How I Became a Pirate

TACT Rookie Show

March 20-29, 2026

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 pm
Sundays at 3:00 pm

2nd Street Stage
Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center
120 South 2nd Street

Sail off on a fantastic musical excursion when a band of comical pirates lands at North Beach looking for an expert digger to join their crew. Braid Beard and his mates enlist young Jeremy Jacob as they look for the perfect spot to bury their treasure. Jeremy finds that adventuring can be lots of fun, but also learns that love and home are treasures you can't find on any map! The whole family will love this delightful and swashbuckling musical adventure.

About the Thalian Association

Thalian Association Community Theatre is a non-profit, membership organization that's dedicated to enhancing the rich artistic environment of the Cape Fear region. Tracing its roots back to 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded to provide arts education and bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina. Today the Thalian Association Community Theatre produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall, offers a Youth Theatre program and professionally manages the Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center for the City of Wilmington. In 2007, the North Carolina legislature named the Thalian Association Community Theatre the Official Community Theater of North Carolina.
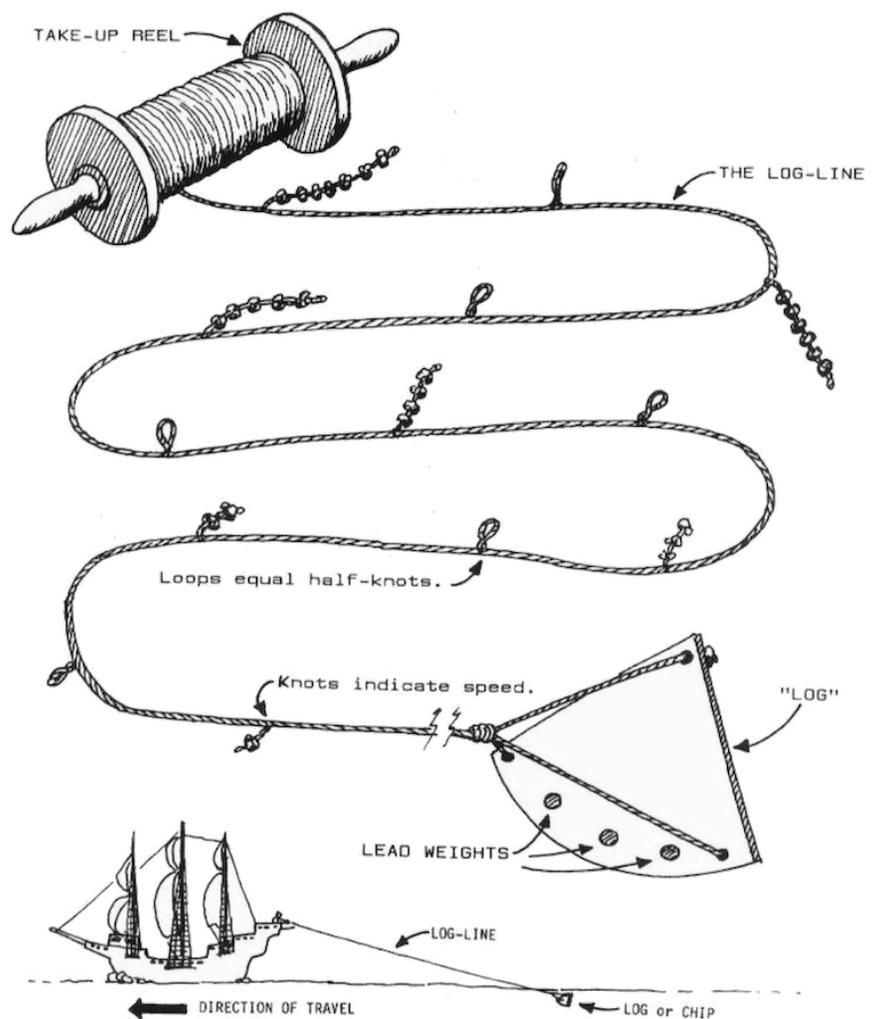
Charting Pirate Voyages

Pirates have wooden ships that use sails and rely on the wind to travel. This means that the length of their journeys can be unpredictable, and they have to prepare to live on the ship for weeks if they get blown off course.

The strength and direction of the wind can have a huge impact on how fast the pirate ship can go, which subsequently affects how long the voyage takes. Pirates often stay at the harbor to wait for a strong wind blowing in the direction that they want to go to make sure that their journey is as short as possible.

Now that you know how pirates travel, you can discover how long it will take them to complete a journey on their pirate ships by using unit conversions and a math formula.

Solve the problems below to find out how long each pirate voyage took. Keep in mind that pirates, like all boaters and sailors, use **knots** to measure their speed. Knots are the preferred unit of measurement for water travel.

TAKE-UP REEL

THE LOG-LINE

Loops equal half-knots.

Knots indicate speed.

"LOG"

LEAD WEIGHTS

LOG-LINE

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

LOG or CHIP

1 knot is the speed at which it takes a ship to travel 1 nautical mile per hour.

1 knot equals about 1.15 miles per hour on land, and 1 miles per hour equals around 0.87 knots.

Use this formula to answer the following questions:

$$\frac{\text{Distance (in nautical miles)}}{\text{Speed (in knots/nautical miles per hour)}} = \text{Time (in hours)}$$

Example Question: Captain Braid Beard and his pirates are sailing from Emerald Island to North Beach to bury their treasure. Their pirate ship has to travel 120 nautical miles and goes an average speed of 10 knots (per hour) during this journey. How many hours will it take for the ship to reach the destination so the pirates can bury their treasure?

Formula:
$$\frac{120 \text{ nautical miles}}{10 \text{ knots (10 knots = 10 nautical miles per hour)}} = \text{X hours}$$

To solve for X, first convert the knots to nautical miles so you are working with the same units. Nautical miles will cancel out on the top and bottom of the equation. Then, divide to solve for the number of hours.

Answer:
$$\frac{120 \text{ ~~nautical miles~~}}{10 \text{ knots (10 knots = 10 ~~nautical miles~~ per hour)}} = \frac{120}{10} = 12 \text{ hours}$$

1. The pirate ship is sailing from North Beach and trying to reach Hidden Cove before a hurricane comes. The ship has to travel 60 miles and races there at 20 knots thanks to the powerful hurricane-force winds.
How many hours will it take for the ship to reach safety at Hidden Cove?

2. Captain Braid Beard and his pirates are sailing from Hidden Cove after the hurricane. They need to acquire more supplies, so they plan to plunder the cellar of an evil lord who lives in Palmetto Town. Palmetto Town is 75 nautical miles away from Hidden Cove, and the pirate ship sails there at 15 knots. How many hours will it take for the pirates to reach Palmetto Town?

3. The pirate ship is quietly sneaking out of Palmetto Town after plundering supplies from the evil lord, and the pirates need somewhere to lay low for a while. The pirates plan to sail to Coral Island, a tropical island far away from Palmetto Town. Coral Island is 150 nautical miles away from Palmetto Town, and the pirate ship sails there at 10 knots. How many hours will it take for the pirates to get to Coral Island so they can hide out?

4. The pirates are planning a raid on a rival pirate ship. They need to leave Coral Island under the cover of darkness to pursue the rival pirate ship, which is moored out at sea. The rival ship's crew are afraid to come to shore because they know Captain Braid Beard and his band of pirates are after them.
If Captain Braid Beard's ship travels at a speed of 8 knots for 10 hours to reach the rival ship, how many nautical miles would they travel? Hint - use the same formula to solve, but X will be in a different place!

$$\frac{X \text{ nautical miles}}{8 \text{ knots}} = 10 \text{ hours}$$
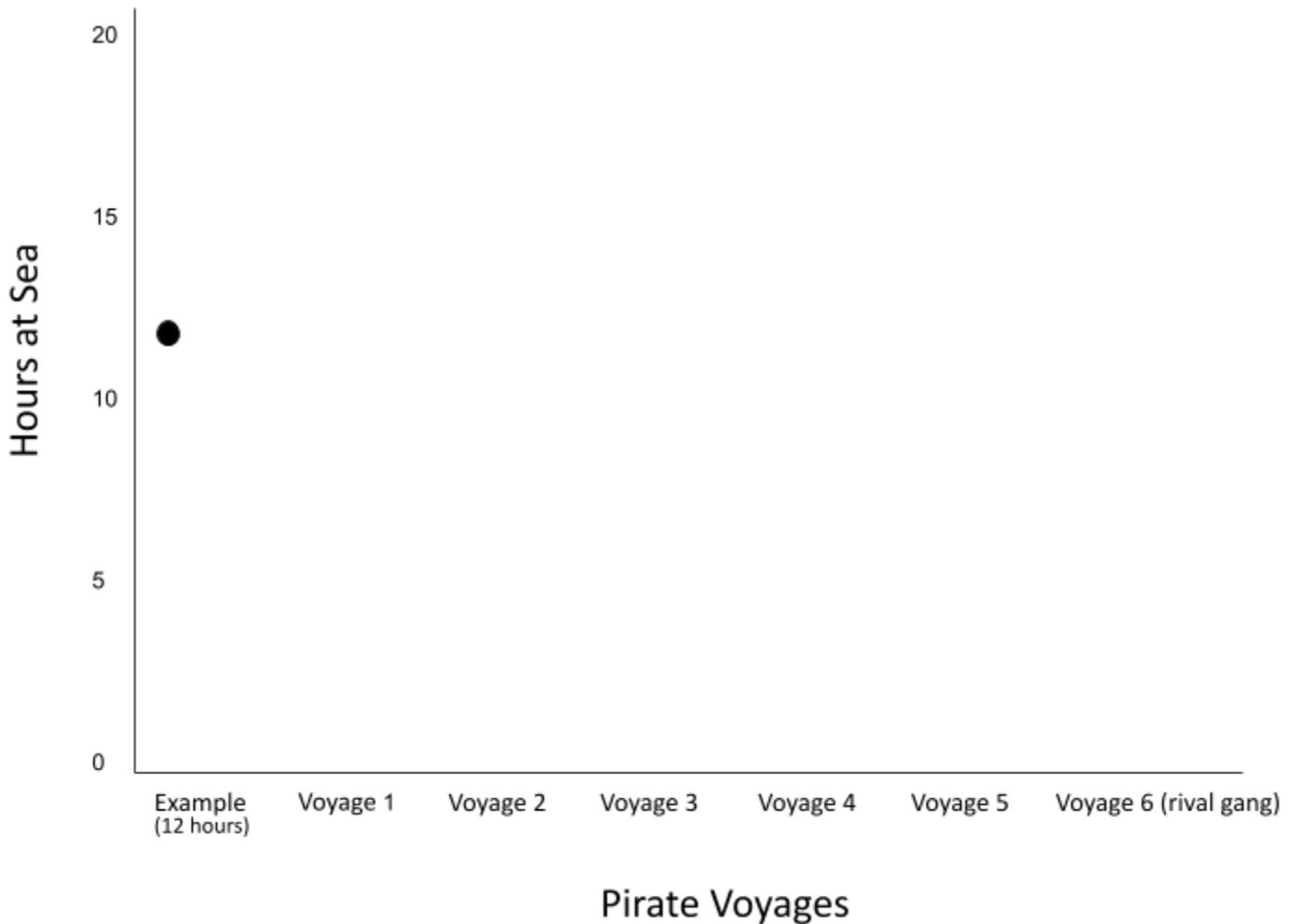
5. Captain Braid Beard successfully raided the rival pirate ship and stole three chests full of their treasure. Now he needs to sail to North Beach quickly to bury the three treasure chests before his rivals catch up to him and steal the treasure back. North Beach is only 48 miles away from where the raid happened, but Captain Braid Beard's pirate ship was damaged during the fight and can only sail at a top speed of around 6 knots. How many hours will it take for the pirate ship to reach North Beach if they go at the top speed the entire way there?

6. If the rival gang of pirates pursues the damaged ship and only takes 7 hours to reach North Beach, will they get there before Captain Braid Beard arrives and have time to head him off in order to steal back their treasure? Or, will Captain Braid Beard be able to successfully bury the treasure before they get there? Use your answer from the question above to find out who will reach North Beach first.

Now that you have answered all the questions above, use the number of hours that each voyage took to plot them on the line graph below. This will help to visualize the time length of each voyage.
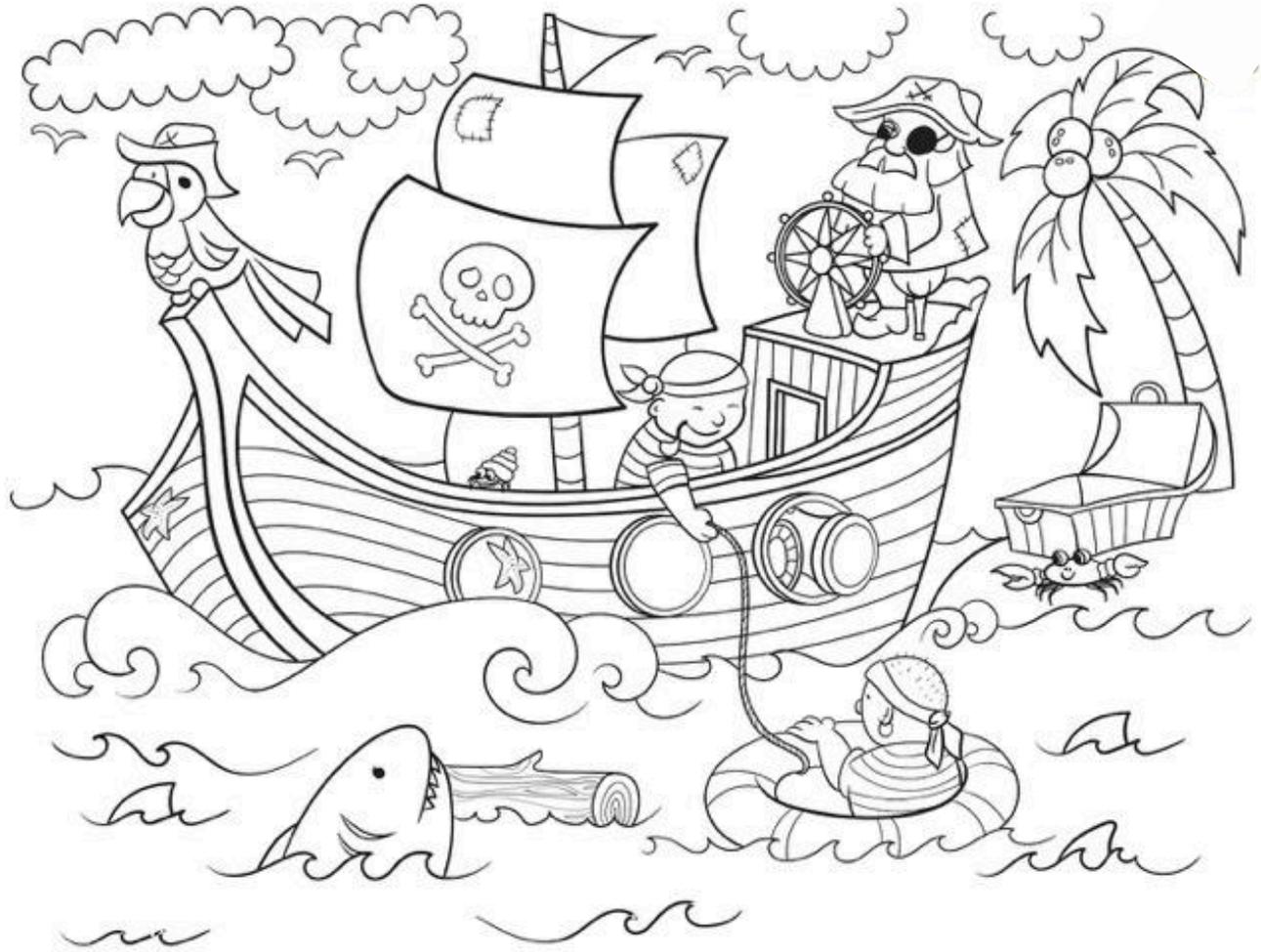

Which voyage was the fastest and took the least amount of hours to complete?

Which voyage was the slowest and took the most hours to complete?

Pirate Ship Coloring Sheet

Use your imagination to add color and bring this pirate ship to life!

Answer Key

1. 60/20 = 3 hours
2. 75/15 = 5 hours
3. 150/10 = 15 hours
4. 8 x 10 = 80 nautical miles
5. 48/6 = 8 hours
6. 8 hours is longer than 7 hours, so the rival gang would get there faster