

THE TREASURE MAP

SCENE: A group of pirates are looking for treasure on a deserted island.

ROLES (4): Captain Barnacle (the captain of the pirates), Mean O'Reilly (pirate), Shipmate Sparrow (pirate), Peg Leg Watson (pirate)

READER AGES: 8 years and over

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: (*excitedly*) Yo ho ho... I've found it! I've finally found it!

MEAN O'REILLY: What did you find, Captain?

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: The long-lost treasure map! This map was thought to have vanished at sea, but I have recovered it.

SHIPMATE SPARROW: Shiver me timbers! We're going to be rich!

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: Settle down, you scallywags. I'm the one who's going to be rich. You'll be lucky if I don't make you walk the plank!

PEG LEG WATSON: (*grumbling*) Well, that doesn't seem very fair, Captain.

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: Fair? You'll do as I tell you or I'll use you to feed the fish! Now, get your cutlasses and shovels. We're going to go look for treasure!

MEAN O'REILLY: I've never found treasure before. This is going to be exciting!

SHIPMATE SPARROW: I wonder what it will be? Maybe it's a treasure chest full of gold!

PEG LEG WATSON: Maybe it's a sack full of diamonds!

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: It's no concern of yours what's in the treasure chest. You are all just coming along to do the hard digging for me. If you work hard, I may be kind and give you each a gold coin when we find the treasure.

MEAN O'REILLY: (*excitedly*) A gold coin. Blimey! I'm going to spend mine on a new cutlass.

SHIPMATE SPARROW: I'm going to buy a big bag of bird seed for my faithful parrot.

PEG LEG WATSON: I'm going to save mine. I'm saving up for a new wooden leg!

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: Off we go, men. I've got the treasure map here and it says to take ten paces north.

All characters pretend to walk ten steps.

SHIPMATE SPARROW: Captain, we only got to eight paces. Do you think there is supposed to be a tree in the way?

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: I guess we'll just go around it. This map is very old... maybe the tree hasn't been here very long. Don't worry about the tree. Let's just keep going. What does the map say next?

MEAN O'REILLY: It says to spin around in a circle three times, then take five steps west.

PEG LEG WATSON: Righty-ho, here we go!

All characters pretend to spin in a circle.

SHIPMATE SPARROW: Whoa! That just made me dizzy!

MEAN O'REILLY: Captain, do you think this bush is supposed to be in the way?

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: *(thinking)* Hmm, that is a little odd. Never mind, we'll just go around it. Stop worrying about such small things. We've got treasure to find. Let's keep going.

PEG LEG WATSON: The map says to take eight paces to the left.

SHIPMATE SPARROW: *(looking left)* Umm... we can't go to the left. There is a cliff there. If we go to the left, we'll fall off!

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: Well, you go first then, Shipmate Sparrow. We'll see what happens.

SHIP SPARROW: No, thanks! I'm happy here.

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: *(getting annoyed)* What is wrong with this treasure map? It's not working. There is an 'X' marking the spot where the treasure is buried and it says it is just over there... in the middle of that waterfall!

MEAN O'REILLY: I guess we'll just have to give up, then. No new cutlass for me.

PEG LEG WATSON: *(disappointed)* No new leg for me.

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: *(looking closely at the map)* What do you think this little thing down here means? It looks like it's a picture of a compass.

Captain Barnacle shows the map to the other pirates.

SHIPMATE SPARROW: Well, Captain, that shows you which way to hold the map up.

MEAN O'REILLY: Everyone knows that! It's so you don't hold the treasure map upside... oh. So you've been holding the map upside down then, Captain.

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: *(embarrassed)* No, I haven't!

PEG LEG WATSON: Yes, you have! Admit it, Captain!

CAPTAIN BARNACLE: I was... *(thinking of an excuse)* I was... umm... just testing you all to see if you noticed. Come on, you bunch of landlubbers. Let's go back and start again!

THE END

