

PIRATE SCAVENGER HUNT

AGES

Children 6+
Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Participants explore the library or community looking for treasures! Modify the scavenger hunt list to suit any theme or audience. Participants could also be given a treasure map to follow until they reach the X. Excellent for family nights. Suggested runtime: 45 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Printed scavenger hunt lists (modify as desired); pencils

Suggested instructions for an in-person family event:

- Divide participants into groups of 2–3 people.
- Give them 30 minutes to explore and check off their findings.
- Be sure to give the exact time all groups should be back at the library.
- Don't forget prizes!

TIP:

See Here Be Monsters on page 329 for a family map-making program that could be combined with this scavenger hunt.

TIP:

Prearrange with community partners to place pirate and ocean-related props and pictures. Think inflatable sharks or mermaids, and nets with starfish or seashells.

ADAPTATION:

You could also have patrons paint seashells, then hide them around town. Let others post their findings on the library's Facebook page!

ADAPTATION:

Another idea is to hide laminated pirate/ocean words throughout a small geographic area, such as a local park. Participants write down all the words they can find, then use those words to make a sentence (or a short story). They get a prize for bringing their sentence to the librarian.

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.



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 ____