



# Criminals at Sea

## Lookout for Pirates

Crew members on the American cargo ship, *Maersk Alabama*, were on the lookout for pirates, as they sailed the Indian Ocean near the coast of Somalia, in Africa. On April 8, 2009, they spotted a small boat quickly speeding toward them. Their greatest fear—a pirate attack—was about to happen.

▼ *Cargo ships such as the Maersk Alabama carry cargo to different ports around the world.*

## CRIMINALS AT SEA



## Criminals of the Sea

Pirates are dangerous criminals that commit crimes at sea. Modern-day pirates work for large, criminal groups who work from land. They attack all kinds of ships for money. They steal, take people prisoner, and even kill.



In the first nine months of 2012, pirates attacked over 200 ships around the world.



**cargo:** goods carried on a vehicle such as a ship