**Facts about Drake and his voyages.**

**Read through this information and try to answer the two questions at the end.**

Drake’s voyage is to find a way from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Investors want to reach the ‘Spice Island’s and set up trade links.

It is also to steal treasure from any Spanish ships and make England wealthy rather than Spain.

The crew is 164 men and boys. Five ships sail from Plymouth on 15th November 1577.

One is called ‘The Pelican’ (Later re-named The Golden Hinde)

Storms force the ships back to Plymouth. They are repaired and set sail again.

Conditions are tough – sailors suffer from teeth falling out and bleeding gums (scurvy). Fresh fruit is needed especially lemons and limes. Seaweed stew gives sailors strength.

There are storms on the S. American coast. Ships set sail for The Strait of Magellan.

Sailors spend time clearing barnacles off the hull.

Native people are not friendly. They kill a gunner and a surgeon. Drake is attacked by natives in Peru.

One boat is captured. One sailor plots a mutiny. He is found guilty and executed.

Drake and his crew attack Spanish ships and steal their treasure.

Fierce storms affect the ships again. They last two months. Only The Golden Hinde survives.

The voyage lasts three years and he becomes the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe.

In 1588, Drake defeats the Spanish Armada (a fleet of ships) intent on attacking England.

Drake went to sea as a young man, but in the 1560s, when he joined a cousin named John Hawkins on some of Britain’s earliest slave trading voyages to West Africa.

John Hawkins was England's first slave trader. In 1562 he sailed from The Barbican in Plymouth with three ships and violently kidnapped about 400 Africans in Guinea, later trading them in the West Indies.

The pair usually obtained their human cargo by attacking native villages or attacking Portuguese slave ships.

They would then transport the slaves to the Spanish Caribbean and sell them off to local plantations—an action that was illegal under Spanish law.

Hawkins and his cousin Francis Drake made three voyages to Guinea and Sierra Leone and enslaved between 1,200 and 1,400 Africans. Tthis would probably have involved the death of three times that number.

Hawkins and Drake sailed for the west coast of Africa and, sometimes with the help of other African natives, kidnapped villagers. He would then cross the Atlantic and sell his cargo, or those who survived the voyage, to the Spanish.

In 1573, Drake set his sights on robbing a Spanish mule train as it carried gold and silver across Panama.

He enlisted the help of the Cimarrons, a group of escaped Spanish slaves who were eager to strike a blow against their former masters.

The raid produced an enormous haul of treasure—so much, in fact, that the adventurers were forced to bury 15 tons of silver that they were unable to carry.

Before departing, the former slave trader presented one of the Cimarron leaders with a gold-encrusted scimitar as a reward for his help.

What evidence is there for Drake being a heroic figure?

What evidence is there that he was not so heroic?