You Are the Quartermaster

Your task is to prepare the schooner Hispaniola for her voyage to Treasure Island. Use the information about Life Aboard to help you decide how many people there are in the crew, the sorts of provisions they will need, how many of each thing you will need, how long the journey will take, and anything else which might be important.

The average sailor's diet each week was:

3500g of ship's biscuit,

2 Kg of beef, 1 Kg of pork,

1 litre of dried peas,

1.5 litres of oatmeal,

200g of sugar and 350g of butter,

and 250 g of cheese.

These provisions were often rotten after months at sea.

How much water do you think a sailor would drink in a day in hot weather? Would you try to fill up with water on the way? There are no islands on your route, but you could go a little bit out of your way to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, or the Azores Islands. Either of these will add about 200 miles to your journey. It is possible that you could fill up with provisions at these places.

Decide how you will work out the amount of provisions you will need. You may decide that you need a calculator, or you may want to use a spreadsheet to help you. How would you record your calculations? Why is it helpful to record the calculations? How can you check if you have made a mistake or not?

You will need to show the captain all of your working out before the provisions can be bought.
Prices of provisions:

Ships biscuit one penny for 3 kg
Salted Beef three pence for 1 kg
Salted Pork two pence for 1 kg
Dried Peas one penny for 2 litres
Oatmeal one penny for 3 litres
Sugar four pence for 1 kg
Butter three pence for 1 kg
Cheese two pence for 1 kg

Money was worth a lot more in those days!

Some extra thoughts:

Where will you store all the provisions?
How much will they cost?
What will you store the provisions in to protect them from seawater, wraps, nasty bugs, and a hungry crew?
How many containers would you need for all of the provisions?
Would you need to have spare provisions in case there are storms or other problems on the way?