

1 An Uncomplicated Request

On July 28, 1720, pirates hijacked a sailing ship carrying Irish colonists to Boston.

Unluckily, for Elizabeth Wilson, this happened just as she was giving birth to a baby. A pirate named Phillip Babb overheard the baby's cries and ran to Elizabeth's cabin.

"Lady," he said. "Is the baby a boy or a girl?"

"My babe's a girl," Elizabeth responded.

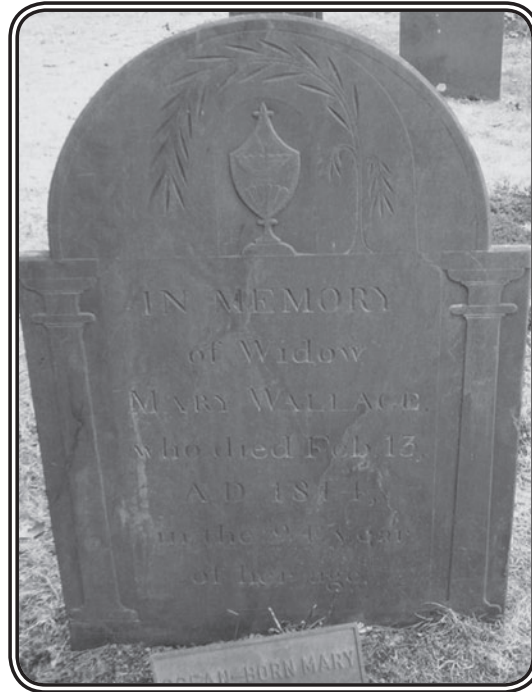
Babb said, "Then, I have an **uncomplicated** request. I will release this ship and everyone on it if you will name this baby Mary after my mother."

Elizabeth proclaimed, "Her name is Mary!"

Babb kept his promise. He freed the ship and left with his men. Before leaving, he gave Elizabeth a gift of pale green silk cloth. This was for Mary's wedding dress.

Soon, Elizabeth kept her promise as well. In 1742, her daughter, Mary, was wed in a dress made with pale green silk. It was the gift from Phillip Babb.

Word Count: 153



Glossary Links

pirates
colonists



What did Elizabeth name her baby? Tell why.



Use with Teaching Guide, page 528.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 148

SAM Keyword: DD 18.3

2 Is Cave Life Unappealing?

Some animals make their homes deep within the darkest places in a cave. These cave-dwelling animals have adapted to a lifetime in the dark.

Because a cave-dwelling animal does not see daylight, its sense of sight is useless. In fact, some cave-dwelling animals do not have eyes! But cave-dwelling animals use other keen senses. Strong senses of smell and taste take the place of sight.

A cave-dwelling animal's diet is strongly affected by its habitat. Cave-dwelling animals do not have an **unlimited** choice at mealtimes. Green, leafy plants cannot grow in unlit caves. So a cave-dwelling animal must eat **decomposing** things such as animal remains and plant bits.

The life of a cave-dwelling animal might seem grim and **unappealing**. But the study of cave life is not **uncomplicated**. In fact, scientists find a cave-dwelling animal's life fascinating.



Glossary Links

senses
remains

Word Count: 528



Write two facts about cave-dwelling animals.



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Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 149

SAM Keyword: DD 18.3