

### Number the Events

Captain Finnigan was a pirate; an exceedingly bad pirate. Relentlessly, he scoured the seven seas in search of treasure to pilfer. Early one morning, through his gold-plated telescope, he spied a splendid looking ship on the horizon. 'Could it be carrying a precious cargo?' he wondered. There was only one way to find out. Immediately, he ordered his crew to man the rigging and they set off in swift pursuit. With the wind in their sails, they made good speed and were soon bearing down upon their prey. Captain Finnigan ordered the men to hoist the Jolly Roger as a sign that they were about to attack; there would be no mercy here. The pirates drew alongside the ship and Captain Finnigan bellowed across, "Give up ye treasure and I might show ya some mercy!" This, of course, was a lie as he was an exceedingly bad pirate after all. There was no reply from the ship. In fact, there was no one there. The ship looked abandoned. Captain Finnigan smiled smugly; taking treasure from this boat would be a piece of cake.

- Number the following events from 1 to 7 to show the order that they happened in the text.

With the wind in their sails, they made good speed.

There was no reply from the ship.

'Could it be carrying a precious cargo?' he wondered.

Captain Finnigan smiled smugly.

Relentlessly, he scoured the seven seas in search of treasure to pilfer.

Captain Finnigan ordered the men to hoist the Jolly Roger.

Immediately, he ordered his crew to man the rigging.

He used a rope to swing skilfully across to the empty vessel (an action he had performed many times prior). His sword was grasped firmly in his hand, as always, in readiness to fight. However, no one was there. The captain was perplexed. Who was sailing the ship? Where were the crew? An uneasy feeling crept over him. He had heard tales of ghost ships but had yet to encounter one. Surely not...? He decided to go below deck to investigate further. He walked cautiously down the steps and into the eerie darkness below. The captain perceived a soft yellow glow in front of him. Treasure! Greedily, he rushed towards it, only to be scooped quite unexpectedly into the air. He was now tangled awkwardly in a net that was being suspended from the ceiling. How undignified! He couldn't move – he was trapped! Silently, he cursed his own foolishness and greed.

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How undignified.

The captain was perplexed.

He cursed his own foolishness and greed.

His sword was grasped firmly in his hand in readiness to fight.

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He had heard tales of ghost ships but had yet to encounter one.

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### How to Make a Treasure Map

Rousing tales of pirates and buried treasure have been told throughout the ages; in reality, it was a rare occurrence and X almost certainly didn't mark the spot. It was more common for pirates to keep their wealth aboard the ship. The majority of their loot was then spent as soon as they returned to port. However, records show that there was one pirate, named Captain William Kidd, who was forced to hide his treasure before being arrested. He had planned to use his vast wealth to bargain his way out of prison. Whilst trying to clear his name, some of his hidden treasure was discovered and confiscated by the authorities. Despite his attempts to buy himself out of prison, Kidd was found guilty of piracy and hanged for his crimes. It is said that people still hunt for his treasure today.

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He had planned to use his vast wealth to bargain his way out of prison.

People still hunt for his treasure today.

Some of his treasure was discovered and confiscated by the authorities.

The majority of loot was then spent as soon as they returned to port.

X almost certainly didn't mark the spot.

It was common for pirates to keep their wealth aboard the ship.

Kidd was found guilty of piracy and hanged for his crimes.

Equipment: paper, cold tea, felt-tip pens, ruler and string

Method:

1. Using your fingers, rip the edges roughly off a piece of paper.
2. Next, pour strong, cold tea all over the paper and leave it to dry.
3. Draw the outline of an island on it and include a compass point in one corner.
4. Then, use a ruler to draw a grid on your paper. Label each axis.
5. Add other things to your map e.g. beaches, paths, rivers, caves and palm trees. Be creative!
6. X marks the spot! Draw a big cross to show where the treasure is buried.
7. Screw the map into a ball then flatten it out again.
8. Lastly, roll your treasure map up and tie a piece of string around it. Your map is now complete.

Top tip – Use greaseproof paper if you don't have time to stain a white piece of paper.

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Your map is now complete.

Draw a big cross to show where the treasure is buried.

Pour strong tea all over the paper.

Flatten the paper out again.

Use greaseproof paper if you don't have time.

Use a ruler to draw a grid on your paper.

Rip the edges roughly off a piece of paper.

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A pirate is defined as a person who commits robbery or criminal violence at sea. It may surprise you to know, that pirates have been around for considerably longer than you think. There is evidence of piracy dating as far back as the ancient Greeks, with Julius Caesar himself having been kidnapped by pirates in 75 BC. It could also be argued that the Vikings were pirates too. More surprisingly though, is the fact that pirates are still around today, although they dress differently and no longer drink grog or say “arrr”!

Blackbeard is probably one of the most notorious pirates of all time. Edward Teach (his real name) was born in Bristol, England in 1680. As his nickname suggests, Teach had a remarkably large black beard that he would twist into sections and tie ribbons around. He was a feared pirate and to make himself look even more fearsome, he would light fuses and place them on his hat. The resulting smoke and sparks would scare people into giving up their loot. This meant that, very often, he didn't even have to fight in order to win his ill-gotten gains. Blackbeard was killed in an epic sword fight with a naval officer in 1718.

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Pirates are still around today.

He would light fuses and place them on his hat.

Blackbeard was killed in an epic sword fight in 1718.

A pirate is defined as a person who commits robbery at sea.

Teach had a remarkably large black beard.

Blackbeard is one of the most notorious pirates of all time.

Julius Caesar was kidnapped by pirates in 75 BC.

Many pirate ships flew a flag called the Jolly Roger. The skull and crossbones design was the most commonly used design during the 1720s. The ominous flag was flown as a sign that the pirates were about to attack and that no mercy would be given. It was a sign of terror on the high seas. Most people would surrender as soon as they saw the flag being hoisted, without even putting up a fight. Other designs were used by different pirates. Most were on a black or red background. Blackbeard's flag showed a horned skeleton holding an hourglass and a spear that pointed towards a bloodied heart. A sail-makers widow in The Bahamas would make pirate flags for the price of a bottle of brandy!

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Other designs were used by different pirates.

The skull and crossbones design was commonly used during the 1720s.

Blackbeard's flag showed a horned skeleton and a bloodied heart.

Many pirate ships flew a flag called the Jolly Roger.

A widow would make pirate flags for the price of a bottle of brandy!

It was a sign of terror on the high seas.

Most were on a black or red background.

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Dear Martha,

Unfortunately, I'm having to write to you with dire news. It appears that my pirate days are finally at an end. Last week, our ship was boarded by the Royal Navy and they discovered the cargo we had stolen several days earlier. A short, fierce battle commenced but we were dreadfully outnumbered. Several of the crew were killed as a result. There were too many soldiers; we had to surrender. The rest of the surviving crew and I have been placed under lock and key. The conditions here are inexcusable. We are given very little food and water and there are far too many men in one cell. This makes for a very hot and smelly environment. Respite is impossible as there is insufficient space on the floor on which to recline.

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A short, fierce battle commenced but we were dreadfully outnumbered.

This makes for a very hot and smelly environment.

The rest of the crew and I have been placed under lock and key.

I have not seen sight nor sign of Mad Beard since he was marched away on that fateful day. We fear that they will hang him. We fear that they will hang us all! No mention has been made of a fair trial. I am lamenting the day that I became a pirate. I believed it to be an easy way to make money for you and the family. I have a feeling that I will never see you again my dearest Martha and my heart breaks at the thought. I believe that this is why we have been permitted to write just one letter home. However, all is not lost, my dear. We are living in hope that Mad Beard has found some ingenious way to escape. He is perhaps, even at this very moment, plotting some cunning plan to free us all! I can but hope to cast my eyes upon your sweet face once more.

All my love, Tom xxx

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All my love, Tom.

However, all is not lost my dear.

I can but hope to cast my eyes upon your sweet face once more.

We fear that they will hang us all.

I have a feeling that I will never see you again my dearest Martha.

We are living in hope that Mad Beard has found a way to escape.

I am lamenting the day that I became a pirate.