Christiansted National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Junior Ranger Activity Book

Name:

How to become a Junior Ranger

So, you want to become a Christiansted Junior Ranger? To earn your badge, you will need to finish 3 projects.

1) Become an Explorer, a Soldier, or a Settler! See the next page for details.

2) Attend a Ranger-led activity – a tour, a walk, a demonstration

    a. Name of program: _____

    b. Ranger's name: _____

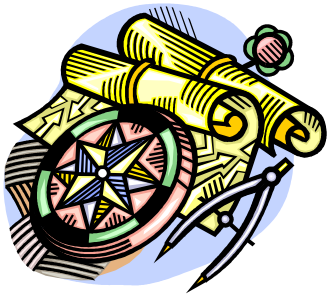
3) Complete a service project. When you finish your project, have your parents or another adult sign this form.
    a. Re-use something that you have already used in a different way, like reuse your plastic soda bottle as a water bottle
    b. Create your own brief ranger program to your family
    c. Pick up 5 pieces of trash (water bottles, paper)
    d. Create your own original Christiansted service project!

        i. Name of project: _____

        ii. Adult's signature: _____

Remember – safety is the most important thing you do. Have respect for the people and places you visit during your Christiansted adventure!

The Christiansted National Historic Site Junior Ranger Program has three age groups. How many of these activities can you finish?



Explorer

People have been coming to the Virgin Islands for thousands of years. They first arrived on St. Croix over 2,000 years ago. Ever since then, people have come to our island for its beautiful fertile land, its rich reefs, and many other amazing resources. Complete at least 4 of the activities in this book.

Soldier

Soldiers for the Danish West India and Guinea Company, along with enslaved Africans and a few settlers, arrived on St. Croix on September 1, 1734. After 1754, when the Danish King took control, the lives and conditions of the soldiers and the navy were greatly improved. Complete at least 6 of the activities in this book.

Settler

People have built many kinds of homes on St. Croix, ranging from ancient large buildings that were home to many families, to small farms, large villages, and even towns. Complete all of the activities in this book.

Welcome to Christiansted National Historic Site!

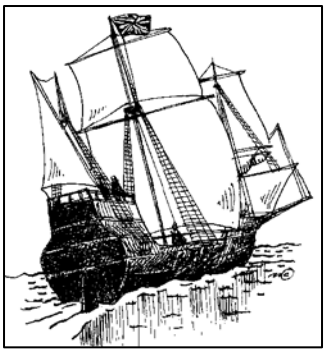
Welcome to Christiansted National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service! This park is also the headquarters for the other two National Parks on St. Croix – Buck Island Reef National Monument, and Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve. These three parks are unique in the entire National Park system – they reflect and preserve histories, stories, and environments not found anywhere else in the entire United States. These National Parks were created by local St. Croix citizens who were concerned about losing their history and their natural resources, their natural and cultural heritage. This Junior Ranger Activity Book will introduce you to this park, and to the history of St. Croix.

Christiansted National Historic Site was created in 1952, and is made up of five buildings located on 7 acres in downtown Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands: **Fort Christiansvaern**, the **Scale House**, the **Church of Our Lord of Sabaoth**, the **Customs House**, and the **Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse**. Together with the wharf area, the town of Christiansted grew up around these buildings, creating the center of Danish colonial military, political, cultural, and religious life on St. Croix.

During your visit to our park, please stop by each of these buildings and read the exhibits. Think of a good question to ask a Christiansted Park Ranger. Write your question, and record the Ranger's answer below.

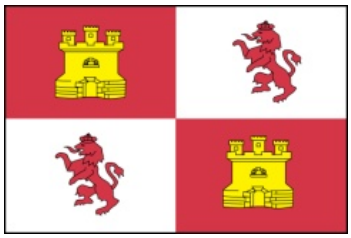
Your Question

Park Ranger's Answer



Explore and Settle the Land

Did you know that Christiansted is not the first town located at this spot? Even though **Spain** controlled St. Croix after Christopher Columbus visited in 1493, they did not take any interest in developing the island. A few **English** colonists arrived in the 1630s. In 1642, the Dutch (**Netherlands**) arrived on St. Croix and soon set up a small trading village where Christiansted stands today; the map to the right shows a fort and several houses and other buildings around the harbor.



France took over the island in 1650, and they continued to use the village located on the harbor. Not much is known about this period in Christiansted's history except for old maps; maps from the French period (1650-1696) show a small fort and a few buildings. France had the **Knights of Malta** control the island for a short time, from 1653 to 1665. When **Denmark** bought St. Croix in 1733, a map was made that shows the ruins of the French buildings at village. The Danish found the ruins of a fort, a church, some houses and gardens, and a few other buildings.

Even though St. Croix was a Danish island, most of the people who moved here in the 1700s were actually English and Irish; many of them came from other Caribbean islands like Virgin Gorda, St. Eustatius, Saba, St. Kitts, and Tortola. These early settlers planted cotton and sugar, but soon sugar became the most important crop.

The **United States** purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark in 1917, for $25,000,000.

Answer the following questions

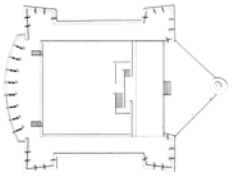
Who was the first European power to claim St. Croix? _____

Which country established the first settlement where Christiansted stands today?

_____

Which country controlled St. Croix from 1650 to 1696? _____

Who bought St. Croix in 1733, and gave control to a private company? _____



Who Rules?

How many countries have ruled St. Croix? Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in ◯ boxes and unscramble them for the final answer.

A. SAINP

B. NEGLADN

C. NELRAESNHTD

D. FECNAR

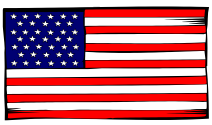
E. KITNHSG FO MTALA

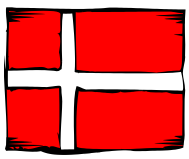
F. RAEDKNM

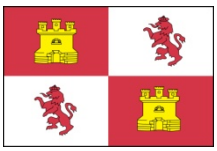
G. NEDTIU TASSET

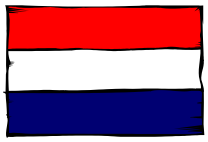
Final answer: | | | V | | |

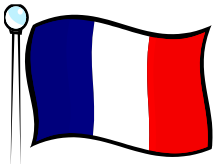
Put the letter of each of the countries above next to its historic flag (this will take some research – some of these flags are old and not used today. Use what you have read to find out when these would have been used.)











A Soldier's Life

Even though soldiers were sent to St. Croix to help build Fort Christiansvaern and keep the peace, the Danish West India Company did not think that a strong military was important. They did not pay for supplies or for the soldier's health. When the Danish king took over in 1754, the military became an important focus. Strong soldiers were needed to protect the important shipments of sugar and rum, and for protecting needed supplies from the Americas, the other Caribbean islands, and Denmark. Several new forts, smaller batteries, and guard houses were built around St. Croix. A **battery** is a small coastal fort built to protect harbors and rivers.

All free men between the ages of 16 and 60, white or black, were required to serve in a **militia**. A militia is a military force made up of local citizens who provide defense and help keep the peace. By the 1760s there were two militia of Free Blacks: one in Christiansted and one on St. Thomas. Other militia included a **cavalry** (soldiers on horses), and an **infantry** (foot soldiers).

In 1829, the militia corps was reorganized into 15 units and two cavalry squadrons. A Fire Brigade was also created that was made up almost completely of Free Blacks. The Black Militia was disbanded in 1852, but reorganized in 1907; the lieutenant soldier of the Militia Corps to the left is from 1917, the year the Danish turned over the Virgin Islands to the United States.

The professional soldiers sent from Denmark, however, did not do so well. Many died of yellow fever and poor diet. They also had to wear wool uniforms made for cold snowy winters in Denmark, not the tropics of the Virgin Islands!

Fort Christiansvaern has many cannons – small 6-pounder and large 18-pounders! "Pound" does not refer to the weight of the cannon, but the weight of the cannon ball.

How many 6-pound cannons do you see at Fort Christiansvaern? 18-pound cannons?

Why do you think the big cannons are facing the water, and not the land?

Work and Rest

Agriculture has always been important on St. Croix. Farmers have tried to grow many different kinds of plants on the islands' rich, fertile soil, like **cotton**, watermelons and other fruits, even indigo. But **sugar** was by far the most important. Sugar was likely first brought to St. Croix sometime in the 1630s, by English settlers. From 1754 until about 1820 St. Croix was in a "**Golden Age**," where sugar was planted on many of the estates, and some people became very rich. However, the people who actually did the hard work of planting the sugar, harvesting the crop of cane, turning the cane into sugar, and building many of the houses and other buildings on the island were people who were captured and enslaved, and brought to St. Croix from Africa and other Caribbean islands.

Over St. Croix's long history there have been three kinds of mills used on plantations, each using a different kind of power. The first was an **animal mill**, where a mule or an ox supplied the power to the grinding machines. Later in the 1700s most plantations had **wind mills**, where large sails captured the wind and drove the grinders. Finally, **steam** powered mills began to be used in the 1800s.

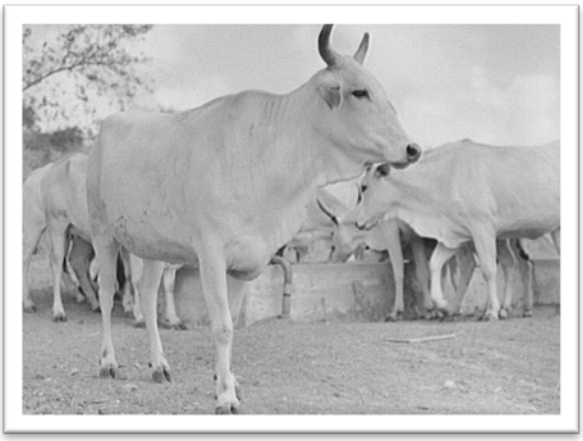
On the south shore of St. Croix cotton was planted on many of the estates. Even though cotton had become less popular by the end of the1700s, many planters did not switch to sugar cane. Later, in the 1800s and 1900s, many of these plantations began to raise and breed **cattle**.

Enslaved Africans also grew food and crops in small plots, called **provision grounds**. Some of these kinds of crops grown here were **sweet potatoes**, **corn**, tomatoes melons, guava, cassava, **beans**, and even tobacco. Some of these crops were for food, and the rest was sold at the **Sunday Market** by **women**. There were many markets all across St. Croix. The women would also sell eggs, chickens, bread, and firewood. The money they made was used to buy goods, like smoking pipes, jewelry, and clothes.

Dollars and Cents

From about 1750 until the 1820s, Christiansted was an important and thriving port town. The island was one of the wealthiest islands in the entire Caribbean. Christiansted was the capital of the Danish West Indies from 1754 until 1871. This success was mostly due to sugar, rum, and the work of enslaved people. There were five main kinds of goods that were shipped or **exported** from St. Croix: sugar, rum, **molasses**, cotton, and **timber**. By the end of the 1700s, St. Croix was one of the main sugar islands of the Caribbean.

Because most of the island was devoted to sugar, people had to **import**, or bring in, nearly everything else they wanted or needed to live. This importing and exporting of goods happened at the wharfs, such as at Christiansted. Items that were shipped from the island were weighed at the **Scale House**. Other items brought to the island came through the **Customs House**. At the **Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse**, goods were stored, like sugar, cotton, and timber, and slaves that were brought to the island were unloaded, cleaned, and sold in its courtyard.



Another industry that became important on St. Croix was cattle. In the 1880s, farmers began to raise a kind of cow with long horns from Africa called N'Dama. Over many years they were bred with other cows with short horns, call Red Poll. A new kind of cattle, called **Senepol**, was created just for the hot tropical climate. Senepol are known for their good meat and milk. They have been shipped across the Caribbean, South America, Australia, and even to Zimbabwe!

Did you know there used to be a dairy on St. Croix?

From Start to Finish

Many goods or **resources** are changed from their original state into something that we use, like wool and cotton into fabric. Below, match the original resource to its final product.

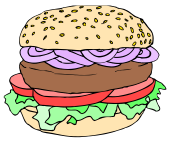
tree

candy

cotton

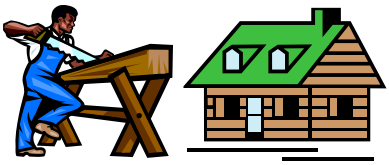
cheese

sugarcane

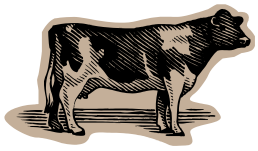


hamburger

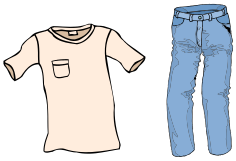
milk



house



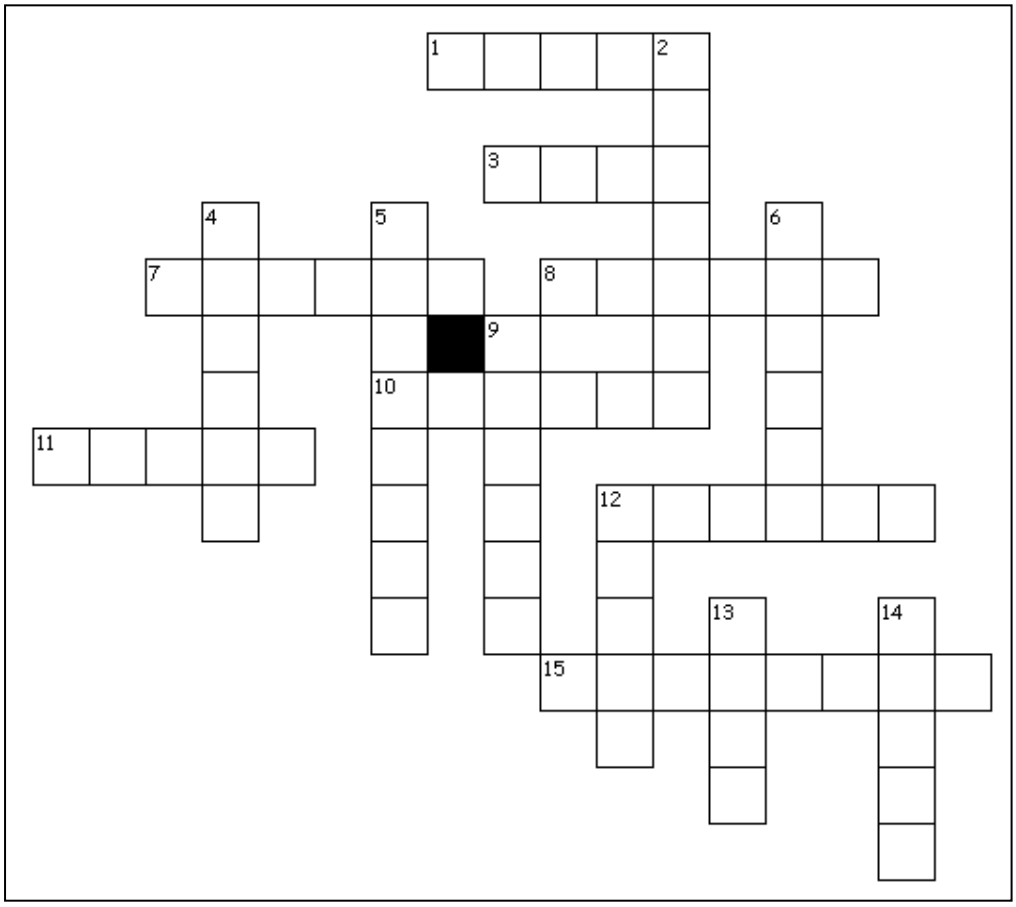
cow



clothes

Fun with History!

Solve these clues from the information you just read!



Across

1. A crop grown in small gardens

3. A crop sold at the market

7. A crop grown on St. Croix

8. To bring things to a place

10. a kind of power used for a mill

11. _____ potato

12. _____ Market

15. A founding father of the U.S.A.

Down

2. A kind of cattle bred on St. Croix

4. _____ Age

5. A product of making sugar

6. Provision _____

9. An important good exported from St. Croix

12. The most important crop of the 1700s

13. Another kind of power used for a mill

14. Who sold goods at the Sunday Market?

Did you know that **Alexander Hamilton** grew up in Christiansted? This founding father, who became the first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, moved to St. Croix with his family in 1765, when he was 11 years old. He did not get to go to school. He had to work for a business that imported and exported goods, sugar, cattle, and enslaved people. He visited the Christiansted wharf nearly every day, buying, selling, and inspecting cargo. He left St. Croix in 1773, but the lessons he learned about trade, money, and hard work shaped his entire adult life.

Life of an Enslaved Person

The majority of all enslaved people in the entire Virgin Islands were on St. Croix. In 1778, there were over 22,000 enslaved peoples on the island. Most worked on plantations and were called field slaves or "kamina folk." **Kamina** is a Creole word that means a piece of land that is worked by African slaves. A **Creole** is a blend of different languages and cultures into a new language and culture. Kamina folk had a hard life – their day began before sunrise and ended after sunset. They lived in villages in houses made of **wattle-and-daub**, mud placed on a frame of wood and twigs, with thatch roofs. Some houses were also made of stone. Many had to grow much of their own food, and they cooked their meals outside their houses, unless it was raining.

Not all plantation slaves worked in the fields. Some worked in the house – they cooked, cleaned, and sewed, and raised their owner's children. Others worked as crafting slaves – they were blacksmiths, barrel makers (**coopers**), bricklayers (**masons**), and carpenters. Some who lived in the towns worked in houses, at the wharf, and even in the fort. Many were trained to work as hairdressers, tailors, carpenters, and even musicians.

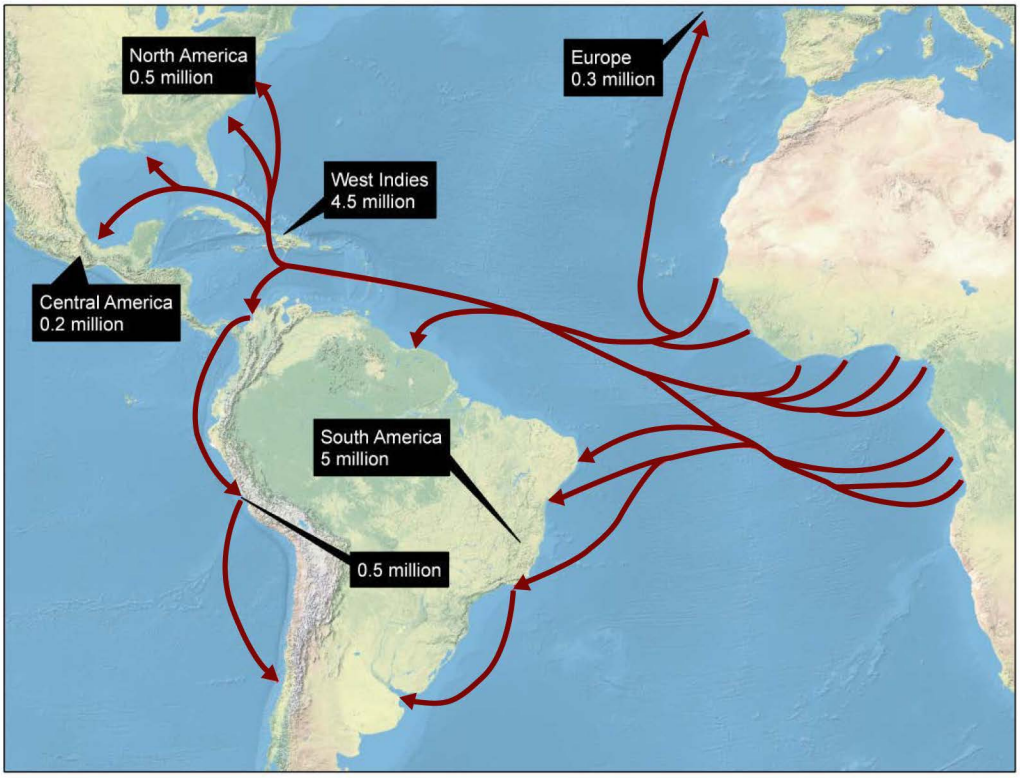
Runaway slaves, called **maroons**, were enslaved people who ran away. They would hide in the mountains in the northwest part of St. Croix. Today, this area is called Maroon Ridge. There they would wait for boats to take them to Puerto Rico, and to freedom.

In 1847, Governor Peter von Scholten began to free the enslaved people of the Virgin Islands. All the children born to slaves from that moment were immediately free, and he wanted all people to be free by 1859. However, on the night of July 2, 1848, the slaves would not wait for freedom any longer. Many near the town of Frederiksted revolted, and soon the revolt spread across the island. The next day, Governor von Scholten declared that all enslaved people were to be free.

Enslaved people and Free Blacks created a variety of social activities. They had dances, parades, and tea and coffee parties. Men practiced a kind of stick fighting called **Bangelar**, an activity found all over the Caribbean.

Did you know that jumbie trees were brought to St. Croix by African slaves, who wore the seeds of the baobab tree around their necks during the Middle Passage?

Slavery has existed around the world for many, many centuries. Across the continent of Africa, only wealthy and powerful people owned slaves. Some people were enslaved because they were **prisoners** from war. The Trans-Atlantic slave trade did not begin until European settlers in the Americas needed a large work force. From 1650 until 1860, between 10 and 15 million people were captured and enslaved and brought to the Americas (see picture to the right). Enslaved people were used to mine **gold** and silver, and to work on **sugar**, cotton, and **tobacco** plantations.



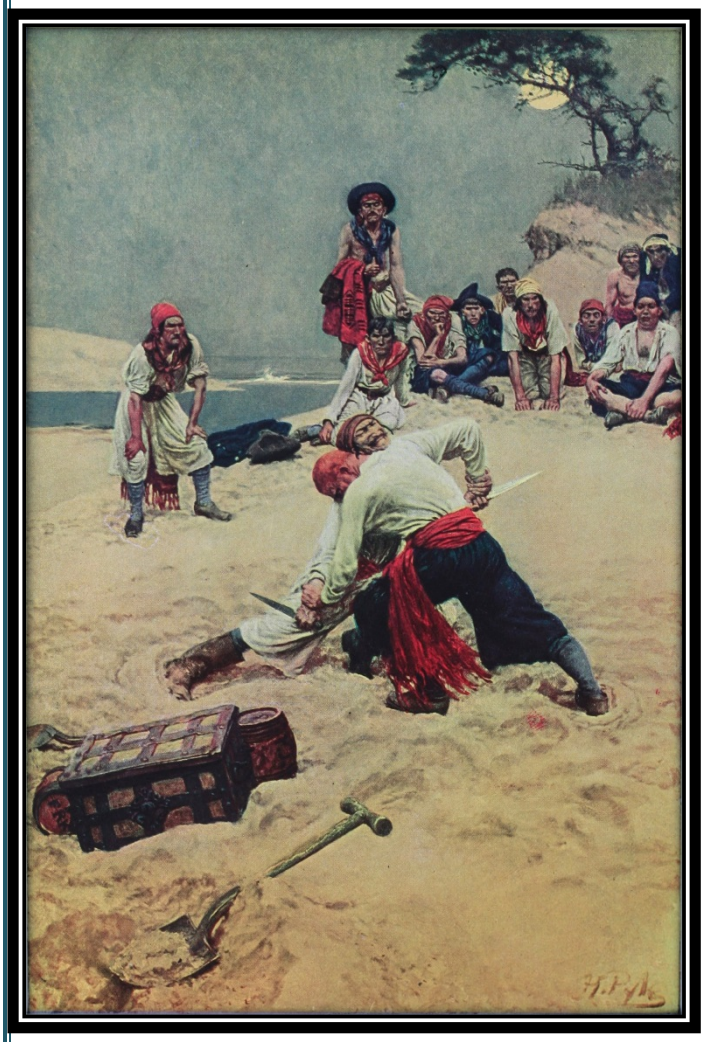
DAUB	PRISONER
GOLD	SUGAR
WATTLE	MAROON
KAMINA	TOBACCO

Find these words in the puzzle below:

R	P	R	E	Y	L	I	R	U	P	G	X	H	H	O
O	Y	K	X	I	B	A	E	E	J	J	C	T	P	C
K	D	N	K	V	H	L	X	G	N	C	M	J	Y	C
B	S	R	E	A	T	X	X	K	N	O	Q	K	R	A
L	U	M	C	T	M	J	W	A	K	Y	S	Q	J	B
V	U	F	A	P	G	I	D	L	O	G	C	I	S	O
D	B	W	X	W	C	X	N	I	F	Q	V	C	R	T
F	V	V	N	W	J	H	M	A	J	A	Y	S	G	P
W	C	L	D	P	G	X	H	N	K	B	F	Y	B	S
V	Q	A	K	N	E	O	H	F	H	E	U	Y	N	J
T	U	N	R	M	V	H	M	A	R	O	O	N	S	S
B	M	Q	R	N	O	G	R	A	T	Y	Y	K	U	E
B	T	W	D	E	N	J	S	T	I	P	K	R	G	W
N	J	D	Q	S	L	D	G	K	W	O	D	L	A	W
F	J	R	W	N	U	L	O	X	P	L	N	D	R	R

Yo Ho Ho!! Pirates!

What comes to mind when you think of pirates? A one-legged man with an eye patch, and a parrot? Crates overflowing with treasure? Jack Sparrow?



Well, there WERE pirates on St. Croix, way back in the 1600s and the early 1700s, during a period known as the Golden **Age** of Piracy!

First, let us learn the difference between a pirate and a privateer. A pirate is someone who attacks and **robs** ships at sea. A **privateer** does the same thing, but they have permission from a king or government, such as a Letter of **Marque** (pronounced "mark"). They attack ships that belong to the enemies of a government. Privateers could keep a portion of what they captured, as long as the king got their portion. ***Buccaneer*** is a French word for a privateer.

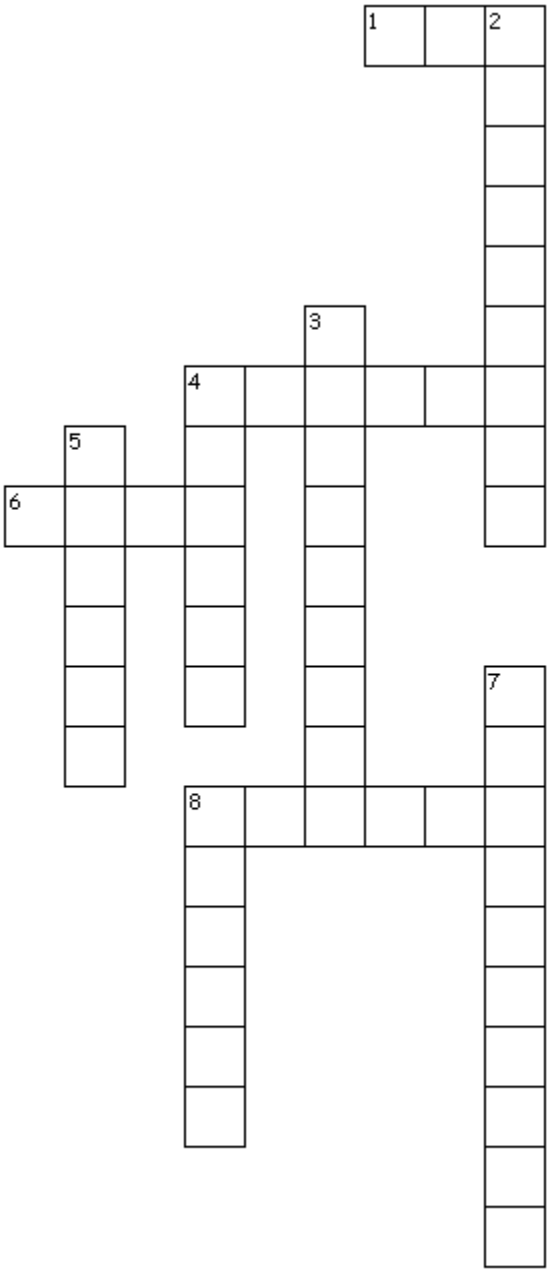
Pirates began to use St. Croix as a base for smuggling goods, and to fix and repair their boats. **Salt** River Bay was a good place to hide from English ships. It provides **harbor**, or a place safe from waves and storms, like hurricanes. In the late 1600s, the French could not control the smuggling and piracy on the island. After they left the island in 1696, Salt River Bay and other places became known as pirate hiding holes.

Pirates were always under the threat of **mutiny**, or rebellion. Think about it – you are the captain of a whole crew of sailors whose job is to rob and steal from others. A pirate captain had to keep his crew happy, or they may turn against him!

There was even a pirate battle! In the winter of 1716, a famous pirate, Jean **Martel**, was in Salt River Bay with a fleet of ships that he had captured. One of these ships was a large 20-gun boat named *John and* ***Martha***. A British Navy captain, Captain Hume, of the HMS Scarborough, found out about Martel's hiding spot. He launched a surprise attack on the pirates between November 15 and 20, 1716. Two ships were burned and sank, including the *John and Martha*.

Other pirates also visited St. Croix, including the famous pirate **Blackbeard**, whose real name was Edward Thatch.

Solve these clues from the information you just read!



Across

1. What a pirate does
4. A Letter of _____
6. _____ River Bay
8. The name of a ship burned by pirates was the *John and* _____

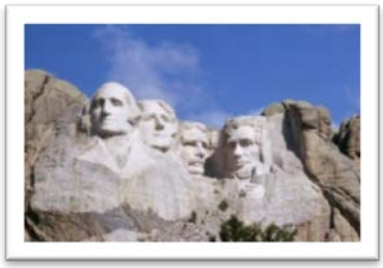
Down

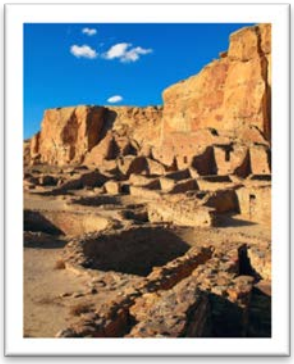
2. A kind of privateer
3. A pirate with permission
4. Another word for rebellion
5. A safe place for ships
7. Edward Thatch's nickname
8. A famous pirate in 1716

Did you know that there were women pirates? Anne Bonny and Mary Read were just two of the women who ruled the seas!

Just one more step...

Congratulations! You are almost done! Now it's time to double check and make sure you've completed all the steps to become a Christiansted Junior Ranger (see page 2). When you are finished, take this booklet to the Visitor Center so a Park Ranger can award you with your official Junior Ranger badge.





Did you know that there are over 400 other National Parks in the United States, each with their own Junior Ranger program? There's even a national program. See how many badges you can collect!

The Junior Ranger Pledge

I promise, as a Junior Ranger for Christiansted National Historic Site, to:

- learn all I can about this and other national parks
- protect the plants, animals, and history of the parks
- protect park artifacts, like arrowheads and pottery, by leaving them where I found them
- share what I learn with my family and my friends

Junior Ranger Signature Date

All clip art is derived from:

- Christiansted National Historic Site/Buck Island Reef National Monument/Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve
- Microsoft Clip Art
- Clip Art Gallery on DiscoverySchool.com
- www.slaveryimages.org, sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the University of Virginia Library
- St. Croix Landmarks Society

FIND YOUR PARK