
Pirate Treasure — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills

Objective: Students will discover that the journey matters more than the destination and practice teamwork through collaborative problem-solving.

Essential Question: *"Where is the real treasure found — at the X on the map, or on the journey to get there?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Treasure map (teacher-made or template), Small boxes for "treasure chests", Paper and crayons

Vocabulary: Treasure, Map, Voyage, Compass, Storm, Island, Crew, Courage, Clue, Journey

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Hold up a "treasure map." Ask: "If this map led to treasure, what do you think we'd find?" Chart predictions. We'll revisit after the story.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud with adventure energy. Pause at the storm — discuss teamwork. Pause at each clue — let kids guess. Pause at the chest opening — discuss the real treasure. Revisit predictions from the start.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Classroom Treasure Hunt: follow 5 clues as a team. Solve together. Discuss after: "Was the hunt or the treasure the best part? Why?"

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Draw a personal treasure map of your life. Mark storms, islands, and the X (where you are now). Write: "The treasure I've already found is _____."

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Share maps. Ask: "What's one thing you'd put in a treasure chest for someone else to find?"

ASSESSMENT

Observe teamwork during treasure hunt. Review maps and writing. Exit ticket: "What was the REAL treasure in the story?"

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Pair for treasure hunt clues. Provide map templates with landmarks pre-drawn.

Extend: Write a sequel: the hero gives the treasure map to another child. What journey does THEY take?

HOME CONNECTION

Send home a blank treasure map template. Families draw their own journey together, marking adventures and "treasures" they've found.
