

# DISCOVER TREASURES

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# STORYTIME BOOKS

## Babies (English)

*Ten Little Pirates* (2014) by Mike Brownlow and Simon Rickerty. A bouncy, rhyming, counting story with fun word sounds and simple, bright pictures.

*Pirates in Pajamas* (2017) by Caroline Crowe and Tom Knight. A silly book with lots of vibrant illustrations and different descriptors of textures and colors.

*Pop-Up Peekaboo: Under the Sea* (2018) by DK. Simple rhymes and lively illustrations combine in a story of a little fish searching for her friends, who are hiding under peekaboo flaps.

*Go, Go, Pirate Boat* (2019) by Katrina Charman and Nick Sharratt. Pirates go on a treasure hunt in this rhyming story set to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

*Where’s the Pirate?* (2020) by Nosy Crow and Ingela P. Arrhenius. Bold and bright illustrations and few words show pirate friends hiding behind flaps, with a mirror on the final page for babies to see themselves.

## Babies (Spanish/Bilingual)

*10 alegres piratas* (2019) by Rebecca Weerasekera and Jayne Schofield (Spanish). A playful counting book with flaps to lift and pirates galore.

## Toddlers (English)

*My Ocean is Blue* (2020) by Darren Lebeuf and Ashley Barron. A book with few but evocative words that describe the sensory details of a day at the beach.

*I Love My Pirate Papa* (2014) by Laura Leuck and Kyle M. Stone. High seas adventure coupled with a loving father–son relationship.

*Pirate’s Perfect Pet* (2016) by Beth Ferry and Matt Myers. Funny and full of pirate lingo, this book has vivid illustrations that hide plenty of detail for toddlers to find.

*Captain Jack and the Pirates* (2016) by Peter Bently and Helen Oxenbury. Soft colors and gentle images accompany this adventure story told in a lyrical rhyme that could be sung like a sea shanty.

*Here Comes the Ocean* (2020) by Meg Flemmings and Paola Zakimi. A sweet rhyming book about a family at the seaside, with charming illustrations. This book can also be read as a seek-and-find story.

*Arrr, Mustache Baby!* (2019) by Bridget Heos and Joy Ang. Hairy-faced pirate babies have a rollicking romp and learn from their mistakes.

*Where Does a Pirate Go Potty?* (2019) by Dawn Babb Prochovnic and Jacob Souva. A story sure to get giggles, about a little pirate who’s got to go.

### TIP:

All early literacy sections are designed to be used à la carte. Put together your own unique programs by choosing books, songs, and activities to suit your theme and audience!

### TIP:

2–3 songs and 1–2 books fill a 30 minute program. Don’t forget to pause and ask questions, and repeat songs so toddlers can master new material.

## TODDLERS

*Waves* (2008) by Suzy Lee. A beautiful blue-hued wordless book about a little girl and an enchanting day on the beach.

**Toddlers (Spanish/Bilingual)**

*La familia Ratón va a la playa* (2011) by Kazuo Iwamura and Haruwo Yamashita (Spanish; English version *Seven Little Mice go to the Beach* available). A family of mice go on vacation to the beach. A charming picture book with humour and watercolor illustrations.

*¡Hundido!* (2017) by Rob Biddulph, translated by Anna Llisterra (Spanish; English version *Sunk!* available). Penguin Blue and his friends contend with a shipwreck and a mysterious stranger on a desert island.

*Los miedos del Capitán Cacurcias* (2016) by José Carlos Andrés and Sonka Wimmer (Spanish). A fearful pirate captain learns to overcome his fears in this colorful picture book.

**Preschool (English)**

*Ned the Knitting Pirate* (2016) by Diana Murray and Leslie Lammler. A rhythmic and fun story that smashes gender stereotypes.

*Pirate Chicken: All Hens on Deck* (2019) by Brian Yanish and Jess Pauwels. Great writing for young readers, and a funny, heartwarming story about an all-chicken pirate crew.

*Splash, Anna Hibiscus!* (2014) by Atinuke and Lauren Tobia. An irrepressible young girl joyfully discovers the waves in this picture book about having fun and independent play. Detailed illustrations and just the right amount of text keep children engaged.

*How to Be a Pirate* (2020) by Isaac Fitzgerald and Brigette Barrager. A joyful, empowering story about fun and independence, with bright pictures and vibrant colors.

*We're Going on a Treasure Hunt* (2019) by Kelly DiPucchio and Jay Fleck. Fun rhyming text and wordplay make this great for reading aloud.

*Carmela Full of Wishes* (2018) by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson. A little girl accompanies her brother to the seaside, where she must find just the right wish for her dandelion. Lyrical and heartwarming, with beautiful artwork.

*Elena's Shells* (2019) by Rose Robbins. Simple text and bright images accompany this story about ownership versus friendship.

*Sonata for Fish and Boy* (2021) by Milan Pavlovic. A delightful wordless book celebrating friendship.

*Sea Star Wishes: Poems from the Coast* (2013) by Eric Ode and Erik Brooks. This collection of poems for children, themed around the coast, includes poems about sea creatures, sandcastles, and other beach activities.

**TIP:**

Use a visual schedule placed at the front of the storytime space (for example, use a note for a song, an image of a book, etc.) Place these in order, and check off or flip over each element as you go through storytime. This helps both children and caregivers to orient themselves and know what to expect. If your audience includes autistic participants, you might also print off individual copies so they can mark off each element.

## PRESCHOOL

*The Sandcastle That Lola Built* (2018) by Megan Maynor and Kate Berube. Lola's plan to build a dream sandcastle leads to new friendships. This book has fun collage and mixed-media illustrations.

*Summer at the Seashore: Taking a Walk* (2019) by Sue Tarsky. Bright and repetitive, this book invites children to find and count animals and objects on the seashore. A great introduction to colors, numbers, and seasons.

*Swap!* (2016) by Steve Light. A fun book that uses black-and-white and color in a unique way, about a pirate and his mate who ingeniously repair his ship by swapping out parts. Kids can call out "SWAP!" every time it happens.

*Flotsam* (2006) by David Weiner. A stunning wordless book about a boy who finds an underwater camera and develops the film inside, opening up a whole world of discovery.

### Preschool (English/Bilingual)

*Daniela y las chicas pirata* (2020) by Susanna Isern and Gómez (Spanish). A very fun read about female pirate friends on an adventure.

*El pirata valiente* (2019) by Ricardo Alcántara and Gusti (Spanish). A ferocious pirate gets called away from his adventure by his mother in this charming book that celebrates the wonders of the imagination.

*Tito, Teo y los piratas* (2010) by Ian Whybrow and Russel Ayto (Spanish; English version *Tim, Ted and the Pirates* available). A funny adventure about two friends at school dreaming up their own pirate story.

*Manual de piratas* (2011) by Mónica Carretero (Spanish; English version *Pirate Handbook* translated by John Brokenbrow available). A delightful and interactive "handbook" for aspiring pirates.

*Tía Isa Wants a Car* (2011) by Meg Medina and Claudio Muñoz (English with Spanish words). A lovely picture book about family and resourcefulness.

*Jabari salta* (2020) by Gaia Cornwall, translated by Georgina Lázaro (Spanish; English version *Jabari Jumps* available). A detailed and colorful story about courage.

*Calle Felicidad* (2020) by Elizavet Arkolaki and Charikleia Arkolaki; translated by Eva Rodriguez Ruiz (Bilingual). A joyful book with watercolor illustrations that reflect on happy seaside memories.

*Las vacaciones de Pingüino* by (2015) Salina Yoon (Spanish; English version *Penguin on Vacation* available). Penguin goes on a tropical vacation and learns how to have fun on the beach. Charming, cartoon-like illustrations accompany this simple tale.

*Mi amigo Juan* (2006) by Kitty Crowther (Spanish; English version *Jack and Jim* available). A story about a seagull and a blackbird who form a friendship, in spite of their differences. Lovely, quirky watercolor illustrations.

# STORYTIME SONGS

## Rhyme/Movement: Treasure Hunt

This fun baby activity was modified from the classic rhyme. Caregivers do the movements on baby's tummy. Great for baby storytimes, but also works for toddlers and preschoolers who can do the motions on themselves or on each other!

We're going on a treasure hunt (drag fingers down back)  
 X marks the spot (draw big X on back)  
 Three lines down, with a dot, dot, dot (make 3 lines down back)  
 Gold and jewels (open one hand, then the other)  
 And so much more (tickle tummy)  
 With a pinch (light pinch with thumb and forefinger)  
 And a squeeze (light squeeze with both hands)  
 And a tropical breeze (blow on nape of the neck)  
 Now you've got the shivers!

## Rhyme: Un Caracola

Practice counting in Spanish!

*Una caracola cerca de las olas / A shell near the waves*  
*¡Vino una muy grande y se la llevó! / One giant wave took the shell away*  
*Dos...*  
*Tres...*  
*Cuatro...*  
*Cinco caracolas cerca de las olas*  
*¡Se pusieron muy juntitas y la ola no llegó!*

## Song/Movement: Vamos a la Mar

Traditional song from Guatemala. Provide tambourines or other noise-makers for kids to sound along (on every "tun, tun"), or just have them clap along. Optionally, repeat several times and increase speed on each repeat. Video by Brenda Feaster of Friendswood Public Library, Friendswood, TX. Link (song starts at [1:15]): <https://bit.ly/3uo63R7>

*Vamos a la mar, tun, tun / Let's go to the sea, toon, toon*  
*A comer pescado, tun, tun / To eat delicious fish, toon, toon*  
*Fritito y asado, tun, tun / Have them baked or fried, toon, toon*  
*En plato de palo, tun, tun / In a wooden dish, toon, toon*

## TIP:

Being able to tap along to a steady beat is an important early childhood milestone. Even if songs do not include hand motions, you can still show children how to clap to the beat!

**STORYTIME SONGS****Rhyme/Fingerplay/Flannel Board: Five Little Seashells**

Caregivers bounce or swing babies with every wave. Toddlers and preschoolers can follow along with the fingerplay. For a flannel board, put up five seashells and take one away with each verse. Optionally, give each child five real or paper seashells to follow along. Lyrics from King County Library System. <https://bit.ly/3fNaEqM>

Five little seashells sleeping on the shore (hold up five fingers)  
Swish went a big wave, (swish a wave with second hand)  
Then there were four! (tuck one finger down)  
Four little seashells, quiet as can be, (hold up four fingers)  
Swish went a big wave, (swish a wave with second hand)  
Then there were three! (tuck one finger down)  
Three little seashells, pearly, white and new (hold up three fingers)  
Swish went a big wave, (swish a wave with second hand)  
Then there were two! (tuck one finger down)  
Two little seashells having great fun (hold up two fingers)  
Swish went a big wave, (swish a wave with second hand)  
Then there was one! (tuck one finger down)  
One little seashell lying in the sun, (hold up one finger)  
Swish went a big wave, (swish a wave with second hand)  
Then there were none! (tuck all fingers down)

**Song/Fingerplay: Pirate Zoom Zoom**

Video from Sidnie Srader of Jones Public Library, Dayton, TX:  
<https://youtu.be/zq2NPwGzvms>

Zoom, zoom, zoom (brush hands together)  
We're hunting for doubloons (hold hand like a visor over your eyes)  
Zoom, zoom, zoom  
We're hunting for doubloons  
If you want to take a trip  
Climb aboard my pirate ship and  
Zoom, zoom, zoom  
We're hunting for doubloons  
In 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... (use ASL for the countdown)  
AHOY! (punch your hand down and up)

## STORYTIME SONGS

**Song: Pedro es un Pirata**

A fun song to do with a pirate puppet. Modified from “Juanito es un pirata.” Video by Brenda Feaster of Friendswood Public Library, Friendswood, TX. Link (Song starts at [2:57]): <https://bit.ly/3uo63R7>

*Pedro es un pirata*

*Con pañuelo rojo*

*Pata de palo y un parche en el ojo*

*Pirata ta, pirata ta, pirata, ta, ta, ta (x2)*

**Fingerplay: Five Scurvy Pirates**

Build preschoolers’ vocabulary by defining “scurvy,” which means that the pirates got sick from not eating enough fruits and vegetables! Retrieved from Library Storytime ABCs blog: <https://bit.ly/3hS3Zyi>

Five scurvy pirates standing on the shore,  
 One went on a search and that left four.  
 Four scurvy pirates sailing out to sea,  
 One went for a swim and that left three.  
 Three scurvy pirates out on the ocean blue,  
 One walked the plank and that left two.  
 Two scurvy pirates having tons of fun,  
 One went below deck and that left one.  
 One scurvy pirate, tired and alone,  
 He turned the ship around and sailed for home.

**Song: I Am a Pirate**

Call and repeat each line. Sing English or Spanish version, or both! To the tune of “Down By the Station.”

I am a pirate / *Soy un pirata*

Sailing on the ocean / *En el mar azul*

Looking for treasure / *Busco tesoro*

Everywhere I go / *Pára cólectar*

And when I see it / *Cuando lo vea*

I am going to shout out / *Gritaré a todos*

“Ahoy there, maties! / *Ahoy compañeros*

Yo, ho, ho!” / *Yo, ho, ho*

**TIP:**

You can also modify the classic “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” song by replacing “bear” with “treasure.”

## STORYTIME SONGS

### Song/Fingerplay: I'm a Little Pirate

To the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot."

I'm a little pirate, short and stout	(indicate short and wide)
Here is my hook; you'd better watch out	(hold up bent finger for "hook")
Even with an eye patch, I can see	(cover one eye)
All the treasure there for me!	(hands out, then to self)

### Rhyme: Las Chanclas

A fun rhyme that lets children practice their colors and numbers in Spanish. Video and craft by Brenda Feaster of Friendswood Public Library.

Link: <https://bit.ly/2SBbILN>



Image source: Brenda Feaster of Friendswood Public Library, Friendswood TX

*En la playa el sol brilla / The sun shines at the beach*  
*Las olas van y vienen / The waves come and go*  
*Los niños se detienen / The children stop*  
*Ven lo que el mar arroja / When they see the ocean throw*  
*Una chancla roja / A red flip-flop!*  
*Está cerca de la orilla / Close to the shore*  
*Viene una ola / A wave is coming*  
*Y aparece una chancla amarilla / And a yellow flip-flop appears*  
*Dos chanclas en la orilla del mar / Two flip-flops on the seashore*  
*Flotando por el agua el delfín alegre / The happy dolphin floating through the water*  
*La gente ve el gran espectáculo / People watch the big show*  
*Y la niña deja la chancla verde / And the girl leaves the green flip-flop*  
*Tres chanclas en la orilla de la playa / Three flip-flops on the shore of the beach*  
*La ola trae un baúl / The wave brings a trunk*  
*Tu tienes curiosidad, lo abres y / You are curious, you open it and*  
*¡Encuentras la chancla azul! / You find the blue flip-flop!*  
*Cuatro chanclas sobre la arena / Four flip-flops on the sand*  
*A lo lejos ves una ola enojada / In the distance you see an angry wave*  
*Volteas a ver / You turn to see*  
*¡Y ahora queda nada! / And now there is nothing left!*

## STORYTIME SONGS

**The Pirates on the Sea / Los Piratas en el Mar**

To the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

The pirates on the sea / *Los piratas en el mar*

The pirates on the sea

Yo, ho, yo, ho

The pirates on the sea.

Verses:

They’re sailing on their ships / *Navegan en sus barcos...*  
(rock back & forth)

They’re looking for some gold / *Buscan el oro...*  
(hand above eye, look around)

**Song: Over the Deep Blue Sea / En el Mar Azul**

Melody here: <https://bit.ly/3wHaKXZ>

‘Twas a sunny day when I went to play down by the sea.

I climbed aboard a pirate ship, and the captain said to me,

Chorus (2x):

“We’re going this way, that way, forwards, backwards.

Up and down, up and down, over the deep blue sea.”

Verses: Windy day, rainy day, snowy day, stormy day

Lyrics (Español)

*Era un día soleado cuando fui hasta el mar azul.*

*Subí abordo de un barco pirata y el capitán me dijo*

Chorus (2x):

*Vamos hacia allá, hacia acá, adelante, atrás.*

*Arriba y abajo, arriba y abajo, en el mar azul.*

Verses: día ventoso, día lluvioso, día con nieve, día de tormenta

**TIP:**

Several more great storytime pirate songs are available on Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai’s Born Librarian blog. Link: <https://bit.ly/3yHSteR>

## STORYTIME SONGS

**Song/Movement: If You're a Pirate and You Know It**

To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." From Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai's *Born Librarian* blog.

If you're a pirate and you know it, swab the deck (swish, swish)  
 If you're a pirate and you know it, swab the deck (swish, swish)  
 If you're a pirate and you know it, then you'll hear the sea winds blowin'  
 If you're a pirate and you know it, swab the deck (swish, swish)

Verses:

If you're a pirate and you know it, walk the plank (stomp, stomp)...  
 If you're a pirate and you know it, say ahoy (Ahoy! with arm movement)...

**Rhyme/Movement: One-Eyed Jake**

This is a fun cumulative song for preschoolers. Children try to stay upright while performing more and more pirate movements. From Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai's *Born Librarian* blog.

I'm One-Eyed Jake, the pirate chief (cover one eye)  
 A terrible, fearsome ocean thief  
 I have a peg upon my leg (stand on one leg)  
 I have a hook and a dirty look (curved fingers, mean face)  
 I'm One-Eyed Jake, the pirate chief  
 A terrible, fearsome ocean thief.

**Fingerplay: Ten Little Pirates**

Lyrics from the *Born Librarian* blog: <http://bornlibrarian.blogspot.com/>

Ten little pirates stood in a row (hold up all ten fingers)  
 They bowed to their captain (lower and raise fingers)  
 They marched to the left (march hands to left)  
 They marched to the right (march hands to right)  
 They shouted yoo hoo! (cup hands over mouth)  
 And gave their captain a fright (cover mouth with hands)

## STORYTIME SONGS



Image source: Brenda Feaster of Friendswood Public Library, Friendswood, TX

## Rhyme: Cinco Piratas

Optionally, premake pirate peg dolls and a pirate ship to demonstrate. Video by Brenda Feaster of Friendswood Public Library, Friendswood, TX. Link (Song starts at [3:51]): <https://bit.ly/3uo63R7>

*Cinco piratas parados en fila / Five little pirates standing in a row*  
*¡Saludan al capitán quien se despabila! / They salute the captain, who wakes up!*  
*Marchan a babor, marchan a estribor / They march to port, they march to starboard*  
*¡Gritan! Gruñen como actores de teatro / They scream! They grunt like stage actors*  
*Y ahora sólo quedan cuatro / And now there are only four (count: Uno, dos, tres, cuatro)*

Verses:

*Cuatro piratas...*

*Gruñen como quien ve a los chimpancés / They grunt like chimpanzees*  
*Y ahora quedan tres / And now there are three (count: Uno, dos, tres)*

*Tres piratas...*

*Gruñen como que tienen tos / They grunt like they have a cough*  
*Y ahora quedan dos / And now there are two (count: Uno, dos)*

*Dos piratas...*

*Gruñen como que no hay ninguno / They grunt like there's nobody left*  
*Y ahora queda uno... / And now there's only one (count: Uno)*

## STORYTIME SONGS

**Fingerplay: Five Little Pirates (Cinco Piratas)  
on a Treasure Chest**

For a Spanish version, replace “little pirates” with “piratas” (can be done with any version of “Five Little Pirates.” Lyrics modified from Braberton Public Library. <https://bit.ly/3oS6ZMA>)

Five little pirates (*cinco piratas*) on a treasure chest  
One jumped off and four (*cuatro*) are left.  
Four little pirates (*cuatro piratas*) on a treasure chest  
One slid off and three (*tres*) are left.  
Three little pirates (*tres piratas*) on a treasure chest  
One fell down and two (*dos*) are left.  
Two little pirates (*dos piratas*) on a treasure chest  
One was pushed off and one (*un*) is left.  
One little pirate (*un pirata*) on the treasure chest  
They climbed down and then there were none.  
No little pirates on the treasure chest  
Yo ho ho and now it's all mine.

# ACTIVITIES

## Ocean Floor (Babies)

Put a blue mat or blanket on the floor, along with plush/foam ocean toys. Babies can crawl around and explore the sea creatures.

## Treasure Hunt Sensory Bins or Bottles (Babies/Toddlers)

For babies, premake sensory bottles or bags filled with sand/ rice and beads/seashells/plastic coins. Alternatively, make a sensory bin filled with larger treasures that toddlers can dig through with cups/ spoons/plastic shovels. Kinetic sand also works really well for bins. Don't forget to put a tarp under the bin for easy clean-up!



Image source: Joelle Wake of Whiting Public Library, Whiting, IN

## Sandpaper Castles (Babies/Toddlers/Preschool)

For babies, cut castle silhouettes out of sandpaper and hang them on the wall. They can feel the “sand” with the help of caregivers. Toddlers can have tactile fun ripping up sheets of sandpaper. Preschoolers can tear or cut their own shapes out of sandpaper and glue them into a sandcastle collage.

## Seashell Play and Math (Babies/Toddlers/Preschool)

Set out a bin of large seashells. Babies can have some sensory play; toddlers can make designs on the floors, and preschoolers can count out given numbers of each type of shell.

## Walk the Plank (Toddlers/Preschool)

Put a blue mat or blanket on the floor, and lay a cardboard or wood “plank” (about 6’ long) over it. Cut “shark fins” from black foam board and attach them to a base to set them on the floor. Toddlers can walk over the plank. Preschoolers can try to do it with their eyes closed!



Image source: Susan Foster of Cobb County Public Library, Marietta, GA

## TIP:

Unstructured play is a very important part of early literacy development. Research shows that giving children time to explore and play provides opportunities for self-direction, imagination, and goal-setting.

**GAME/ACTIVITY****Treasure Chest (Toddlers/Preschool)**

Fill a treasure chest with necklaces, plastic coins, seashells, and ocean figurines. Children close their eyes and choose a treasure one by one. Does this little pirate want a treasure? Aye aye!

**Pirate Hat (Toddlers/Preschool)**

Precut pirate hat shapes (one per child) out of foam or construction paper. After storytime, children can decorate with crayons/markers/glitter glue/stick-on jewels. To make it wearable, attach paper strips (for paper hats) or elastic (for foam hats) to wrap around children's heads. Idea and Printable courtesy of Aimee Steinbruecker of Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI.



Image source: Aimee Steinbruecker of Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI

**Ocean in an Egg Carton (Toddlers/Preschool)**

Each child gets a blue egg carton or box painted blue before the program. Then they take a "walk on the beach" to gather objects such as seashells, printed images of sea creatures, and/or "seaweed" shapes cut out of foam. Glue these items to the box/egg cartons, or keep them loose.

**Seashell/Beach Worksheets (Toddlers/Preschool)**

See Printables for handwriting, coloring, and maze worksheets.

**Pirate Mask (Preschool)**

Before the program, print pirate mask templates onto white cardstock, and cut out the eye holes. After children color their masks with crayons or markers, duct tape a craft stick to the back of each one so they can hold them up to their faces. Printable courtesy of Aimee Steinbruecker of Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI.

**Printables**

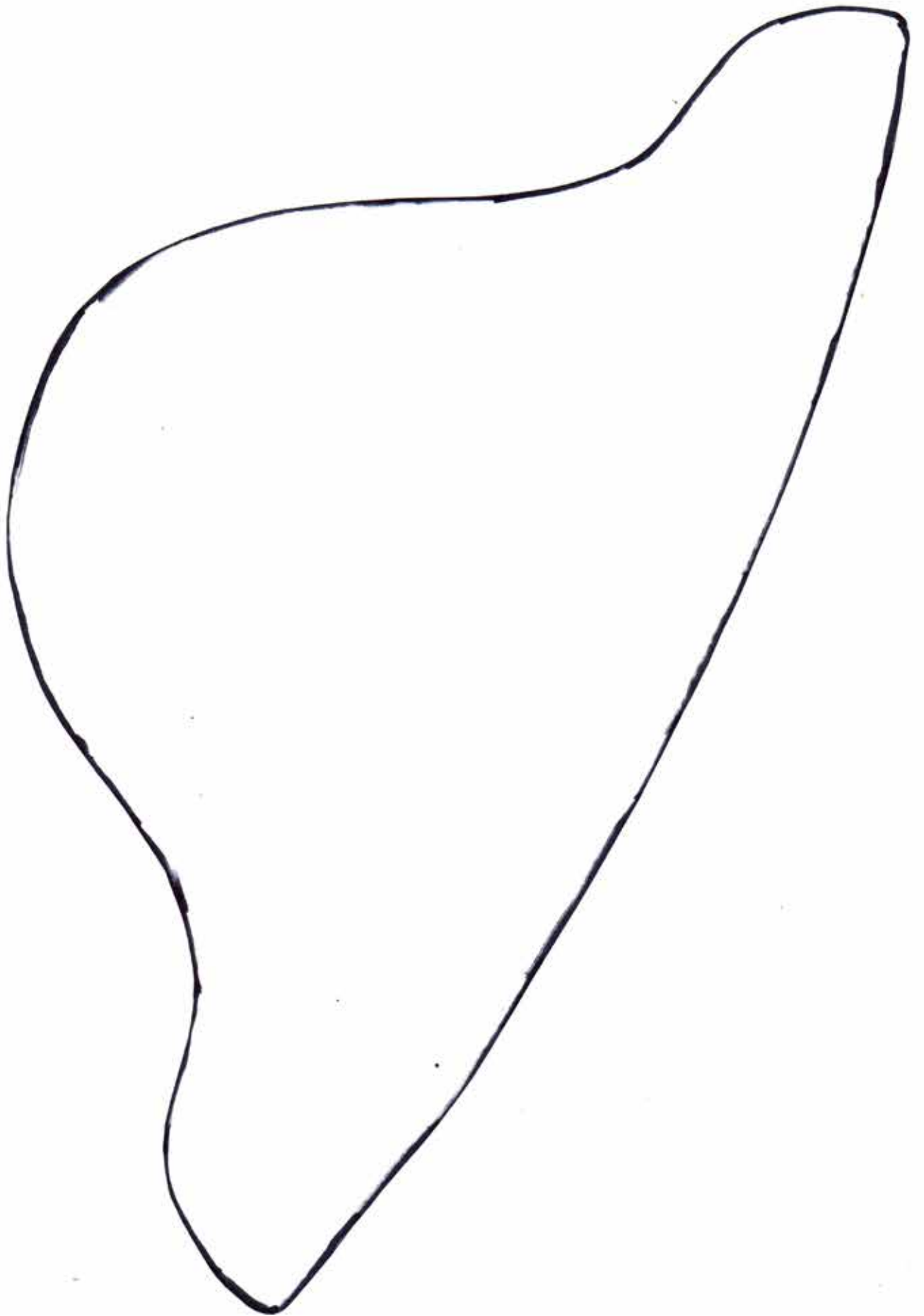
Pirate Hat Template

Seashell Handwriting Practice

Seashell Counting Practice

Beach Maze Coloring Sheet

Pirate Mask Template



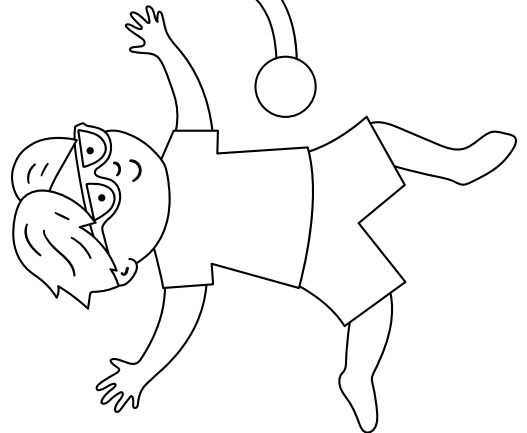
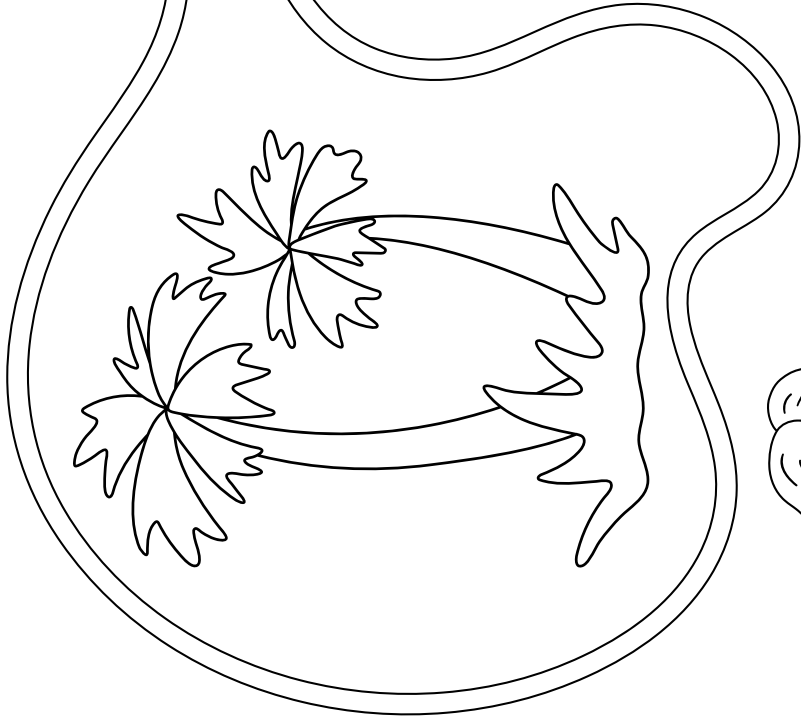
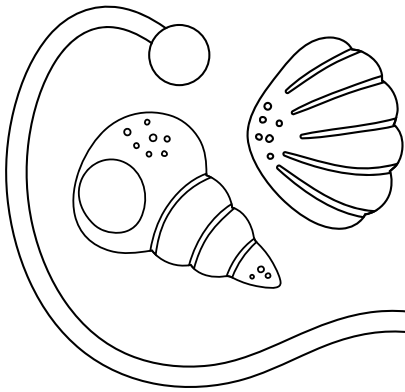
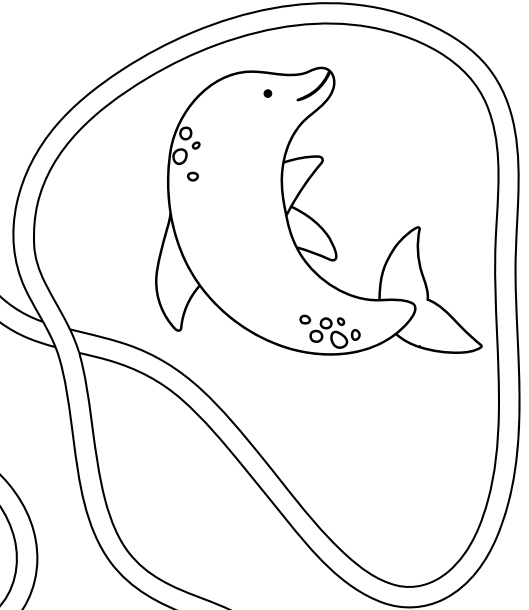
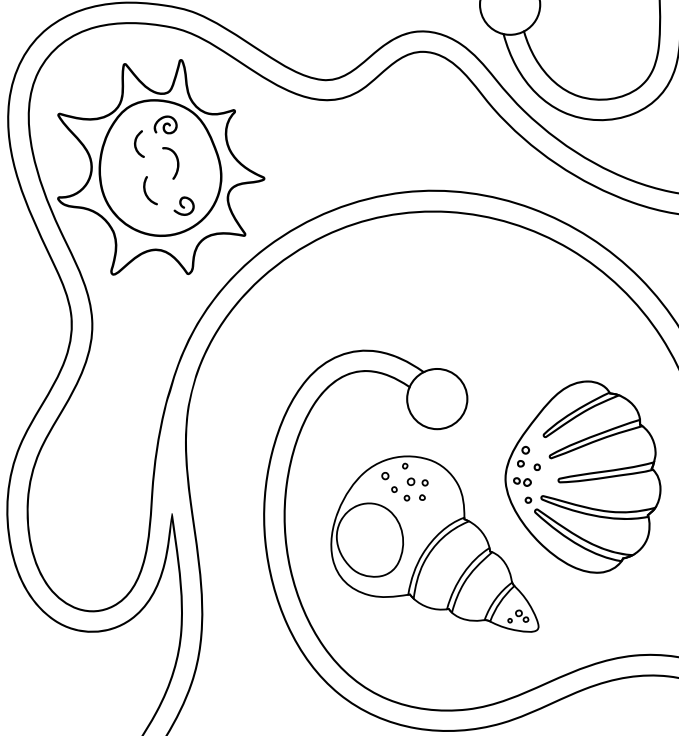
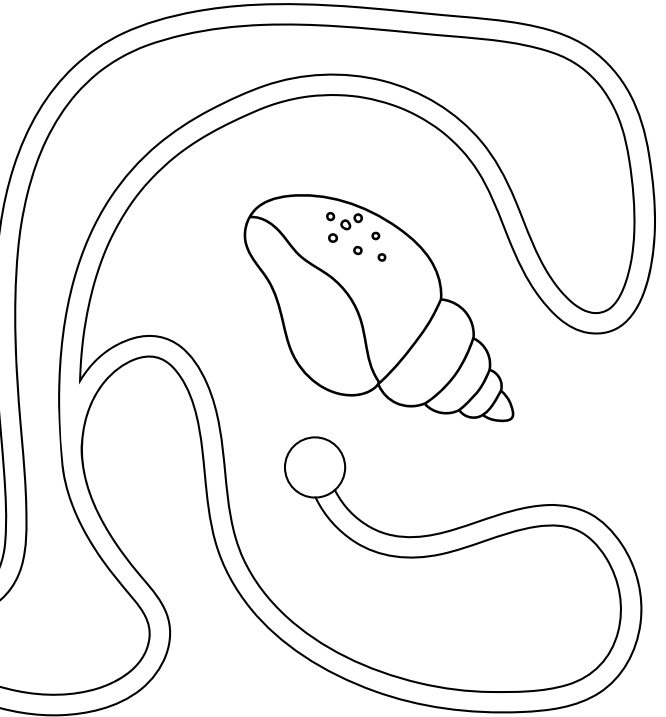
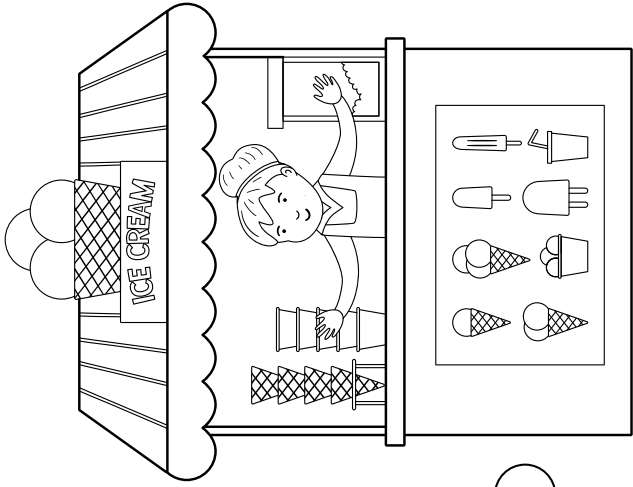
# HANDWRITING PRACTICE





HOW  
MANY?







# SEASHELL ACTIVITIES

## AGES

Children 5+ years

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Three different seashell crafts and activities. Great for sensory input. Suggested runtime: 45 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

### Station #1: Decorate a Seashell

Materials: Large seashells, beads, crayons, stickers, cutouts, glue, paint and paintbrushes (optional)

Instructions: Children decorate a large shell with beads, crayons, cutouts, paint, etc.

### TIP:

See also Jewelry Trays and Treasure Boxes on page 47 for a variation on this idea for teens/tweens.

## GAME/ACTIVITY

### Station #2: Watercolor Seashells

Materials:

- Watercolor paper
- Watercolors
- white glue and black acrylic paint (or premade black glue)
- Paintbrushes
- Pencils,
- Salt (optional)
- Seashell template (optional; see Resources)
- Tables and chairs



Image source: Heather Oates of Ligonier Valley Library, Ligonier, PA

Instructions:

- In advance, make your own black glue by mixing white glue with black acrylic paint until you reach desired opacity. Set up tables and chairs.
- Draw seashells or another scene on watercolor paper, or make photocopies for children to trace (see Resources for a template).
- Trace the lines of your drawing with the black glue, and let it dry.
- Watercolor between the lines. Optionally, when wet, sprinkle salt.

### Station #3: Shell Identification

Materials: Shells, shell identification books, magnifying glasses

Instructions:

- In advance, purchase shells, shell identification books, and magnifying glasses. Alternatively, you could print or cut out images of different types of shells and laminate them.
- Children examine seashells and try to identify them.

#### TIP:

If time is limited, trace the lines with black glue before the program so children can get right to painting. Or omit the black glue and have children paint a beach scene.

#### ADAPTATION:

For younger children, instead of identification, discuss where shells come from and how they're made, then let them handle different kinds of shells.

## GAME/ACTIVITY

**UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS**

Add an extra volunteer to each station.

**RESOURCES****Web**

Watercolor seashell craft from *The Pinterest Parent*: <https://bit.ly/3fpKk7a>

Video of “Seashore Surprises” from *Reading Rainbow* (free):  
<https://bit.ly/3uq2HgB>

Learning about shells from *wNet School*: <https://bit.ly/2SxFaN0>

**Books**Non-fiction

*Seashells: More Than a Home* (2019) by Melissa Stewart and Sarah S. Brannon (children’s)

*Shells* (Smithsonian Handbooks) (2002) by S. Peter Dance (children’s)

*Sand* (Jump into Science series) (2006) by Ellen J. Prager and Nancy Woodman (children’s)

Fiction

*Seashells by the Seashore* (2002) by Marianne Berkes and Robert Noreika (children’s)

*A House for Hermit Crab* (2002) by Eric Carle (children’s)

*Grains of Sand* (2018) by Sibyle Delacroix trans. Karen Li (children’s)

*The Sandcastle Contest* (2005) by Robert Munsch and Michael Martchenko (children’s)

*Day at the Beach* (2018) by Tom Booth (children’s)

*It Is Not Perfect* (2020) by Anna Kang and Christopher Weyant (children’s)

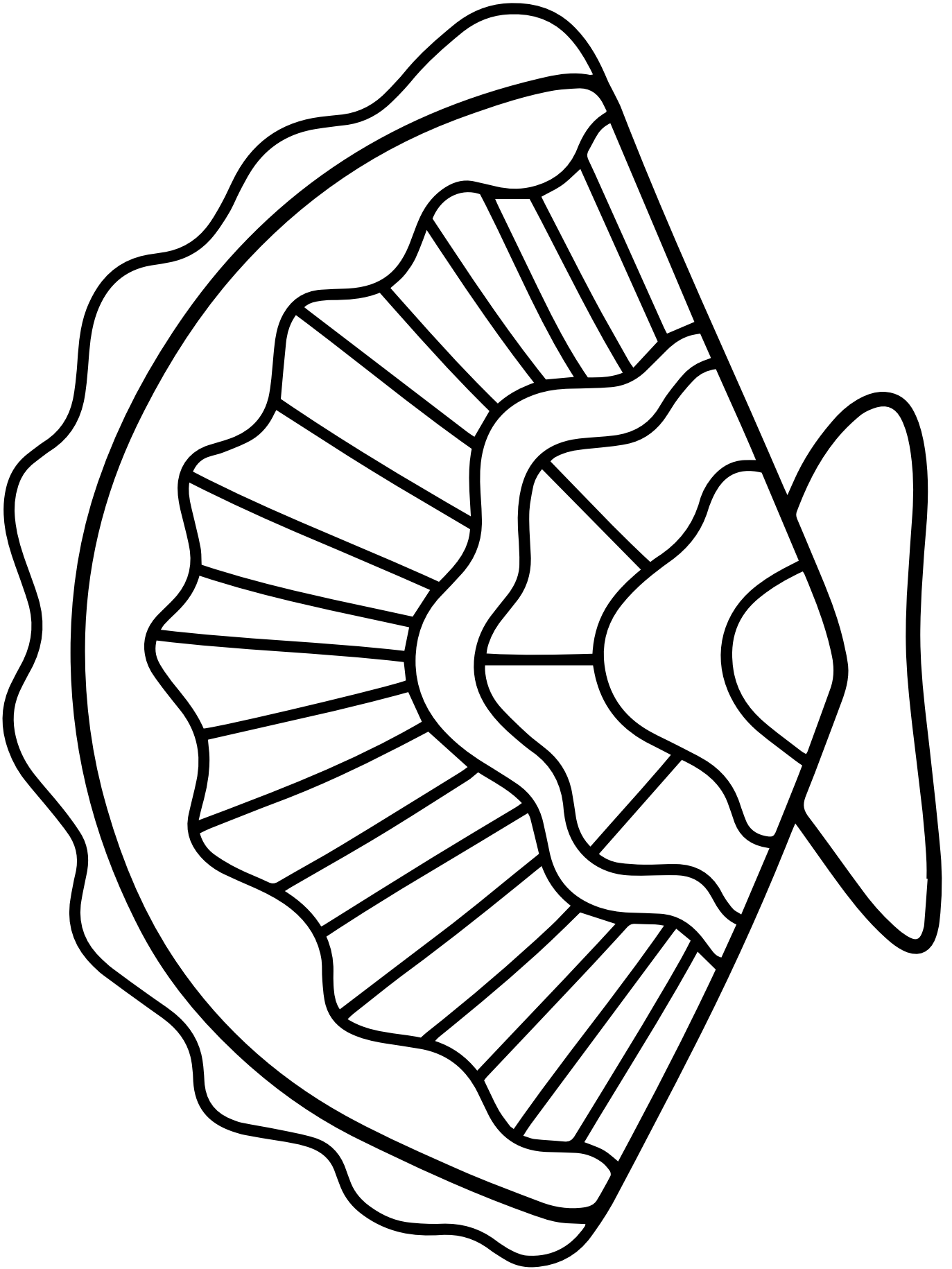
*Sand Cake* (2015) by Frank Asch (children’s)

*Where the Ocean Meets the Sand* (2020) by Beth Costanzo and Ekaterina Illina (children’s)

*Jules vs. the Ocean* (2020) by Jesse Sima (children’s)

**Printables**

Seashell Template



# FRIENDSHIP IS A TREASURE

## AGES

Children 6+ years

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

After reading *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister, discuss friendship and brainstorm ways in which to be a good friend. Work together as a group to write an acrostic poem about friendship on a whiteboard. Alternatively, older children can write their own poems. Children then work on their “friendship fish” art by coloring or decorating a fish to make it sparkle like treasure. Suggested runtime: 45 minutes.



Image source: Shutterstock

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials: White board for the acrostic poem; cardstock; markers; glue, sequins, buttons, felt, glitter, or other sensory items to decorate the fish (optional)

Instructions:

- Before the program, print fish silhouettes onto cardstock, and set up tables and chairs.
- If children will write their own poems, create handouts with a blank line for each of the letters in FRIENDSHIP.

## DEFINITION:

An acrostic poem is one in which the first letter of every line spells out a word. “Friendship,” “Friend,” or “Treasure” would all work well.

## NOTE:

This idea was adapted from an activity from *The Mailbox Magazine* from Aug/Sept. 2007.

**UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS**

Solo-librarian friendly.

**RESOURCES****Books**Non-fiction

*I'll Walk With You* (2020) by Carol Lynn Pearson and Jane Sanders (children's)

*Friends: Making Them and Keeping Them* (2015) by Patti Kelley Criswell and Stacy Peterson (children's)

*Do My Part* (2020) by Tamika Leshā (children's)

Fiction

*The Rainbow Fish* (1999) by Marcus Pfister (children's)

*Julián is a Mermaid* (2018) by Jessica Love (children's)

*A Stone for Sascha* (2018) by Aaron Becker (children's)

*The Proudest Blue* (2019) by Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Ali, and Hatem Aly (children's)

*Pool* (2015) by Jihyeon Lee (children's)

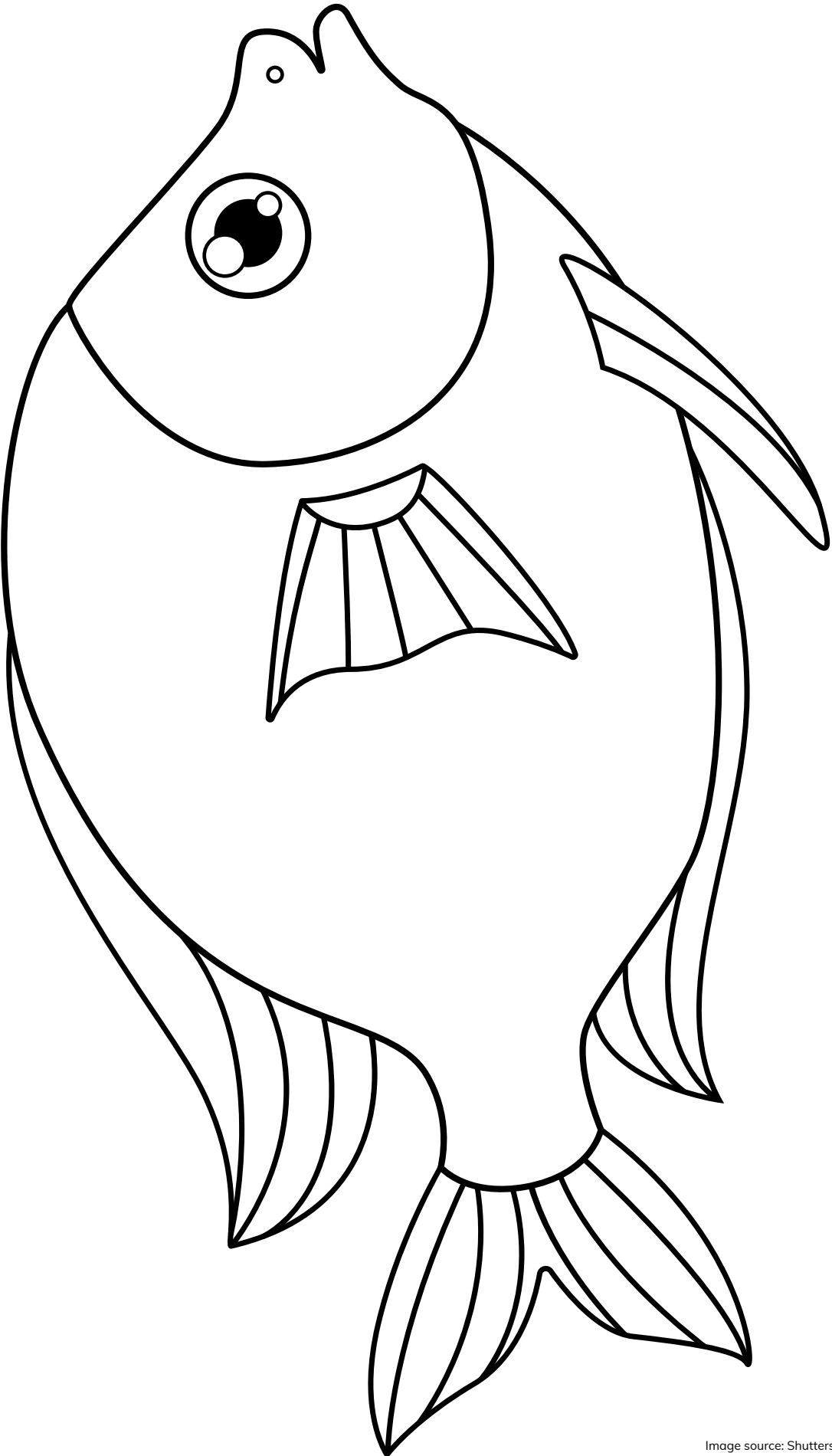
*The Story of Fish and Snail* (2013) by Deborah Freedman (children's)

*Catching a Storyfish* (2016) by Janice N. Harrington (children's)

*The Little Wave* (2019) by Pip Harry (children's)

**Printables**

Fish Silhouette to Decorate or Color



# JEWELS OF THE SEA: PEARLS

## AGES

Children 8+ years

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Pearls are the only gemstone to come from a living creature! Depending on audience age, discuss pearl diving, pearl formation/farming, and/or pearl history. Pearls are formed in mollusk shells and come in many shapes and colors. They are prized amongst jewelers. Most pearls today are cultured, meaning they are grown in a pearl farm. After a discussion or presentation, participants “dive” for their own pearls with which to create their own keychain or bracelet. A coloring sheet is included for children who finish their crafts early. Suggested runtime: 60 min.



Image source: Amanda Raiche of Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, Vermillion, SD

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

### Activity: Pearl Diving

Materials: Small kiddie pool(s); water to fill up pool; sand; pipe cleaners; pearl beads; other beads to supplement the pearls; containers for pearls to bury in the sand (you could use baggies or small plastic containers for something very simple and cost effective, or a plastic clamshell from a craft store).

## TIP:

You can also have participants make “oysters” by putting frosting and a candy pearl between two cookies.



Image source: Shutterstock

## ADAPTATION:

For those who need physical accommodations, use containers on tables instead of kiddie pools.

## TIP:

If weather and space permit, take this activity outside! It can get messy.

Instructions:

- In advance, separate out pearls into containers (baggies, tupperware, or plastic clamshells, or shallow pan/container). Alternatively, just throw pearls in the bottom of any pan/container.
- Fill the kiddie pools  $\frac{1}{3}$  with sand, just enough to cover the pearls.
- Add water to your desired depth. (The deeper, the messier!)

For the activity:

- This can be run as a relay between teams or done collaboratively in groups around the pools.
- Make “clothespins” out of pipecleaners, and bend them around kids’ noses.
- Participants will place a large clothespin on their nose to replicate the turtle shell clip pearl divers used and one by one run to the pool to dig up their pearls. When they have their set, they will run back and tag the next person. The first team finished wins!
- Alternately, you can have the kids participate in groups around the pools with no rush or competition needed.

### **Craft: Pearl Keychains and Bracelets**

Materials: Beads; string or cord; keychain rings

Instructions:

- In advance, set up tables with craft materials.
- Cut the string to twice the desired length.
- Fold the string in half and put both ends through the keychain loop.
- Put the ends of the cord through the loop and pull tight to secure.
- String beads, making sure to pull both strings through.
- When done, tie a double knot at the end of the strings until beads are secure.
- Trim excess string.

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

## RESOURCES

### Web

“Pearl Description” from *Gemological Institute of America*:  
<https://bit.ly/3fsufNS>

Teacher’s pack for *The Pearl Diver* from *Medina Publishing*:  
<https://bit.ly/3hYcSWV>

“Pearl Diving” from *Abu Dhabi Culture*: <https://bit.ly/3usOS11>

“Meet the Female Pearl-Divers of Japan: The ‘Ama’” from *Forbes*:  
<https://bit.ly/2ROAYJ2>

“Pearl Farming in Japan” from *The Guardian*: <https://bit.ly/3hYcOq9>

Beaded keychain tutorial from *Instructables*: <https://bit.ly/3i4AZ6i>

### Books

#### Non-fiction

*Diving for Pearls (Gemstones of the World)* (2018) by Rachael Morlock (children’s)

*Pearls (Gems: Nature’s Jewels)* (2015) by Sarah Machajewski (children’s)

#### Fiction

*Pearl* (2018) by Molly Idle (children’s)

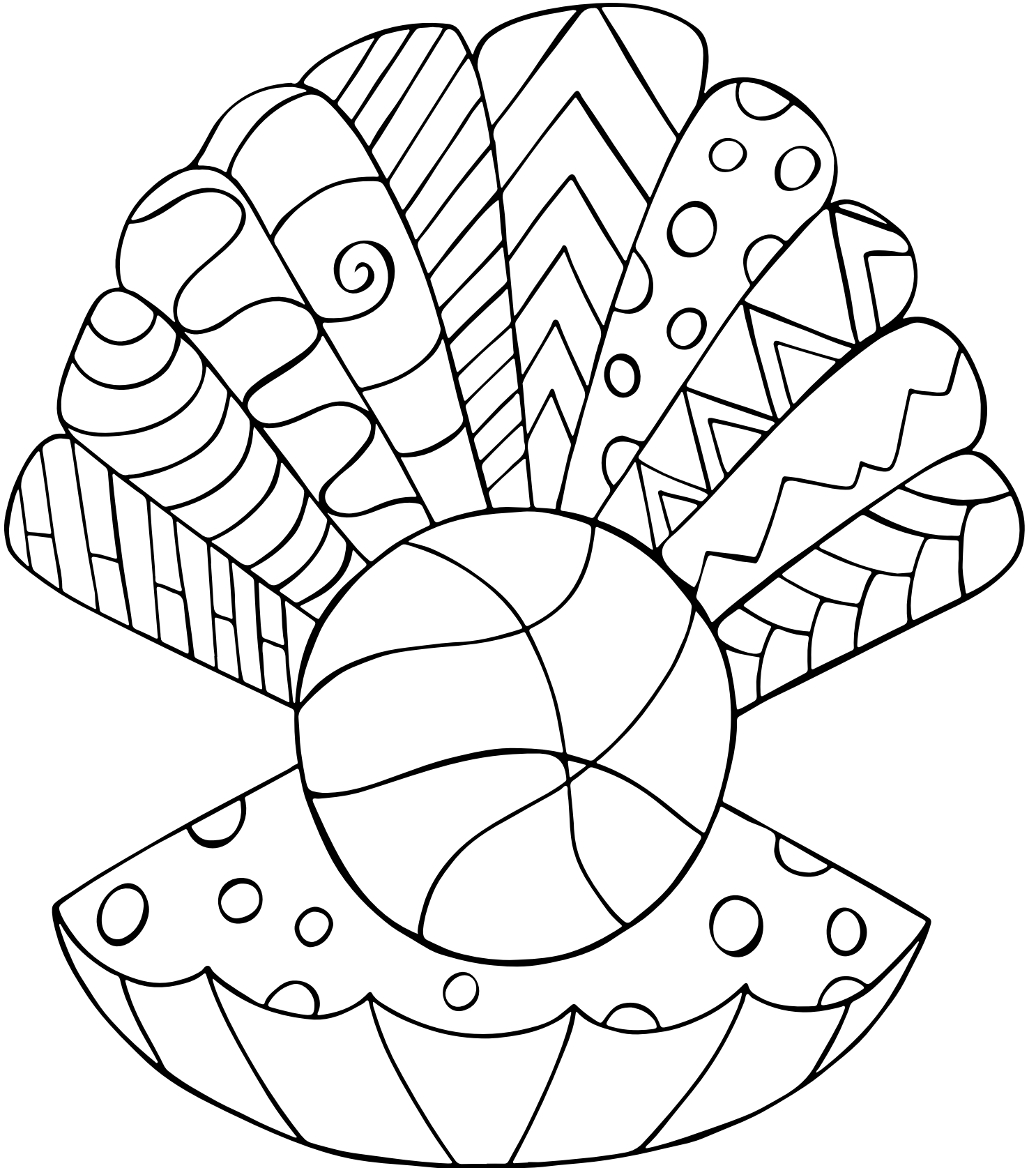
*A Single Pearl* (2013) by Donna Jo Napoli and Jim LaMarche (children’s)

*The Pearl Diver* (2015) by Julia Johnson and Patricia Al Fakhri (children’s)

*The Pearl-shell Diver* (2016) by Kay Crabbe (children’s)

### Printables

Pearl Coloring Sheet





GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE | LOW COST

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

## RESOURCES

### Books

#### Non-fiction

*Treasure Hunting and Real Life Treasure Hunters* (2019) by Catherine Fet (children's)

*The Treasure Hunter's Handbook* (2014) by Liz Gardner Walsh and Jennifer Smith-Mayo (children's)

*Pirates and Treasure* (1995) by Saviour Pirotta (children's)

#### Fiction

*Treasure Island* (1881) by Robert Louis Stevenson (children's)

*Captain Jack and the Pirates* (2016) by Peter Bently and Helen Oxenbury (children's)

*The Treasure of Pirate Frank* (2018) by Mal Peet, Elspeth Graham, and Jez Tuya (children's)

*Pirate Nell's Tale to Tell* (2020) by Helen Docherty and Thomas Docherty (children's)

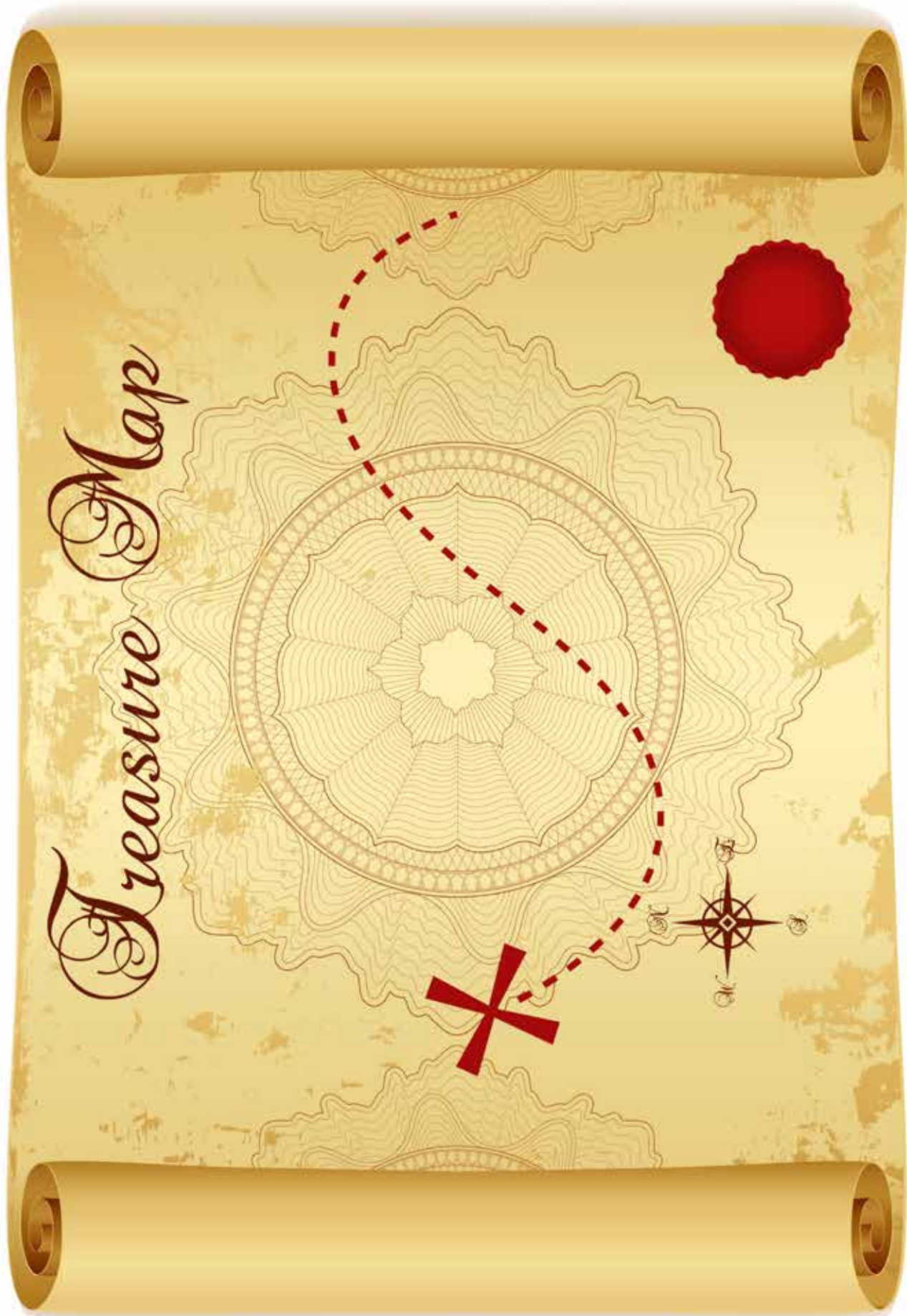
### Printables

Blank Treasure Map

Pirate Scavenger Hunt

## FUN FACT:

It is a literary trope that pirates buried their treasure, born from the popular novel *Treasure Island*: See <https://bit.ly/2TlwNVI> or <https://bit.ly/3hY76Ve> for more info.



*Treasure Map*

# PIRATE SCAVENGER HUNT

Can You Find...

A plank of wood \_\_\_\_\_

An eye patch \_\_\_\_\_

A hook \_\_\_\_\_

A rope \_\_\_\_\_

A flag \_\_\_\_\_

A map \_\_\_\_\_

An X \_\_\_\_\_

A parrot \_\_\_\_\_

A mermaid \_\_\_\_\_

A seashell \_\_\_\_\_

A coin \_\_\_\_\_

A key \_\_\_\_\_

A skull \_\_\_\_\_

A barrel \_\_\_\_\_

Stripes \_\_\_\_\_

Something that rhymes with wave \_\_\_\_\_

Something that rhymes with ship \_\_\_\_\_

Something that rhymes with blue \_\_\_\_\_

Something gray like a shark \_\_\_\_\_

Something wavy like seaweed \_\_\_\_\_

Something shiny like treasure \_\_\_\_\_

Something colorful like a parrot \_\_\_\_\_

# SECRET MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

## AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens/tweens

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Decoding secret messages is sure to be a hit with older children and tweens! First they create their secret codes, then write secret messages to each other. Have them put their secret messages into empty soda bottles for transport. Suggested runtime: 45–60 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials: Paper; pens/pencils/markers; empty plastic water bottles; printable code references (see Resources); cardstock, split pins, and template (optional, for cipher wheel).

Instructions:

- Before the program, set up tables and chairs, and set out supplies.
- Once children have experimented with codes, they can either decode messages that you've put in bottles before the program, or trade their own codes with other children to decipher.
- They could also decorate the bottles.

## Secret Code Ideas

### Number Substitution

One number represents one letter. The simplest version is 1=A, 2=B, 3=C, and so forth.

### Morse Code

Letters are represented by lines and dots. See Lighthouse STEAM Challenge on page 304 for a Morse code printable.

## GAME/ACTIVITY | CRAFT | LOW COST

Book Cipher

This code requires that both the code writer and the person decoding it use the same edition of an agreed-upon book. It references entire words rather than letters. It works by providing numbers in sequences of threes—these numbers refer to the page number, line number, and word. You could use books in the library as references for this cipher!

Pigpen Code

This code uses shapes and dots to represent letters. (See Resources for a printable Pigpen code alphabet.)

Cipher Wheel

This code gives the children an opportunity to create their own cipher wheel.

- Print the cipher wheel template (see Resources) onto cardstock.
- Cut out the circles.
- Write the alphabet in the outer margin squares of each wheel.
- Use a split pin to secure the wheels together through the center, with the smaller wheel on top.

To use:

- Align the wheels so that the alphabet matches on both wheels.
- Choose two letters that both you and the recipient of the code will need to remember.
- Adjust the wheels so that these two letters line up.
- Now, you can use a simple letter substitution method to write your code!

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

## RESOURCES

### Web

Secret codes from *Enchanted Little World*: <https://bit.ly/3c05AhP>

Secret codes from *Pickle Bums*: <https://bit.ly/3hTpiiZ>

Cipher wheel tutorial from *Savvy Homemade*: <https://bit.ly/3fnFuaq>

Printable pigpen cipher from *Pickle Bums*: <https://bit.ly/3umjuAZ>

## Books

### Non-fiction

*Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing* (2006) by Jenna Lareau (children's)

*Samuel Morse, That's Who!* (2019) by Tracy Nelson Maurer and el primo Ramón (children's)

### Fiction

*The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles* (2016) by Michelle Cuevas and Erin E. Stead (children's)

*Harriet the Spy* (2001) by Louise Fitzhugh (children's)

*The Haunted Lighthouse (The Code Busters Club)* (2013) by Penny Warner (children's)

*The Secret Three* (1963) by Mildred Myrick (children's)

*The Mysterious Message (Geronimo Stilton Micekings)* (2017) by Geronimo Stilton (children's)

## Printables

Alphabet Cipher Wheel



# AHOY, MATEY! TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

## AGES

Children 8+  
Teens/tweens

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Celebrate the seafaring life through knotting and pirate talk! This program has several activity ideas. Run a quiz-style game on sailor/pirate vocabulary, modified for age-appropriateness. Make temporary tattoos and set up a sailor's "tattoo parlor." Teach a few basic seafaring knots and let participants practice them before running a contest to see who can tie them the fastest. Children can also use basic knots to create one-of-a-kind friendship bracelets or reef knot necklaces. Choose whichever games and crafts would best suit your library and audience, or run them all as stations. This program works well outdoors, and the knot-tying component would be easy to include in take-and-make bags. Suggested runtime: 45–90 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

Clove hitch knot

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

### Sailor's Tattoo Parlor

Materials: Printable clip art (see Resources); regular inkjet printer; white letter-size printer paper; A4 tattoo transfer paper; popsicle sticks

Instructions:

- Print tattoo clip art onto regular printer paper
- Apply adhesive transfer paper to printed sheets and remove air bubbles with popsicle stick
- Cut out tattoos
- Set up a tattoo station

## TIP:

If your library subscribes to Mango Languages, it includes Pirate!

## NOTE:

International Talk Like a Pirate Day is on September 19, so you could also run this program in the fall.

## TIP:

Temporary tattoos also make great prizes for other programs. Get some printed with your library's logo here: <https://bit.ly/2STarun>

## ADAPTATION:

Older audiences might love a presentation about historical pirates or what life is like on the high seas.

## TIP:

If you're printing words, remember to print a mirror image of the tattoo! Otherwise, it will print backwards on skin.

## Seafarer's Knots

Materials: Lengths of rope or macrame cord; pieces of doweling or overturned tables (to hitch to the legs); knot-tying books from your collection; embroidery floss; tape; ocean-themed charms, beads, and letters (optional); Cotton rope 3–10mm; scissors; ruler; masking tape

Instructable tutorial here: <https://bit.ly/3yGUDv3>

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Add an extra volunteer to each station to help with crafts.

## RESOURCES

### Web

Reef knot necklace from *Instructables*: <https://bit.ly/3yGUDv3>

“How to Tie Friendship Bracelets” from *WikiHow*: <https://bit.ly/3bZq7Tz>

Ways to start and finish bracelets from *DIYholic*: <https://bit.ly/3bYseXQ>

Sliding knot paracord bracelet from *Bored Paracord*: <https://bit.ly/3fqJG9p>

“Junior Pirates” from *Talk Like a Pirate*: <https://bit.ly/3ySzEFY>

### Books

#### Non-fiction

*The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found* (2017) By Martin W. Sandler (YA)

*Brevertton's Nautical Curiosities: A Book Of The Sea* (2010) by Terry Brevertton (YA)

#### Fiction

*The Last Voyage of Poe Blythe* (2019) by Ally Condie (YA)

*The Abyss Surrounds Us* (2016) by Emily Skrutskie (YA)

*Daughter of the Pirate King* (2017) by Tricia Levenseller (YA)

*Along the Saltwise Sea* (2021) by A. Deborah Baker (YA)

The Bloody Jack series (2002–2014) by L. A. Meyer (children's)

The Castaways of the Flying Dutchman series (2002–2005) by Brian Jacques (children's)

*Hook's Daughter: The Untold Tale of a Pirate Princess* (2018) by R.V. Bowman (children's)

### Printables

Nautical Knots

Oysterman and Stevedore Knot Steps

Sailor/Pirate Tattoos

Sailor Vocabulary

### TIP:

If running as a large event with many people, it might be helpful to have a “cool down” space, a smaller, quieter room that can be used if a participant becomes overwhelmed by the noise/number of people.



Sheet Bend



Square Knot



Clove Hitch



Reef Knot



Figure 8 Knot



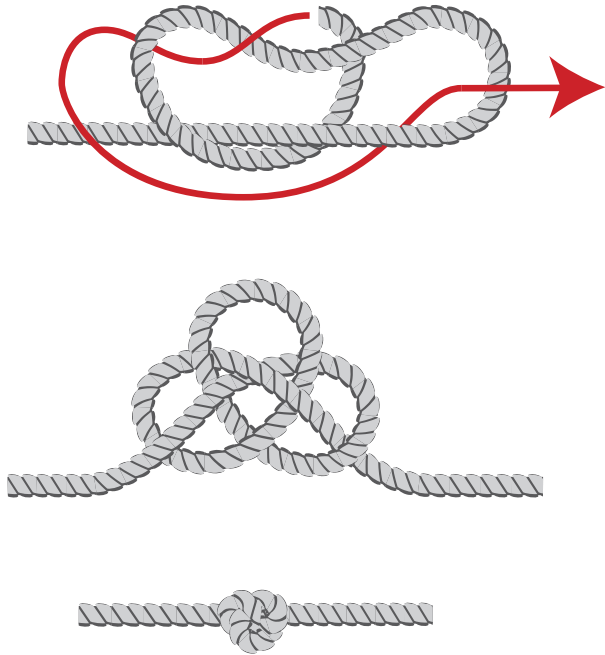
Fisherman's Knot



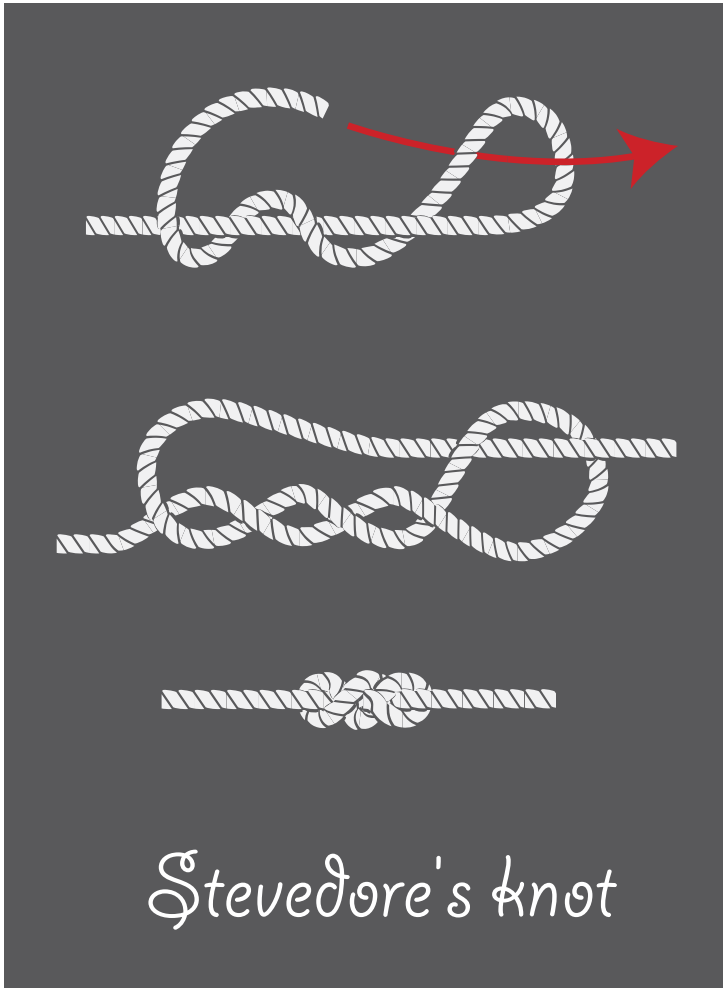
Carrick Bend



Overhand Knot



Oysterman's knot



Stevedore's knot

Image source: Shutterstock



Image source: Shutterstock

# SAILOR VOCABULARY

## Ship Vocabulary

1. Baggywrinkle: A soft covering for standing rigging that prevents sail chafing.
2. Bumpkin: A beam projecting from the hull of a vessel.
3. Scantlings: The dimensions of a ship's structure.
4. Port and starboard: The left and right of a vessel.
5. Bow and stern: The front and back of a vessel.
6. Fathom: Unit of length to measure depth, the equivalent of six feet.
7. Bear: A large square stone used with sand to scrape wood decks clean.
8. Skiff: A small boat for leisure or fishing.
9. Stow: To store or put things away.

## Sailor Vocabulary

1. Geedunk: Junk food.
2. Avast!: Stop what you're doing.
3. Scuttlebutt: Sailor gossip; also, an open cask of drinking water.
4. Landlubber: Someone unfamiliar with the sea.
5. Sea dog: An experienced sailor; also, a pirate or a harbor seal.
6. Flotsam: Wreckage from a ship floating on the water.
7. Jetsam: Goods from a ship cast deliberately overboard.
8. Grog: A mix of rum and water.
9. Bottomry: Pledging a ship as security in a financial transaction.

# ANIMAL CROSSING: NEW HORIZONS ISLAND HOP

## AGES

Tweens

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Animal Crossing: New Horizons has tons to explore on land and in the ocean! Invite patrons to visit library staff islands for treasures, games, freebies, and more! Make this a one-island journey, or more, if multiple library staff have islands to play. A fun social game for making friends. This is also a good program to use as filler at the end of other programs. Suggested runtime: 15–30 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

## TIP:

Enlist the help of a teen volunteer if you aren't familiar with the game.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials: Nintendo Switch; Animal Crossing New Horizons

Instructions:

- In advance, set up your own island and game.
- If running virtually, share Dodo Codes with patrons before the event.
- Also share guidelines for good gamer etiquette.
- If you have a lot of virtual interest, have participants sign up for 15-min time slots.

Game ideas:

- For an ocean scavenger hunt, research what ocean creatures spawn during this time of day/year. Create a list of fish or deep sea creatures to find.
- For an island fishing tournament, create different fishing challenges with specific fish to find, or set a timer and see who can catch the most fish.
- For a seek-and-find gift grab, hide bells and wrapped presents around your island, such as behind buildings, trees, and/or other structures.

## GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

Tips for gameplay:

- In the game, plan to have extra tools, like fishing rods, wetsuits, and vaulting poles to help island visitors that forget something.
- Only seven people can be on your island at once, including yourself!
- Island hoppers can only join one at a time, and the game pauses every time a new person lands.
- Keep a look out for special visitors, like Flick, Mabel, Redd, etc., and let visitors know to visit with them.
- Only people that are your “best friend” can use a shovel or axe.

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Virtual or in-person. Solo-librarian friendly.

## RESOURCES

### Web

Guide to Animal Crossing: New Horizons from *Digital Bookmobile*:  
<https://bit.ly/3oTI1gY>

Virtual library in Animal Crossing: New Horizons from *KidLit TV*:  
<https://bit.ly/3wvd9ou>

Game ideas for Animal Crossing: New Horizons from *Screen Rant*  
<https://bit.ly/3yHRsTT>

Tips for playing Animal Crossing: New Horizons from *Nintendo*:  
<https://bit.ly/3bTZRtR>

### Books

#### Non-fiction

*Enchanted Air* (2016) by Margarita Engle (YA)

*Island: A Story of the Galápagos* (2012) by Jason Chin (children’s)

#### Fiction

*Lalani of the Distant Sea* (2019) by Erin Entrada Kelly (YA)

*Beauty Queens* (2011) by Libba Bray (YA)

*Summer of Salt* (2018) by Katrina Leno (YA)

*The Floating Islands* (2011) by Rachel Neumeier (YA)

## CRAFT

# OCEAN TREASURE CHESTS OR JEWELRY TRAYS

## AGES

Teens/tweens

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Where do we stash our treasures? In this program, teens/tweens decorate either a wooden box to make a treasure chest, or an oyster shell to make a jewelry tray. Offer a variety of paints and napkins/magazines so participants can showcase their own style. See Resources for a coloring sheet they can work on while they wait for their projects to dry. Don't forget the treasure hunt book display! This program could also be adapted for take-and-make bags. Suggested runtime: 60–90 min.



Image source: Shutterstock



Image source: Shutterstock

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Oyster shells or craft sea shells (large)
- Small wooden boxes
- Mod Podge
- Acrylic paints
- Paint brushes
- Scissors
- Ocean themed napkins or magazines
- White or gold spray paint (optional)

## CRAFT

## Preparation:

- Check local seafood markets for oyster shells.
- Mix the acrylic paint with a little mod podge for better adhesion.
- Optionally, pre-paint the shell interiors white to cover dark spots.
- Set up tables and chairs

**UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS**

One extra staff member or volunteer for in-person programs.

**RESOURCES****Web**

Oyster shell dish tutorial from *A Piece of Rainbow*: <https://bit.ly/3oTjsuJ>

Oyster shell dish tutorial from *Kailea Crafting on the Fly* (video):  
<https://bit.ly/3uo9ibf>

**Books**Non-fiction

*Pirate Hunters: Treasure, Obsession, and the Search for a Legendary Pirate Ship* (2016) by Robert Kurson (YA/adult)

*Treasure* (Eyewitness Books) (2010) by Philip Steele (children's)

*The Usborne Book of Treasure Hunting* (1999) by Anna Claybourne et al.

Fiction

*The Oyster Thief* (2018) by Sonia Faruqi (YA)

*Pirates of the Caribbean: The Price of Freedom* (2011) by A.C. Crispin (YA)

*The Pirate Captain's Daughter* (2011) by Eve Bunting (YA)

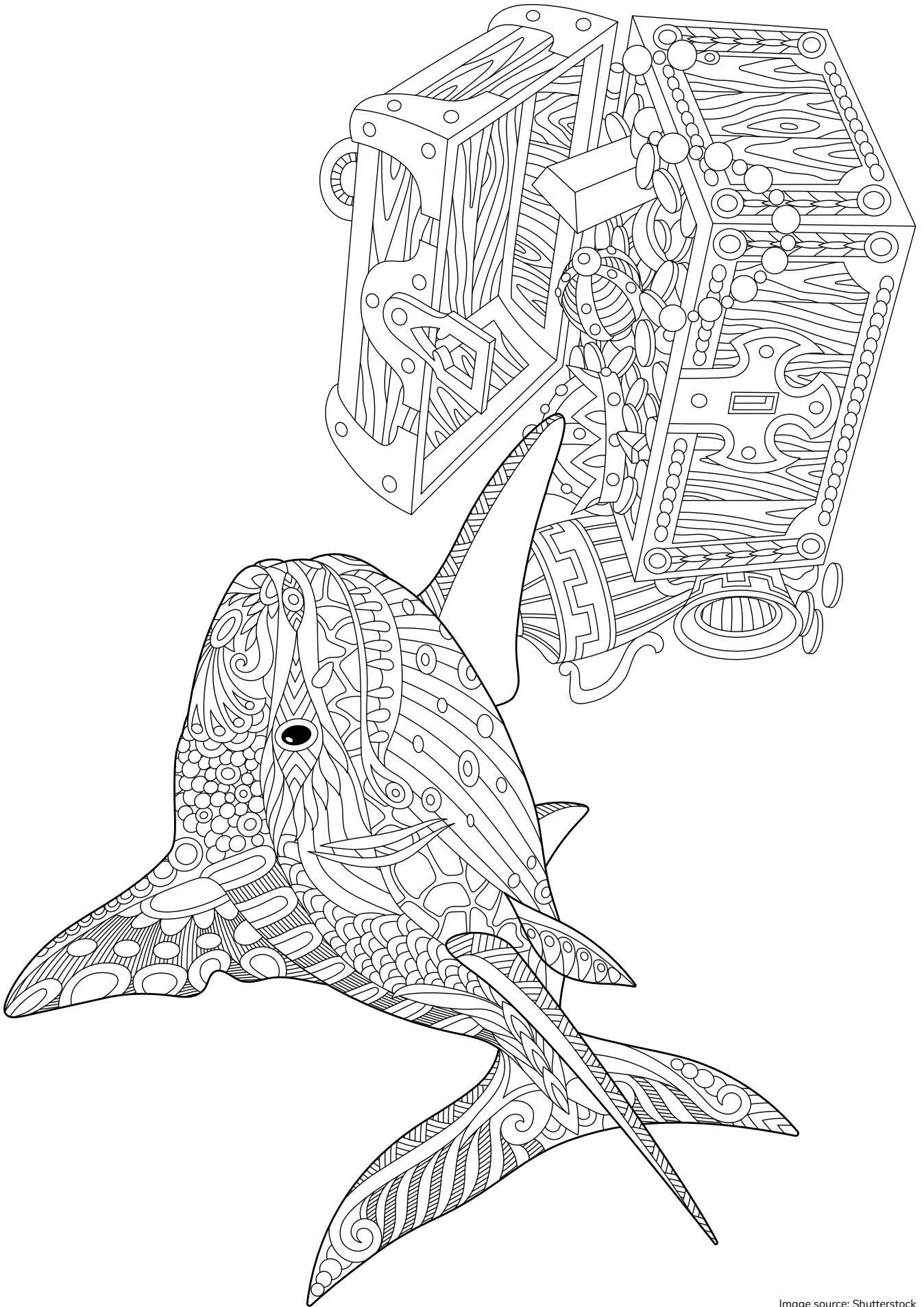
*The Storm Keeper's Island* (2019) by Catherine Doyle (children's)

*Gold* (2017) by Geraldine Mills (children's)

*Pirates!: The True and Remarkable Adventures of Minerva Sharpe and Nancy Kington, Female Pirates* (2005) by Celia Rees (YA)

**Printables**

Shark and Treasure Chest Coloring Sheet



## CRAFT

# MARBLED MUGS

## AGES

Teens/tweens

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Personalize a mug with a marbled ocean or coastline scene! Participants dip their mugs into a mixture of water and nail polish to get the marbled effect. Provide a variety of nail polish colors to allow for more variation. Each mug is unique, and they are quick and easy to make. You can also create take-and-make bags that each include a mug and marbling instructions for doing it at home. Suggested runtime: 45 min.



Image source: Sally Mason of LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, FL

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- White or black ceramic mugs, or reusable water bottles
- Nail polish (but NOT chunky glitter nail polish because it clumps)
- Deep disposable bowls or aluminum pans
- Plastic grocery bags
- Paper towels
- Warm water
- Table cloths for tables
- Mod Podge to make the mugs dishwasher safe
- Paintbrushes
- Optional: Toothpicks, nail polish remover, cotton balls, gloves, ocean animal silhouettes

For an in-person program, set up tables and chairs, and set out supplies. For take-and-make bags, include instructions, a mug, food coloring, and nail polish.

## TIPS:

Nail polish residue is very hard to get off of bowls, so use large craft/paint bowls or disposable bowls.

Check your local Goodwill or Dollar Store for white ceramic mugs.

## CRAFT

To make:

- The hotter the water, the better. Keep a kettle or coffee pot brewing, and add one hot pot to each gallon of cool water. This allows the water to be warm enough for the nail polish to spread, but cool enough to touch.
- After the mugs have been dipped and dried, coat with Mod Podge.
- See Resources for variations.

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

One extra staff member or volunteer for in-person programs.

## RESOURCES

### Web

Marbled mugs tutorial from Sweetest Occasion: <https://bit.ly/3fOaNu4>

Simple marbled mugs from What's Up Moms (video):  
<https://bit.ly/3yTw6Do>

Marbled mugs tutorial from DIY Candy: <https://bit.ly/3wAK3nC>

### Books

#### Fiction

*Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea* (2019) by Lynne Rae Perkins

*The Vanishing Deep* (2020) by Astrid Scholt (YA)

*Starfish* (2017) by Akemi Dawn Bowman (YA)

*Draw the Line* (2017) by Laurent Linn (YA)

#### Non-fiction

*This is What I Know About Art* (2020) by Kimberley Drew and Ashley Lukashevsky (YA)

*Techniques for Painting Seascapes* (2010) by Borlase Smart (YA/adult)

## CRAFT

# PLASTIC BAG PLANT POT

## AGES

Teens/Adults

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Turn plastic bags into treasure! To reduce the risk of them ending up in our precious waterways, gather patrons to repurpose their plastic grocery bags into yarn for plant pots. This is a simple beginner crochet project. If you don't crochet, consider enlisting the help of a volunteer instructor, or see the alternate craft options for coasters, reusable bags, and braided flower pots. This is also good for a passive and/or virtual program with take-and-make bags. Suggested runtime: 60–90 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Plastic grocery bags (collect beforehand)
- Crochet hooks
- Coat hangers
- Scissors
- Pins
- Sewing needles and strong thread
- Printed instructions (optional)



Image source: Shelby Graam of The Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis, IN

## ADAPTATIONS:

You could also combine this program with outreach with a local craft group or community organization—or host a pop-up library!—to hold this program out in the community.

## CRAFT

To make plarn:

1. Flatten your plastic bags out on a tabletop.
2. Fold the bags vertically into thirds, and smooth them out.
3. Working with one bag at a time, use scissors to cut neatly across the top and bottom, removing the handles and the bottom seams.
4. Starting at one end of your folded bag, slice the bag into pieces that are approximately 1”.
5. Unfold these pieces; they will all be loops.
6. Connect the loops as follows:
  - Lay out two loops so that the left loop overlaps the right.
  - Reach your left hand underneath the left loop and pull its end backwards towards the left, underneath the right loop’s end, and then pull it back through the left loop.
  - The far side of the left loop will flip over and form a knot. Pull it taut, but be careful not to rip the bag.
7. Continue to connect the loops, adding additional loops to the left side of the chain.
8. Make sure that the two sides of each loop are even.
9. Once you have connected all of your loops, continue with the rest of your bags, and wrap your plarn into a ball or around a piece of cardboard to keep it from getting tangled.

To make a braided flower pot:

1. Take three balls of plarn and tie the ends of them to the bottom of a coat hanger, leaving a “tail” beyond the knots (about 5”).
2. Begin to braid the three strands of plarn into a basic flat plait: Cross the right-hand section over the centre section, then the left-hand section over that. Continue to criss-cross the strands, alternating which section is in the centre.
3. Try to maintain a medium-level tension as you braid. Too little tension and the braid will fall apart; too much and you will get a very small braid with no texture.
4. Continue to braid until you are about 5” from the end of the plarn, and then tie the ends together.
5. Untie the top from the coat hanger, then retie those ends together.
6. Coil your braid into a flat circle. This will be the base of your flowerpot, so adjust the size according to how big or small you would like it to be.

**TIP:**

See Resources for a link to the crochet tutorial.

## CRAFT

7. Secure the base with a pin, and then sew it together by weaving a threaded needle over and under the layers as you push it through the centre, and across to the other side.
8. Do this as many times as necessary to secure the base.
9. Begin to build up the sides of the flowerpot by coiling the braids and stacking them on top of one another. Tack the layers into place with the needle and thread every 1–2" by sewing diagonally through the braids and securing them to the layers beneath them.
10. Repeat the process until you reach the end of your braid, or you reach a size for your flower pot that you like.

## UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

One extra crafty staff member or volunteer to help braid or crochet.

## RESOURCES

### Web

Plarn tutorial from Amanda's Happy Hearth: <https://bit.ly/3oWMC0L>

Plastic bag flower pot crochet from Mami Made It: <https://bit.ly/2SyqGg6>

Braided plarn tutorial from SFGate: <https://bit.ly/3oTKwPf>

Braided plastic pot tutorial from 1 Million Women: <https://bit.ly/3fMIFHT>

Plarn and coaster tutorial from Kenarry: <https://bit.ly/3c0qT2O>

### Books

#### Non-fiction

*Upcycling: 20 Creative Projects Made from Reclaimed Material* (2016) by Max McMurdo

*Upcycling Outdoors: 20 Creative Garden Projects Made from Reclaimed Materials* (2018) by Max McMurdo

*Upcyclist* (2015) by Antonia Edwards

#### Fiction

*Balance of Fragile Things: A Novel* (2012) by Olivia Chadha (adult)

*Falling Into Green: An Eco Mystery* (2012) by Cher Fischer (YA)

The Last Wild trilogy (2014–2015) by Piers Torday (children's)

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# PIRATES OF THE PAST

## AGES

Adults

Multigenerational

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Learn the truth about pirates of the past, and separate the myths and legends from the facts. If you are unable to locate a historian for your program, see Resources for some pirate documentaries. Modify the presentation or films for younger or multigenerational audiences. Could also be combined with Ahoy, Matey! Talk Like a Pirate Day on page 39 for a multigenerational event.



Image source: Shutterstock

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Computer/projector and screen
- Audience chairs

To prepare, identify pirate resources that best suit your audience (and to which your library has public viewing rights).

## ADAPTATIONS:

For a passive program, display pirate resources and run a poll about pirate fact vs. fiction. This is also a good program to run over a virtual platform. Don't forget to include closed captioning and audiobooks

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## UNIQUE SPACE OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

For outreach, consider local teachers or history organizations.

## RESOURCES

### Web

Pirate History Podcast: <https://bit.ly/3vrbVKV>

Pirate information and activities from *Pirate Attack*:  
<https://bit.ly/3i1W3KP>

Pirate lessons from *Share My Lesson*: <https://bit.ly/3vtFMSL>

### Movies

*Smithsonian: The Real Story: Pirates of the Caribbean DVD*. PBS (Direct), 2017.

*History: True Caribbean Pirates DVD*. Lionsgate, 2010.

*National Geographic: National Geographic: Blackbeard—Terror at Sea DVD*. National Geographic Video, 2006.

### Books

#### Non-fiction

*Pirates and Privateers in the 18th Century—The Final Flourish* (2019) by Mike Rendell (adult)

*Black Flags, Blue Waters: The Epic History of America's Most Notorious Pirates* (2019) by Eric J. Dolin (adult)

*The Last Pirate of New York: A Ghost Ship, a Killer, and the Birth of a Gangster Nation* (2019) by Rich Cohen (adult)

*Enemy of All Mankind—A True Story of Piracy, Power, and History's First Global Manhunt* (2020) by Steve Johnson (adult)

#### Fiction

*The Devil in Paradise: Captain Putnam in Hawaii (A Bliven Putnam Naval Adventure)* (2019) by James L. Haley (adult)

*In Search of Truth (Deadly Force #3)* (2020) by Sharon Wray (adult)

*Preacher's Frenzy (Preacher/First Mountain Man)* (2019) by William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone (adult)

*The Sin in the Steel (The Fall of the Gods #1)* (2020) by Ryan Van Loan (adult)

*The Dragonfly Sea: A Novel* (2019) by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor (adult)