

Today, YEAR SIX, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April is planning day. You are going to make planning notes to be able to plan a piece of writing to PERSUADE someone/or a group of people on land to join your ship's crew and set sail.

First of all ask parents to read and talk to you about Harris's factfile about sailing in the 1700's below to give you some idea of life on board in the 1700's:

### **Sailing in the 1700's**

Sailing in the 1700's was brutal. Many sailors died from illnesses like scurvy (caused by a lack of fresh fruit and vegetables).

Many ships were infested with rats. Because of this, many ships had a dog or cat to keep down the rat population.

#### **Punishments**

At sea, punishments were harsh to keep discipline and prevent mutinies (sailors rebelling against their captain). Sailors could be: tied to a rope and dunked in the sea, dragged under the bottom of the boat or (most

commonly) beaten and often the whole crew would be made to watch.

### Jobs on board a ship.

Ships needed many members of crew to keep it ship shape. The main jobs included a cook, parson/vicar, surgeon, master gunner and boatswain (in charge of the sails). There were many other jobs on different ships. For example, in the Navy there were powder monkeys who were young boys who took gun powder in sacks to the cannons.

### Food on board a ship

The main food on board ships was salt beef/pork, cheese, fish, ale (beer) and ship's biscuits which were stale and hard. The food they did have was soon rotten or nibbled by rats and weevils and maggots.

### Press gangs

It was often hard to get volunteers to join ship's crews. So the government allowed groups of men to physically pick up other men and take them on board a ship.

## Illness cures

On board a ship, a seaman could catch many illnesses ,caused by disease from vermin or an unhealthy diet. Sometimes they were wounded working on jobs around the ships. A ship's surgeon worked in a small cramped space and their tools were blood-coated. Most sailors that were treated by a surgeon died not of illness but of unsterile conditions which meant that infection could take hold.

## Professional sailors

Often sailors were just children when they joined the Navy or other shipping companies. By the time they were 14, they were classed as sea men and then served until they were around 24 when they would become sailors in a local yard. These men were lured in by the high pay but by this time they were well off and could leave. Not many men stayed on to become officers and ship merchants. When someone signed up to the Navy they were classed as professional sailors and could be called upon even when they left.

Now you can start to plan.

Y6 My Plan To Persuade Others To Join My Ship On The High Seas
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Here are your planning headings to make notes:

**Introduction** (to catch the person's attention and to make a sailor's life sound exciting)...

**Present Tense Sentences With Reasoning (use because)**

For example you could magpie these sentence starters and complete them...

You will have amazing experiences of far off lands because....

You will feel important and valued as part of a ship's crew because...

**Emotive Sentences (appealing to the reader's feelings)**

**Rhetorical Questions**

e.g Surely ... Don't you understand that... How could anyone....

Who would not be proud to... Who could argue that..

**Sentences Including Other Persuasive Language:**

(look at examples from other tasks in the week plus you could use....It's a known fact that... I really feel that... In truth... )

**Conclusion**

(Final effort to PERSUADE someone to become a sailor in the 1700's)