

Britney Spears' music scares off pirates

31st October, 2013



Ship captains in the Indian Ocean are using a new tactic to keep pirates away – songs sung by U.S. pop star Britney Spears. An officer with Britain's merchant navy, Rachel Owens, said Britney Spears' songs did a good job against

Somali pirates. Ms Owens, 34, said: "[Britney's] songs were chosen by the security team because they thought the pirates would hate them most. These guys can't stand Western culture or music, making Britney's hits perfect." A spokesman for a security company said playing loud pop music was an effective way of stopping attacks on ships. He said not all shipping companies choose Britney Spears' music. He added: "Each security company will have its own music choice."

This is not the first time loud music has been used to scare people. It has even been used as a form of torture. Prison guards at Guantanamo Bay started using music in 2003 to keep prisoners awake. In 2008, prisoners had to listen to very loud music for weeks and months. A former Guantanamo prisoner, Ruhai Ahmed, explained that the loud music played in his cell for weeks at a time was worse than being beaten up. He said: "It makes you feel like you are going mad." Many people think prisons must stop playing loud music to someone for days or weeks at a time. A human rights charity called Reprieve has started a campaign to end it. It wants rock stars to ban prisons from using their music for torture.

Sources: *IB Times / Daily Mirror / Huffington Post*

Writing

Music should always be loud. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

ships / captains / Indian Ocean / pop songs / pirates / Western culture / perfect / loud / the first time / torture / prisoners / being beaten up / going mad / human rights

True / False

- Ships are scaring away pirates in the Atlantic Ocean using loud music. T / F
- The music of Britney Spears is scaring away Somali pirates. T / F
- The pirates hate the music because they hate Western culture. T / F
- All shipping companies play Britney Spears' songs to Somali pirates. T / F
- This is the first time music is being used to scare people. T / F
- The article says Guantanamo Bay prisoners were tortured with music. T / F
- A prisoner said loud music for weeks was worse than being beaten up. T / F
- Pop stars started a campaign to end music being used for torture. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. tactic | a. selected |
| 2. good | b. crazy |
| 3. chosen | c. frighten |
| 4. can't stand | d. plan |
| 5. stopping | e. hate |
| 6. scare | f. ex- |
| 7. form | g. effective |
| 8. former | h. stop |
| 9. mad | i. preventing |
| 10. ban | j. kind |

Discussion – Student A

- What's the best way to stop pirates attacking ships?
- What do you think of playing loud pop music to stop pirates?
- Would loud music stop you doing something?
- How does loud music make you feel?
- How could the pirates hate the music so much?
- What other things could loud music stop?
- What music would you play to stop the pirates?
- How do you think Britney Spears feels about her music scaring pirates?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Ship captains | a. stand Western culture |
| 2. they thought the pirates | b. form of torture |
| 3. These guys can't | c. its own music choice |
| 4. an effective way | d. used to scare people |
| 5. Each security company will have | e. in the Indian Ocean |
| 6. loud music has been | f. like you are going mad |
| 7. used as a | g. rights charity |
| 8. for weeks | h. of stopping attacks |
| 9. It makes you feel | i. at a time |
| 10. a human | j. would hate them most |

Discussion – Student B

- Would loud music stop you from sleeping?
- How do you feel when someone plays loud music on their iPod in public?
- Why would loud music for weeks be worse than being beaten up?
- What's the best music to play loud?
- What pop star's music would you hate to listen to?
- Is loud music bad for you?
- Should more rock stars join the Reprieve campaign?
- What questions would you like to ask a pirate scared of pop music?

Spelling

- Ship pstiacna in the Indian Ocean
- using a new cicatt to keep pirates away
- These guys can't stand Western ulrtcue
- making Britney's hits etecpfr
- an ffeetivec way of stopping attacks on ships
- Each utersyic company will have its own
- used to caers people
- used as a form of urttoro
- keep rsisrneop awake
- worse than being taneeb up
- A human hgtsir charity
- started a gcaminap to end it

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. a	4. e	5. i
6. c	7. j	8. f	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Loud pop music

You think loud pop music is the best way to stop the pirates. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): taking photos, water cannon or arresting pirate leaders.

Role B – Taking photos

You think taking photos is the best way to stop the pirates. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): loud pop music, water cannon or arresting pirate leaders.

Role C – Water cannon

You think water cannon is the best way to stop the pirates. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): taking photos, loud pop music or arresting pirate leaders.

Role D – Arresting pirate leaders

You think arresting pirate leaders is the best way to stop the pirates. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): taking photos, water cannon or loud pop music.

Speaking - Music

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| • pop | • blues |
| • folk | • techno |
| • jazz | • hip-hop / rap |
| • classical | • rock and roll |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.