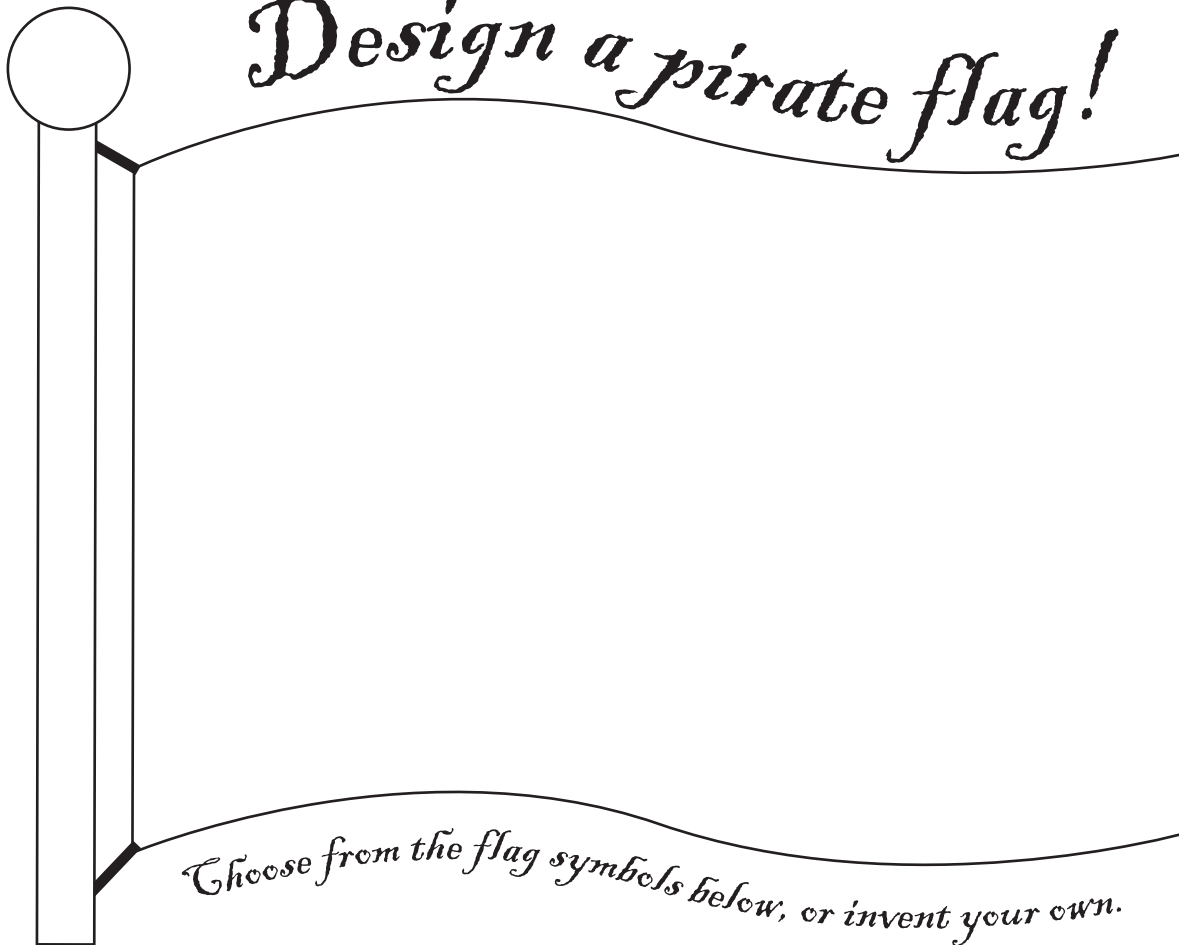


# Design a pirate flag!



Choose from the flag symbols below, or invent your own.



Your time is running out



A slow, painful death awaits you



We are ready to kill you



A violent death awaits you



Torment



Death



Emmanuel Wynn's "Jolly Roger" flag



Blackbeard's flag



Thomas Tew's flag

## Did You Know...

Pirate flags were used to frighten sailors so they would not put up a fight

Pirates would first fly a white flag. If a merchant ship refused to yield, the pirates would switch to a red flag, meaning that once they boarded, no one would be spared

A black flag meant death, and a red flag battle. A yellow flag warned of sickness onboard

*Joli rouge* means "pretty red" in French. Earlier pirates used this name to jokingly describe the bloodred flag. It is also thought to be the origins for the Jolly Roger flag (the skull and crossed bones; it was the most popular pirate symbol of the 1700s).

Pirates often carried flags of several different countries in order to get closer to their victims. This practice is known as flying "false colors."

NORTH CAROLINA  
MUSEUM OF HISTORY®

*History Happens Here*

© North Carolina  
Museum of History