

irates have been around for a very long time, in fact the word 'pirate' was first used by the ancient Greeks and meant 'attacker'. But there have been pirates ever since men first started to go to sea in boats. There were certainly pirates in Roman times because, as a young man, Julius Caesar himself was once taken hostage by pirates for six weeks! After them came the Vikings, but the Golden Age of Piracy is said to have started towards the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. A hundred years before, Christopher Columbus had discovered America and opened up a whole new area of the world to trading ships. Vast quantities of gold and silver were being carried over the seas, and there were some sailors who couldn't resist the temptation to make their fortune by attacking one of these ships. However, such rich cargoes were often very well guarded, so the pirates preferred to attack ships carrying valuable goods such as silks and spices, which they could carry off and sell quickly, or ships with important passengers, whom they could then hold for a huge ransom.

Most of these pirates were either French, Dutch or British and they called their business 'the sweet trade'. Some of them had originally been honest businessmen tempted to bend the rules; others had been pressganged onto warships to serve in their country's navy against their will, and the harsh conditions onboard compared badly with the much better life onboard a pirate ship. The pirate crew very often owned the vessel between them and voted to choose a captain. There were rules about how the men were to behave, including fair food rations, an equal share of any booty

for everyone, and even a time for lights out!

The famous hero who beat the Spanish Armada, Francis Drake, also attacked Spanish

treasure ships. The Queen,

Elizabeth I, rewarded him with a knighthood for her share of his booty, which amounted to around £200,000. Woodes Rogers was another famous pirate, who was later made Governor of the Bahamas. In 1709 he discovered Alexander Selkirk, who had been living rough for four years on an island where he had been marooned by his pirate ship. Rogers told the story to Daniel Defoe, who based his book *Robinson Crusoe* on Selkirk's story. When Calico Jack, a pirate captain whose real name was John Rackham, was captured, it was discovered that two of his crew were women!

Two of the fiercest pirates were Blackbeard and Black Bart. Blackbeard (Edward Teach) was a bad-tempered giant who grew his beard very long and twisted ribbons into it like dreadlocks. His favourite drink was rum laced with gunpowder! Black Bart (Bartholomew Roberts) was a Welshman known for his dandy appearance – he often wore a red feather in his hat and two pairs of pistols on a silk sash. Despite being both a teetotaller and a tea drinker, he was one of the most feared and cruel pirates of them all.

By the 1720s, the countries of Europe were fed up with losing their goods and men on the high seas, and they began to work together in various ways to put an end to piracy once and for all. After that, although there are still pirates operating in some parts of the world even today, we are more likely to come upon pirates in books and films, like Long John Silver in

Treasure Island, Errol Flynn as Captain Blood, Johnny Depp in Pirates of the Caribbean and our own Captain Hook and his crew.

Elaine Peake © John Good

# NEVER NEVER LANDS A GUIDE TO IMAGINARY LANDS



**Overview:** One of the most beautiful and difficult to reach islands due to its location somewhere inside a child's mind, Never Never Land is a fairly recent discovery.

Only accessible by air - though never by plane - it was first revealed by J M Barrie in 1904.

Attempts have been made to map the island and its large forest called Neverwood, but their ever-shifting shape and position have made these efforts sketchy at best. In fact, you might as well imagine it for yourself.

For visiting holidaymakers, certain warnings are in place from the Foreign Office, which advises travellers to beware of any loud ticking as it may be followed swiftly by dangerous reptiles. There have been reports of fierce natives led by a warrior princess named Tiger Lily, and even pirates, although the tour guides are more likely than the tourists themselves to be at risk of being kidnapped or skewered on a hook. Other alerts have been issued, particularly for families travelling with boys, who appear to be in much greater danger of getting lost on the island than their sisters.

Accommodation is variable, ranging from wigwams and tepees to forest dwellings known as Wendy houses, while luxurious swimming spots, or lagoons, are an attraction for any half-human half-fish visitors. Most of the inhabitants are lost boys, but other natives may vary in size, from big, scary men with twirly moustaches to tiny little winged creatures that fit in the palm of your hand. Strike up a friendship with one of these, and it can be truly magical.

# How to get there:

Cover yourself in fairy dust and fly "to the second star to the right and straight on 'til morning".

# Notable inhabitants:

Peter Pan, Lost Boys, Captain Hook.

#### Sights to see:

Mermaids' Lagoon.

# Things to avoid:

Pirates and crocodiles.



**Overview:** The first holiday destination to be seen in Technicolor, Oz is situated in a pleasant location somewhere over the rainbow, way up high. The locals are so familiar you probably feel like you know them from home.

Pets welcome.

# How to get there:

Get your house sucked into a tornado. Then just follow the yellow brick road to the Emerald City.

# Notable inhabitants:

Scarecrow, Lion, Tin Man.

# Sights to see:

Emerald City.

### Things to avoid:

Wicked Witch of the West and the Wicked Witch of the East (deceased).

Overview: Once an island (possibly) somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean, this ancient paradise spot (perhaps) disappeared under the waves long ago (maybe). The island apparently had loads of gold, ivory and elephants, which might explain why it disappeared under the waves long ago (maybe).

#### How to get there:

If you want to visit this today you may have trouble as 1) it's underwater and 2) no one knows where it is.

#### Notable inhabitants:

Atlas, the king of Atlantis

#### Sights to see:

Poseidon's palace carved into a mountain.

LILLIPU.

# Things to avoid:

Drowning.

How to get there:

MIDDLE-EA

Overview: Very different from Upper-Earth and Lower-Earth, Middle-Earth is also known as Endor. Its discoverer, J R R Tolkien, wrote: "The theatre of my tale is this earth, the one in which we now live." Just without all the shops.

> Unsure, but the country New Zealand offers very similar landscapes.

# Notable inhabitants:

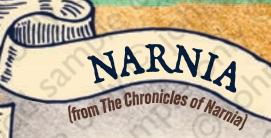
Bilbo and Frodo Baggins

#### Sights to see:

The views from the top of Mount Doom are breathtaking, though getting there can be a bit of trek.

#### Things to avoid:

Orcs, giant spiders, trolls, wraiths, balrogs... pretty much everything.



Overview: Created by its hairy ruler, Aslan, Narnia is full of talking animals so best avoided by anyone of a nervous nature. On the other hand, human visitors can end up as kings and queens, so might be a good choice for the power-crazed. Take some clean underwear just in case.

#### Indian Ocean inhabited by tiny folk one-twelfth the size of adult humans. Local battles have been going on for centuries about the

Overview: Small island in the South

correct end to crack open a boiled egg.

# How to get there:

The last known visitor got there by getting caught in a storm at sea, but we don't advise this.

# Notable inhabitants:

Emperor of Lilliput.

#### Sights to see:

Why not take a day trip to the nearby island of Blefuscu while you are in the area.

# Things to avoid:

Treading on the tiny inhabitants.

#### How to get there:

Back of a wardrobe is the best method, though you can also use a painting of a ship or magic yellow ring.

#### Notable inhabitants:

Aslan and Prince Caspian.

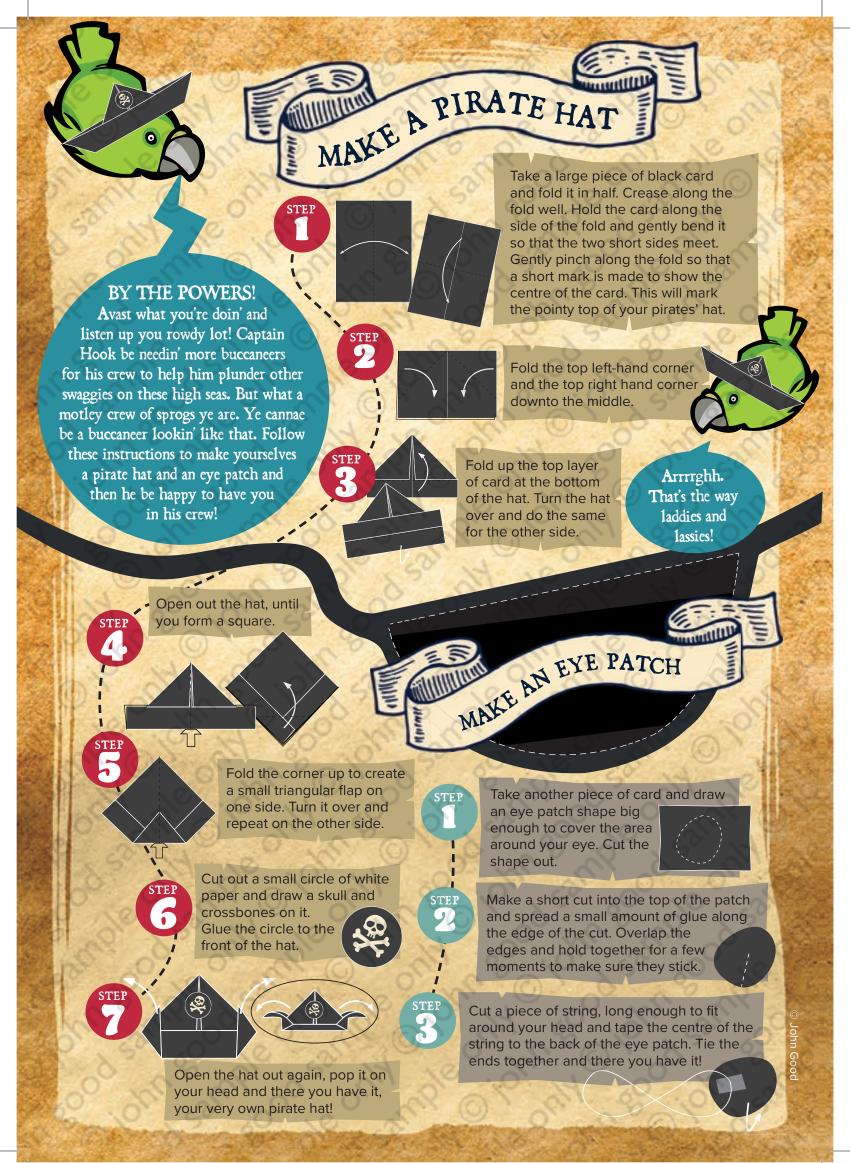
# Sights to see:

When it's covered in snow there's not a lot to see so best to visit in summer.

#### Things to avoid:

Don't accept Turkish delight from anyone.









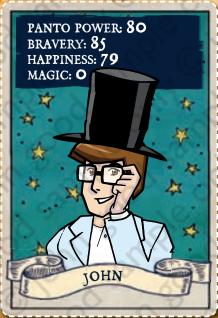
Use the panto stats on the cards to win cards from your friends. The one with the highest number keeps the card!



















# HOOKIE'S FC KIES



Mr Smee is in the ship's galley making Captain Hook's favourite biscuits, 'skull' cookies.

Why don't you try the recipe out when you get home? Ready, steady, Hook! I mean cook!

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 180°C (Gas Mark 4/350°F).

2

Line three trays with baking paper and set them to one side.

INGREDIENTS

Makes: 20-25

125g butter
(leave this out of the fridge for a few hours to go soft)

200g sugar 180g brown sugar

r egg

1/2 tsp vanilla essence

a pinch of salt

210g self-raising flour

a handful of raisins

a handful of chocolate chips

a handful of peanuts (or you can use more raisins instead if you are allergic to nuts) STEP 3

Use an electric whisk to break down the butter. Then slowly mix in the sugar and vanilla.



Next combine the mixture with the egg and then add the flour and salt.

STEP 5

Roll the mixture into small balls by hand and place on the prepared trays. Remember to leave enough room for mixture to spread as it cooks.

STEP 6

Bake in the oven for 8–12 minutes until the edges are golden brown.

STEP 7

When they look golden brown, take them out and place the tray on a mat. Now, while they are still soft, add two raisins (to make the eye sockets), one chocolate chip (to make the nose) and four peanut halves or raisins (to make the teeth), to each cookie.



STEP 8

Once you are done decorating and the tray has cooled, transfer the cookies to a wire rack for 15 minutes.

Remember to ask an adult to help you.

Have fun!!!!!!!



Munch those cookies to your heart's content!







