

Make Your Own Pirate Flag

One fun project teens will enjoy is creating their own pirate flag. Teens love things that can allow them to represent themselves, and what better way to do so then through creating their own flags?

While the most famous of the pirate flags was of course the Jolly Roger, every pirate had his or her own flag. Many used symbols and colours to represent themselves and their crew. Most people think of a black and white flag with skull and cross bones when they think of pirates, however many pirates flew red flags as well. The different pictures on the flags were a warning to other ships, letting them know that they should be weary.

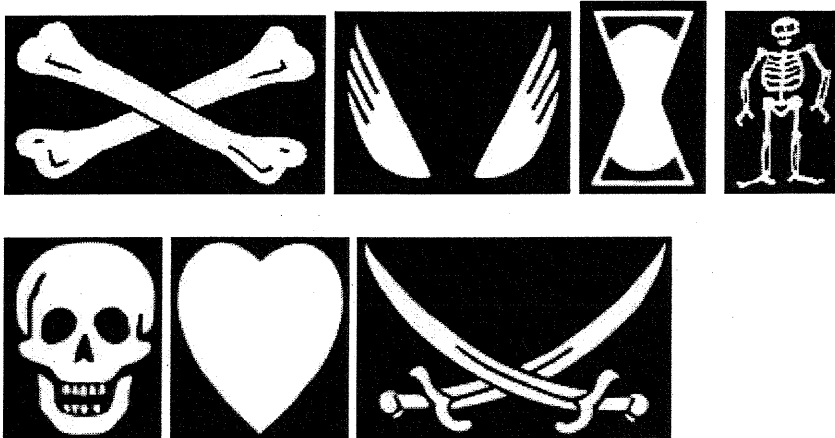
There are several ways in which teens can do this project. One way is for you to provide them with a list, and display of traditional pirate symbols, these include: skulls, bones, skeletons, guns, knives, swords, spears, wings, and hourglasses. Skulls, bones and skeletons all represented death being imminent, the hourglasses, and wings were to tell the passing ships their time was near, or that time was flying away, and the weapons represented the fight that would soon be upon them. Some pirates also had pictures of themselves on their flags, many times raising a cup with a skeleton, and some even dancing a jig (dancing with death). The teens can then pick which ever symbols they like best, or represent what they want to say (a fun way or warning little siblings to stay out).

Another option is to tell the teens about these representations, and their meanings, and then ask the teens to create flags with modern day symbols they feel represent themselves. Still another fun idea would be for the teens to mix the traditional, with their own modern ideas to make a fun and interesting flag.

This project can be done in many mediums, paper, material, and even air drying clay. If you wanted to use clay for this project, try bending a wire into a V shape, and then sticking it into the clay before it dries, that way it can be easily hung on a door or wall. If you choose to provide material instead of paper for this project don't worry about sewing, some fabric glue will work nicely, even using felt

pens, or fabric paint is another good way to go. If the teens are not interesting in making a wall hanging, suggest they make a smaller flag, which can then be sewn onto a pair of jeans or a backpack.

Below are examples of traditional pirate symbols and famous flags. Doing a simple search of the internet can yield many great sites, with both pictures and full explanations of each flag.



Source:

<http://www.kipar.org/piratical-resources/pirate-flags.html>

<http://www.thepiratesrealm.com/pirate%20flags.html>

