

Glossary of **Nautical** Terms in Treasure Island

1. berth: a built-in bed or bunk on a ship. It also means a position of employment on a ship. This is what John Silver wants on page 47.
2. lubbers: clumsy people in general, and inexperienced sailors (from the word landlubber) in particular
3. squall: a sudden brief, windy storm used by the pirates as a metaphor for making a commotion
4. soundings: a measured depth of water
5. quay: a wharf where ships are loaded and unloaded
6. stern: the rear of a ship or boat
7. galley: the kitchen of a boat or ship
8. forecastle: (pronounced fokes-el), a structure on the upper deck of the ship in the front, or bow section, often where the crew's quarters were.
9. Boatswain: (pronounced bo s'n): a non-commissioned officer on a ship who is in charge of the deck crew, the rigging, and the anchors and cables. He wears the whistle shown on page 65 as the sign of his position.
10. capstan: the big winch or pulley used to raise the anchor of a ship
11. coxswain: (pronounced kok's'n or kok'swan): a person who steers a boat
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12. mutiny: a rebellion, especially of sailors or soldiers, against their superior officers. The punishment for mutiny in the 18th century was hanging.

13. maroon: to put a person ashore on a deserted island (A person who is put ashore like Ben Gunn is also called a maroon himself.)

14. companion: a staircase leading from a ship's deck to the areas below
15. ebb tide: the time between high tide and low water, while the tide is going out

16. close hauled: a nautical phrase meaning to have the sails trimmed flat for sailing as close to the wind as possible; on page 120 it means in a dangerous position without much room to manoeuvre.

17. helm: the wheel, tiller, or entire steering gear of a ship

18. estuary: the wide part of a river where it meets the salt water of the ocean and is controlled by tides

19. shoal: shallow water, a sandbar

20. shrouds: ropes or cables stretched from the masthead to the sides of a ship to support the mast.

21. tiller: a long lever that is used to turn the rudder and thus steer a ship

22. bulwarks: the part of the side of a ship that is above the upper deck

23. boom: a long pole at the foot of a mast that holds out the bottom of a sail

Glossary of Warfare and Weapons

1. sabre (also spelled saber): a heavy cavalry sword with a one edged, slightly curved blade

2. cutlass: a sword usually used by sailors, it was short and heavy with a curved singleedged blade

3. hilt: the handle of a weapon, especially a sword or dagger

4. sheath: a case for the blade of a knife or sword

5. pike: a long spear used by the infantry

6. palisade: a fence made of pointed sticks or stakes (called "pales") which form a barrier to an enemy

7. stockade: a building made of strong posts driven upright into the ground side by side. It is used as a fort or a prison.

8. dirk: another name for a dagger, which is a short, sharp, pointed, double edged knife.

9. garrison: a military post; the troops who are assigned there are also called a garrison.

10. sentry: a watchman or guard, especially one on the lookout for unauthorized persons. Sentinel is another word for sentry.