to accomplish his objective. British naval crews from the *Pearl* and *Lyme* manned these swift, shallow-draft vessels on their mission to find Blackbeard. In November 1718, as a contingent of British troops marched overland toward Bath, the two Royal sloops—*Ranger* and *Jane*—embarked for North Carolina under command of Lt. Robert Maynard, of the *Pearl*. Stopping various vessels along the way, Maynard was able to determine where the famous pirate was hiding.
- 4 Blackbeard’s infamous flagship, the *Queen Anne’s Revenge*, had run aground off Topsail (now Beaufort) Inlet in June 1718. Teach had transferred to an armed sloop, the *Adventure*, with a greatly reduced crew. Lieutenant Maynard had about sixty men from the Royal Navy aboard his own vessels (which were guided by local pilots) as they slipped into Ocracoke Inlet on the morning of November 22, 1718.

- 5 Raising the Union Jack aboard their sloops, the British sailors maneuvered to engage Blackbeard’s vessel. Familiar with the waters, Blackbeard lured the Royal sloops onto a sand bar, where they temporarily ran aground. The pirate ship then unleashed a devastating broadside (with eight cannons) that tore into both of Maynard’s vessels. In an effort to get off the sand bar, the crew aboard Maynard’s vessel (*Jane*) jettisoned the ship’s ballast. As Maynard steered toward Blackbeard’s sloop (which had also run aground), the lieutenant ordered his men below decks in hopes of luring the pirates aboard the Royal sloop. As the ships drew alongside one another, the pirates threw improvised grenades onto the deck of Maynard’s sloop. The rogues then threw out their grappling irons and boarded the Royal vessel.
- 6 Maynard’s men swarmed up from below decks, and a bloody hand-to-hand struggle ensued. Lieutenant Maynard came face-to-face with his famous prey, amidst a flurry of pistol shots and flailing swords and cutlasses. Maynard shot the pirate captain, and British sailors swarmed in to finish the job. When the battle ended, Maynard counted five pistol shots and numerous severe cuts on Blackbeard’s body. The surviving pirates (all wounded) either surrendered or jumped overboard. Casualties on both sides were significant, given the small numbers engaged. Maynard, himself slightly wounded, boarded the pirate sloop *Adventure* and discovered a number of important papers, including a letter to Blackbeard from Tobias Knight, the Secretary of the Colony of North Carolina.
- 7 Blackbeard’s head had been severed, and his body dumped overboard. The King’s men sailed to Bath to repair their vessels, heal their wounds, and make contact with the British land force. Maynard then sailed the pirate sloop *Adventure* back to Virginia in late December. When Maynard dropped anchor on the James River in January 1719, Blackbeard’s severed head was hanging from the bowsprit of the sloop he once commanded. Fifteen members of Blackbeard’s former crew were eventually tried and executed in Williamsburg, Virginia, on the charge of piracy.
- 8 Discovered in November 1996, what is presumed to be the wreck of Blackbeard’s flagship *Queen Anne’s Revenge* lies in North Carolina waters off Beaufort Inlet. The site is governed by the State and is protected by surveillance equipment.

References:

David Cordingly, *Under the Blag Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates* (1995)
Robert E. Lee, *Blackbeard the Pirate: A Reappraisal of his Life and Times* (1974)
Hugh F. Rankin, *The Pirates of Colonial North Carolina* (1960)
Queen Anne’s Revenge website: <http://www.qaronline.org>

Piracy Runs Aground

By J. Patrick Lewis

1 A week beyond the Charleston blockade,
The crafty Edward Teach devised a stunning
Deception worthy of a kind of cunning.
He and a few trustworthy mates betrayed
5 So many hearties who’d been Blackbeard-true.
In what appeared an accident, he planned
To run his famous flagship on the sand.
Until shock of his intrigue, no one knew
He’d steal away with all the jewels and gold.
10 Later, he hoped to wrangle a King’s pardon
For piracy. But adversaries harden---
Things fall apart, the center does not hold.
Months later, he would leave one thought behind:
The Pirate King, swashbuckling on our mind.

Renee, M. (Ed.). (n.d.). *Collection of Poems*. Retrieved March 10, 2013, from Melissa Renee website:
[http://melissa-renee.wikispaces.com/file/view/ POETRY+FILE.pdf](http://melissa-renee.wikispaces.com/file/view/POETRY+FILE.pdf)

Answer the following questions using the text entitled "Lieutenant Robert Maynard and Blackbeard, The Pirate".

1. Blackbeard, otherwise known as Edward Teach (Thatch), had which two colonial governments concerned about shipping and acts of piracy against their coasts?
 - A. Virginia and Maryland
 - B. North Carolina and South Carolina
 - C. Georgia and South Carolina
 - D. Virginia and North Carolina
 - E. Georgia and Florida

2. In paragraph #3, the word commission means:
 - A. A group of people authorized to perform certain duties
 - B. A fee or percentage allowed a salesperson
 - C. To put into active service
 - D. The act or authority to carry out a particular task
 - E. The act committed or thing done

3. Familiar with the waters, Blackbeard lured Lieutenant Maynard's British sloops onto a sandbar. The purpose of this maneuver by Blackbeard was probably to:
 - A. Ensure a bloody battle
 - B. Attempt to get the British sloops trapped on a sandbar so that he could escape
 - C. Attempt to trap the British sloops so that he could rob them
 - D. Attempt to snare the British sloops on a sandbar so that he could fight Lieutenant Maynard
 - E. Run his own ship aground and try to take one of the British sloops

4. In January 1719, Lieutenant Maynard dropped anchor on the James River in Virginia. At that same time, 15 members of Blackbeard's former crew were tried and executed for what crime:
 - A. Robbery
 - B. Thievery
 - C. Pillaging
 - D. Piracy
 - E. Gambling

5. Read this sentence from paragraph #6.

"Casualties on both sides were significant, given the small numbers engaged."

This sentence means:

- A. Only a small number of men died from each side.
 - B. There were only a few men fighting anyway.
 - C. The number of men that died, from both sides, was great even though it was not a huge battle.
 - D. Everyone felt very casual about the outcome of the conflict.
 - E. If there are only a few men in battle, only a few can die.
6. In what river did Lieutenant Robert Maynard drop anchor in 1719?
- A. The James River
 - B. The Rappahannock River
 - C. The Shenandoah River
 - D. The Potomac River
 - E. The New River

Answer the following questions using the text entitled "Piracy Runs Aground".

1. The poem "Piracy Runs Aground" is written as a:
- A. Parody
 - B. Sonnet
 - C. Soliloquy
 - D. Subplot
 - E. Free Verse
2. The poem entitled "Piracy Runs Aground" refers to:
- A. Blackbeard running his ship into a sandbar.
 - B. Piracy jeopardizing the shipping economy.
 - C. Pirates are becoming increasingly difficult to capture.
 - D. Blackbeard desires to give up piracy.
 - E. Blackbeard's plans as a pirate are not successful.

3. J. Patrick Lewis' use of "famous flagship" and "pardon for piracy" are both examples of:
- A. Alliteration
 - B. Allusion
 - C. Assonance
 - D. Consonance
 - E. Hyperbole

4. Read line 2 of the poem.

**"The crafty Edward Teach devised a stunning
Deception worthy of a king of cunning."**

What literary device does the poet use in this line?

- A. Hyperbole
 - B. Onomatopoeia
 - C. Alliteration
 - D. Assonance
 - E. Consonance
5. Read line 2 of the poem.

**"The crafty Edward Teach devised a stunning
Deception worthy of a king of cunning."**

Who was the king of cunning?

- A. King James
- B. King Edward
- C. Blackbeard
- D. King Charles
- E. King Henry

6. In the line "Later he hoped to wrangle a king's pardon from piracy," what does the word wrangle mean?
- A. To quarrel
 - B. To herd
 - C. To win or obtain by argument
 - D. To rope
 - E. To capture

Answer the following questions using BOTH texts "Lieutenant Robert Maynard and Blackbeard, The Pirate" and "Piracy Runs Aground"

1. The incident described in the poem "Piracy Runs Aground" is the same incident described in the article about Lieutenant Robert Maynard and Blackbeard the Pirate. Which answer best describes the incident in both the poem and passage?
- A. Blackbeard's desire to rob another British ship
 - B. Maynard's attempt to capture Blackbeard
 - C. Tales of Blackbeard's gold and jewels
 - D. Tales of the deceit from Blackbeard's hearties and mates
 - E. The story of Blackbeard's attempt to trap British sloops and evade capture
2. Which line of the poem confirms the incident in question #1?
- A. He and a few trustworthy mates betrayed so many hearties who'd been Blackbeard-true.
 - B. Until shock of his intrigue, no one knew he'd steal away with all the jewels and gold.
 - C. Months later, he would leave one thought behind: The Pirate King, swashbuckling on our mind.
 - D. Later, he hoped to wrangle a King's pardon for piracy.
 - E. In what appeared an accident, he planned to run his famous flagship on the sand.

3. Read the line from the poem entitled "Piracy Runs Aground."

"But adversaries harden—Things fall apart, the center does not hold."

This line probably refers to which person mentioned in the article:

- A. King James
 - B. Tobias Knight
 - C. Edward Teach
 - D. Robert Maynard
 - E. Alexander Spotswood
4. Read this line from the poem entitled "Piracy Runs Aground" .

"Deception worth of a kind of cunning."

Which king is the poet describing?

- A. King James
 - B. King Edward
 - C. Edward Teach
 - D. King Henry
 - E. King Charles
5. The article about Lt. Maynard and Blackbeard describes the demise and eventual death of Blackbeard the Pirate. Which line in the poem "Piracy Runs Aground" describes this incident?
- A. The crafty Edward Teach devised a devised a stunning deception worthy of a king of cunning.
 - B. He and a few trustworthy mates betrayed so many hearties who'd been Blackbeard-true.
 - C. Months later, he would leave one thought behind: The Pirate King, swashbuckling on our mind.
 - D. Later, he hoped to wrangle a King's pardon for piracy.
 - E. In what appeared an accident, he planned to run his famous flagship on the sand.