

Talk like a pirate day - September 19th

"Talk like a pirate day" is a parodic holiday created in 1995 by John Baur (Ol' Chumbucket) and Mark Summers (Cap'n Slappy), of Albany, Oregon, U.S.



1. What do you think "parodic" means?
2. Why do you think that this might be an attractive holiday for people to adopt and promote?

Dave Barry, a U.S. syndicated columnist, wrote about "Talk like a Pirate Day" in 2002. This began the holiday's international recognition.

Wikipedia says that part of the success and international spread of the holiday has been attributed to non-trademarking. This has allowed the holiday to enjoy individual creativity and "viral" growth.

3. Explain what you think "viral" growth means.
4. If you expect each person that enjoys this holiday to introduce it to 5 people over this one day ... and each of those 5 people to share it with 5 more people over the day, how many people might be talking like a pirate by the end of the week. Show your calculations and thinking.
5. After how many days might 1,000,000 people be have become aware of "Talk like a pirate day"?
6. In math class, what sort of function does viral growth resemble?
7. In what ways do you think our viral growth example problem doesn't really match a real life viral growth experience?

8. In language or pictures try to describe viral growth.

9. Name three other activities that you've heard of described as growing virally.

Back to "Talk like a pirate day".

10. We've listed some "pirate speak" below. Try to add to our list and be ready to share your vocabulary list in class.

Arrr - various meanings including "yes"

Avast ye = listen up

Ahoy = hello

Ahoy mates = everyone listen

11. Who might this fictitious holiday offend?

12. Have you noticed translation apps that allow you to translate something into "pirate speak". If so where have you seen it?

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Talk_Like_a_Pirate_Day
<https://be.helpful.com/helpful-how-the-math-of-viral-growth-actually-works-a4fcee693ace>