

Research

You did a little bit of research about pirates to get some ideas about what you might want to write about. Now it's time to find out a lot more about your narrowed topic.

Begin with a research question, such as "What kinds of changes did pirates make to the ships they stole?" or "Why did people choose to become pirates?"

Look in the library or online to find the answers to your question.

My research question:

As you find information, write it on note cards. Include these things:

- 📌 The facts, as accurately as you can report them. If you use the same words as your source, be sure to put quotation marks around them so you'll remember they weren't your words.
- 📌 The source where you found them, including the title, author, publisher, city of publication, year, URL for web sources, and page number.
- 📌 The reference your source gave, if there is one. For example, if you read a quote in a book, be sure to write down who said the words being quoted.
- 📌 Your own thoughts, ideas, questions, and reactions to the facts and other information. Write this apart from the reference, so you'll know later which parts were your own ideas.

Ask your teacher how many references you should have, but be sure not to stop looking till you find a good answer to your research question.