

Three pirates came to London town

<https://riverofsong.uk/>

A rollicking hand play and old English sea shanty, part of a longer song about drinking and courting; find a longer version at: <http://www.joe-offer.com/folkinfo/songs/591.html>.

Some say it is based on the tune 'Mademoiselle from Armentieres'. I first came across it in a Singing Together, Autumn 1971, BBC Publication.

Raise three fingers. For each Yo ho! throw fist in the air and look fierce. Put telescope (rolled fist) to eye and crown on head.

Each time the song is sung make different action during the last lines: Raise anchor, hoist the mainsail, scrub deck, climb rope ladder, in the crows nest, check no-one has fallen overboard.



Three pi - rates came to Lon - don town, Yo ho! — Yo ho! — Three

pi - rates came to Lon - don town, Yo ho! — Yo ho! — Three

pi - rates came to Lon - don town, To see the king put on his crown, Yo

ho, you lub - bers, Yo ho, you lub - bers, Yo ho! Yo ho! Yo ho! —

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a single F chord. The second staff has F, Dm, and C7 chords. The third staff has Bb, F, Bb, F, Gm, C7, C, and C7 chords. The fourth staff has a single F chord. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Three pirates came to London town,
Yo ho! Yo ho!
Three pirates came to London town,
Yo ho! Yo ho!
Three pirates came to London town
To see the king put on his crown,
Yo ho, you lubbers, Yo ho, you lubbers,
Yo ho! Yo ho! Yo ho!

