



STORIES FROM THE SEA

PIRATES CLASSROOM ACTIVITY 9

TREASURE ISLAND

Key learning outcomes

Creative thinking

Days of the week

Storytelling

Number recognition



Activity

Create a class story over a week using a pirate treasure map, with the added twist of buried treasure to be found. In Monday's story time look at a map from the collection of **Pirate objects** as well as simple maps of islands in children's atlases. Can children spot that an island is completely surrounded by sea?

Draw a grid on a large piece of display paper and number the squares. Using letters on one axis and numbers on the other means some children may recognize how to give simple coordinates from games like 'Battleships'. Draw an island outline, making sure that there are enough squares within it for children to choose a square each. Secretly write the coordinates of one of the squares on a piece of paper and seal it in an envelope marked 'treasure'.

Each day invite a number of children to choose one square each and draw a 'feature' in their square. They need to put their name against that square on a list of coordinates because at the end of the story on Friday you will open the envelope and see who has found the treasure.

Children might draw sharp rocks, deep wells, scary caves, smelly swamps. Use the children's ideas to build the story of the pirate's week as he or she explores the island they have landed on, day by day.

Historical note: buried treasure was not common as pirates would have sold their loot as quickly as they could.



Resources

- Display paper
- Long ruler
- Drawing materials
- Envelope
- Children's atlases



More ideas

Older children can keep the pirate's daily diary as they explore the island

Animate the journey using a webcam, with children providing the narrative and soundscapes

Use the map to develop positional and location vocabulary: should the pirate turn left or right, go north or south?



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

