THE ROYAL NAVY AND LESSER-KNOWN PIRATES

*IMPRESSMENT:*

* During wartime, the Royal Navy filled their ships with men in seaside towns
* Many of the crew on a Royal Navy ship were forced into service or ‘pressed’ into service (often against their will)

*BLACK PIRATES:*

* Many of the ships seized by pirates were slave ships
* These slaves could either be sold for profit, or kept as part of their crew
* Black pirates were entitled to the same rights/privileges as regular crewmates – bound by the Pirates Code

*FEMALE PIRATES:*

* Female pirates were quite rare – most disguised themselves as men
* Was odd for a few reasons:
  + Stereotype of women was traditional homemaker
  + Noblewomen didn’t have to work
  + Pirate’s Code forbade it
* **Mary Read:** 
  + Dressed as a boy by her mother
  + Became a pirate, then accepted King’s pardon, then a privateer
  + Joined crew of pirate Calico Jack in 1718
  + Fearless and sly – saved her lover from a duel
  + Escaped execution by the British gov’t by “pleading the belly”
  + Died of a fever in jail
* **Anne Bonny:**
  + Also part of Calico Jack’s crew – became his lover
  + Briefly fell in love with Mary Reed
  + Escaped execution by “pleading the belly” - Jack’s kid
  + Eventually released from prison, remarried, moved to the U.S.
* **Cheng I Sao**
  + History’s most successful pirate (early 1800’s)
  + Formerly a prostitute in China
  + Married a pirate – took over after his death
  + Massive attacks – 100’s of ships at a time – huge fleet!
  + Offered “amnesty” by Chinese gov’t (pardon for her offences) and surrendered her ships