

HACC TYP “Treasure Island” Study Guide

Based on the play adapted by Aurand Harris from *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Will you help us decorate the lobby for Theatre Outreach week? We invite you to have your class do one of two projects listed below and mail, drop off or call us to pick up your artwork for display by April 17. Please make sure artwork has student name and school name on it.

Design A Jolly Roger

Pirates sailed under flags called "Jolly Rogers". Many pirates created their own designs. click for examples of real pirate flags <http://www.geocities.com/captcutlass/Flag.html>



Blackbeard's Flag

Jolly Roger Kit

Need: 1 piece of drawing paper and red ,white, and black construction paper, scissors and glue

Design a pirate flag that tells something about you. Pick something you are interested in or good at to include on your pirate flag. For example: if you like the guitar include guitars on your pirate flag instead of crossbones. Also include on your flag pirate symbols: skulls, skeletons, crossbones, cutlasses, hourglasses.

First draw your design on the drawing paper. Then cut your design out of construction paper and glue together.

Make A Treasure Map

Need: white construction paper, crayons, used damp tea bag



Have the children draw an island on their construction paper. Write the name of the water that surrounds their island (ocean, bay, cove, lake) on the map. Draw a compass rose in the lower right hand corner of the treasure map.

Things to include on the island: symbols for hills, mountains, pond, lakes, forest, palm trees, shark fins in the water, big X to mark where the treasure is.

When the treasure maps are finished age the maps by pressing a damp tea bag all over it. Tear the jagged edges all round the treasure map to

As you probably already know, pirates use colorful language!. Here are vocabulary words and expressions from the play to discuss with your class before and a “match-up game” before coming to see Treasure Island. You will find a brief “Pirate Dictionary” below as well

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|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Matey | a. euphemism for “pirate” |
| 2) Aye | b. stop |
| 3) Lad | c. a short heavy sword with a curved blade used by pirates and sailors. |
| 4) Seafaring | d. yes |
| 5) Wager | e. boy |
| 6) Black Spot | f. someone not used to life onboard a ship |
| 7) Rogue | g. shipmate or friend |
| 8) Ruffian | h. opposite of “here” |
| 9) Mast | i. faint of heart |
| 10)Cutlass | j. a greeting |
| 11)Stiletto | k. left on a deserted coast or island with little in the way of supplies |
| 12)Ahoy | l. money |
| 13)Marooned | m. arguing |
| 14)Thar | n. synonym for “ruffian” |
| 15)Batten down your hatches | o. traveling by sea, a sea journey |
| 16)Shiver me timbers | p. expression of surprise |
| 17)Gentleman of fortune | q. prepare for trouble |
| 18)Avast | r. short dagger, with a narrow, hollow grind blade with a triangular cross-section |
| 19)Deposed | s. tall vertical pole which supports the sails |
| 20)Squabbling | t. bet |
| 21)Buccaneer | u. a tough, lawless person; roughneck; bully |
| 22)Landlubber | v. removed from power |
| 23)pieces of eight/farthing/fourpenny/pound | w. another term for pirate, meaning a ruthless speculator or adventurer |
| 24)belay | x. threat of death |
| 25)lily-livered | y. another term for stop, from “hold fast” |

Pirate Phrasing

Here is a list of sentences or phrases you will hear in the play. Discuss what they might mean. Ask the class to listen for them during the play. Talk about them again after the play. Do you remember who said the phrases? What was happening in the play when you heard the phrase?

- a. Plain as print
- b. Save your neck.
- c. Took to you like pitch.
- d. All's up, you can't make nor mend.
- e. Them's that hide can find.
- f. Dead men don't bite.
- g. I no more fear you than I fear a fly.
- h. Do you call that a head on your shoulders, or a blessed deadeye?
- i. You can't touch pitch and not be mucked.
- j. There's many a clean glove that covers a dirty hand.
- k. Shoot them down like dogs.
- l. Hold your tongue.
- m. As frisky as a flea.
- n. Silent as a grave.
- o. Give us a wag of your tongue
- p. Quiet as a tomb.
- q. Never spit to windard. It'll land back on you. Spit to the looerd. It sails like a gull.

Brief Pirate Dictionary

Argh—The first word in any pirate’s vocabulary. This word is used to punctuate any sentence and should be liberally sprinkled throughout the dialogue.

Buccaneer—Pirates who menaced the Spanish of the Caribbean.

Corsair— Pirates of the Mediterranean.

Privateers—Government sanctioned pirates, with permission in the form of a letter of marque.

Aye—Yes or any other affirmative reply.

Ye— Used in place of “you”.

Me—Used in place of “my”.

Booty—Treasure.

Pieces of Eight—Spanish coins found in pirate hoards.

Doubloons—Spanish coins found in pirate hoards.

Keelhaul—A method of punishment aboard pirate ships in which the victim was tied to the ship,

thrown overboard and dragged underwater along the length of the keel.

Letter of Marque—License by government to attack and loot enemy ships.

American Main—Eastern coast of North America.

Spanish Main—Mainland taken by Spain, from Mexico to Peru plus the Caribbean islands.

Cat O’Nine Tails—a nine thonged whip.

Gibbet Cage—Chains in which the corpses of pirates were hung and displayed in order to

discourage piracy in others.

Hulk—British prison ships that captured pirates and privateers

Red Ensign—British flag.

Scuttle—To sink.

Cackle Fruit—Hen’s eggs.

Marooned—To be stranded, particularly on a desert isle.

Chain Shot—Two cannonballs chained together and aimed high to destroy masts and rigging.

Six Pounders—Cannons.

Sallywag—A villainous or mischievous person.

Scurvy Dog—A prolific pirate.

Hornswaggle—To cheat.

Nelson’s Folly—Rum.

Bring ‘em Near—A telescope.

Heave-To—To come to a halt.

Black Jack—A leather tankard.

Barbary Coast—The Mediterranean coastline of North Africa, from Egypt to the Atlantic coastline.

Hempen Halter—The hangman’s noose.

Jolly Roger—Flag declaring piracy, usually black with a white skull and crossbones or crossed

swords.

Broadside—All the guns on one side of a ship, also shots fired by that line of guns.

Pirate Round—Route from North America to the Indian Ocean

Careen—To beach a ship and tip her on her side so the bottom can be cleaned and painted.

Cutlass—A short heavy sword with a curved blade used by pirates and sailors.

Fire Ship—A ship loaded with powder and tar then set afire and set adrift against enemy ships to destroy them.

Gold Road—Road across the Isthmus of Panama used to transport gold by train of pack mules.

Man-of-War—A vessel designed and outfitted for battle.

Overhaul—To come up next to.

Plate Fleet—Fleet of Spanish ships used to carry silver and gold to Europe.

Admiral of the Black—Title of the leader of the Brethren of the Coast, an organization of buccaneers.

“Ahoy, Matey”—Hail, fellow sailor.

“No prey, no pay”—Crew received no wages, but shared in whatever loot was taken.

“Bring ‘er alongside”—Command to bring ships side to side for boarding.

“Hang ‘im from the yardarm”—Pirate phrase for punishment for shipmates of captured prisoners.

“Dance the hempen jig”—To hang.

“Measure ye fer yer chains”—To be outfitted for a gibbet cage.

“Shiver me timbers”—phrase expressing surprise.

“Scourge of the seven seas”—An extremely evil pirate.

“Blow the man down” – To kill someone.

“Run a shot across the bow”—Command to fire a warning shot.

“Run a rig”—To play a trick.

“Hang the jib”—To pout or frown.

Read the following haiku poetry. Using the pirate dictionary, come up with your own!

Watch your mouth laddie
lest you be feeling the sharp
end o' me cutlass

The seven seas be
where I be'in lookin' for
booty of all kinds

Batten down the hatch
for tonight the sea it seeks
A scurvy lad to claim

The Jolly Roger -
black death swiftly comes to he
that crosses her path

Educational Pirate websites loaded with “all things pirate”

National Geographic website of **Pirate history and interactive fun**. Learn the histories of famous pirates--Blackbeard, Black Bart, Henry Morgan, and Captain Kidd. Play a game by guessing pirate captains, ships, and treasures ...

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pirates/>

National Geographic website **Blackbeard, Terror at Sea**

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/episode/blackbeard-terror-at-sea-2518>

Rob Ossian's **Pirate's Cove**-website loaded with pirate history and lore

<http://www.thepirateking.com/index.htm>

Rachel Wall –Female Pirate from Carlisle Pennsylvania-from **Pirate's Cove** website

http://www.thepirateking.com/bios/wall_rachel.htm

The Way of the Pirate-educational information web site

<http://www.thewayofthepirates.com/>

Chicago Illinois Field Museum exhibit website **Real Pirates, The untold Story of the Whydah-From slave Ship to Pirate ship**

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/pirates/>

New England Pirate Museum website **Pirate Biographies**

<http://www.piratemuseum.com/edbiogra.htm>

The Map of *Treasure Island*

During the summer of 1881, Stevenson and his family were staying in a cottage in Braemar. One afternoon he began drawing a map to amuse his stepson, but found that he himself was carried away:

“As I poured upon my map of 'Treasure Island,' the future characters of the book began to appear there visibly among imaginary woods: and their brown faces and bright weapons peeped out upon me from unexpected quarters...the next thing I knew, I had some papers before me and was writing out a list of chapters.”

The original title, **The Sea-Cook**, referred to the novel's most famous character, Long John Silver, who was modeled in part on Stevenson's friend and collaborator W. E. Henley. For its initial serial publication in seventeen weekly installments, Stevenson gratefully received £30. This part issue of **Treasure Island** was published under the pseudonym "Captain George North."

Have students draw a treasure map and write their own short adventure story!

Biography of Robert Louis Stevenson Author of *Treasure Island*

Born at Edinburgh in 1850, the son of Thomas Stevenson a noted lighthouse engineer,

Robert Louis Stevenson grew up in the Stevenson House at 17 Heriot Row from the age of six. Here he was cared for through many illnesses by his mother and his beloved nurse Alison Cunningham, known as 'Cummie', whom he described in the Dedication of his collection of poems for children *A Child's Garden of Verses* as "My second mother, my first wife". Prevented by ill-health from going much to ordinary schools, the Stevenson House was the centre of his world and his mind was nourished by ceaseless reading as well as the stories told by Cummie of ghosts, ghouls, Scottish history, and the Bible. He also travelled with his father around Scotland on his engineering business - once descending in a complete diving suit of brass helmet, lead boots etc. to view the underwater works for the harbour at Wick, in northern Scotland- as well as journeying with his parents to the Continent.

Intended by his father to be trained as a civil engineer, R.L.S. matriculated at the University of Edinburgh in 1867. It was soon clear, however, that the young man was unsuited for the work and he agreed with his father to study law, to give him a steady income should writing - already his chosen path - fail him. Literature, however, had seized him. Edinburgh and the Stevenson House were still his home, and the centre of his imagination, but he began to travel more and further. London, Bournemouth, France and the Continent all drew him – for his health and sheer wanderlust. Ever and again, however, he came back to Edinburgh, that "meteorological purgatory" (*Edinburgh Picturesque Notes*) and this house.

On one of his voyages to France, he met his future wife, Fanny Vandergrift Osborne, and her family in an artists' colony near Paris. Stricken by his passion for her he followed her when she returned to her home in California, and the couple were married at San Francisco in 1880. They travelled together to Europe shortly afterwards, and lived variously at London, Bournemouth, Davos and elsewhere, the locations more and more dictated by R.L.S.'s health. Poems, articles, reviews and novels were written

in these years. *Jekyll and Hyde*, a tale of runaway science, self-experimentation and substance abuse grew from a series of vivid nightmares.

Treasure Island was begun on a holiday at Braemar in Scotland at the prompting of Fanny's young son. *Kidnapped* and *The Master of Ballantrae* followed on as his international fame as a writer grew.

After his father's death in 1887, and because his poor health could no longer tolerate an European climate, in 1888 R.L.S. finally abandoned Britain as a home and set out on wanderings that saw him and his family eventually wash up on the shores of the Samoan islands, having covered vast areas of the Pacific in small sailing ships. Even there, with his 'clan' around him, his mind ranged the streets of his native city and inhabited the old house at 17 Heriot Row. He worked hard and long at his craft, that "worm that never sleeps" - conscience - driving him on to his more mature work, which as he died was left unfinished in *Weir of Hermiston*, which just might have been his best novel yet.

Little known fact: Who was Long John Silver? The one-legged pirate cook, the dark hero of R.L.S.'s most famous novel *Treasure Island* is said to be based on the author's friend and collaborator William Ernest Henley, whom he met when Henley was in Edinburgh for surgery to save his one remaining leg from Tuberculosis.

From <http://www.stevenson-house.co.uk/rls.htm>