Pirates!: Teaching suggestions

Activity 1 TEFL.NET/EnglishClub.com

1. Put the students in pairs or small groups to work out their definitions.
2. Let the students work together for a just a few minutes before stopping the activity and eliciting feedback.
3. If necessary, encourage them to think of a traditional definition and a more modern one.
   Suggested answers: Traditional = A sailor who attacks a ship in order to steal it and/or its contents. Modern = Someone who infringes copyright of CDs, DVDs, etc.

Activity 2 TEFL.NET/EnglishClub.com

1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students work together. They may use dictionaries for this if necessary.
3. Stop the activity and elicit feedback.
   Answers: 1. pirate radio stations 2. software piracy 3. Pirating 4. pirates 5. piracy

Activity 3 TEFL.NET/EnglishClub.com

1. Let the students begin their conversation in pairs or small groups.
2. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 4 TEFL.NET/EnglishClub.com

1. Put the students in pairs or small groups to discuss their answers.
2. Monitor closely then stop the activity.
3. Elicit feedback. **Answers: 1. True 2. True 3. True 4. False (Captain Hook, not Captain Cook!) 5. False (approximately a third) 6. False (There have been several, notably Anne Bonney and Mary Read in the 18th century) 7. True**

Activity 5 TEFL.NET/EnglishClub.com

If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.
Answers: 1. The Sirius Star 2. c) 1991 (the year the Siad Barre regime fell in Somalia) 3. See below.

Quick Quiz

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find a word connected with this month's Talking Point subject: 'Pirates!'

1. The ship contains two million …BARRELS...of crude oil which is worth more than 100 million dollars.
2. The pirates are demanding a ransom of 25 million dollars for the return of the ship, the …CARGO…and the……CREW…….
3. Although piracy is …RIFE…in other parts of the world (for example, the South China Sea) it has increased rapidly of the coast of Somalia in particular because Somalia is in such a state of chaos.
4. The country itself has been torn by tribal conflict for …NEARLY….two decades, since the fall of the Siad Barre regime in 1991
5. The strategy the pirates …EMPLOY…involves basing themselves in a 'mother ship'.
6. The pirates are usually heavily …ARMED..with sub-machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades, etc, though they rarely kill the target ship's crew members.
7. The pirates are …EXPERTS……at what they do and can attack, board and hijack a ship in less than 15 minutes, it has been claimed.
8. Another possibility would be to send in the …UNITED…Nations in an attempt to keep the peace.

Activity 5 (continued) TEFL.NET/EnglishClub.com

Answers: BUCCANEER (B for Barrels [1], U for United [8], C for Cargo [2], C for Crew [2], A for Armed [6], N for Nearly [4], E for Employ [5], E for Experts [7], R for Rife [3]).

Activity 6 TEFL.NET/EnglishClub.com

This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)