

THEME DAY: PIRATES

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SESSION 1

SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

- Pirates have existed as long as there have been oceans and someone to rob! Raid the dress-up box to dig out bandannas, belts, swords & **eye-patches**. Pirates also had their own 'lingo' - teach your kid some fun phrases to get them in the mood for today's swashbuckling theme. Ahoy matey! Yo-Ho! Aye! Arr! Landlubber! Savvy?
- Always wanted a name like **LongJohn Barnacle Pegleg?** Get your pirate name [here](#)!
- Paint a black **skull'n'crossbones** flag on a white pillowcase / old tshirt / material and hang it up as your flag for today - makes for a great photo op backdrop :) If they find the skull'n'crossbones too scary-looking, ask them to make up their own pirate flag.
- **Make yer' own pirate hook:** take a plastic cup, punch a little hole in the base, roll a square of silver foil tightly into a long worm, push the foil through the hole, pull through, and twist it into the shape of a hook!



How did pirates get about? Some STEM tasks ahoy:

- Engineering: Build-a-Ship. Ideas: Lego, wine corks, orange peels, popsicle sticks - get your kids to make it float! Age 2-3: Eggcrate boat craft, 4+ challenge: Margarine/butter tub self-propelled boat [here](#). Have a pirate boat race - whose sinks, whose floats?
- Navigation: How did pirates know how to get from one place to the next, before compasses were invented? They relied on celestial navigation: the wind, sun & clouds. Make: [Sundials](#), telescopes (advanced ones here, from [Kiwi](#)) or simpler versions for littles: paint kitchen paper or toilet rolls black, wait to dry and finish with gold paint / beaded stickers. Ready for navigating!
- Cartography: steep a few different kinds of teabags in hot water, grab some thicker white paper for each child. Once teabags are cool, let kids drip & press teabags all over their papers, staining them brown & yellow. Leave out to dry, then make your treasure maps!

NOW YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING YOU NEED - BOAT, TELESCOPE, SUNDIAL & MAP - IT'S TIME TO BOARD YOUR SHIP!



INDOOR ACTIVE

Port & Starboard Game!

Port: Everyone runs to top of the playing area

Starboard: Everyone runs to end of the playing area

Bow: Everyone runs to the **left** of the playing area

Stern: Everyone runs to the **right** of the playing area

Captain's Coming!: Salute and shout "Aye aye captain".

Climb The Rigging: Pretend to climb a ladder

Sweep The Decks: Pretend to clean the floors

Crows Nest: Shade your eyes, look for a far-away crows nest

Boat Sinking: All sit down as fast as they can.

Bonus for a birthday party - To The Lifeboats: form groups of three, hold hands & sit down.

SESSION 2

AVAST!

- **Cannon Balls:** fill some black balloons with water for a fun, sunny day game! Caution: for use in your home or garden ONLY! Water balloons should not be thrown from balconies / in public spaces.
- The captain isn't pleased with you - time to **Walk The Plank!** If you have outside space, you can do this over a shallow kiddie pool, or inside your lounge - using two wooden crates or boxes, use a long, weighted plank of wood, ensuring both ends are weighted down properly and your 'plank' is safe. Place a carpet or blue **'seawater'** material underneath. **Birthday party extra: make some cardboard **shark fins** in advance to place in the water!
- **Treasure Hunt**, 3 ways:
 - Pirate treasure playdough: check out [this](#) sensory treasure dough & fine motor skills activity.
 - Treasure Hunt at Home: get them to find "gems", coins, jewels, rocks, gold dabloons...
 - Dig for Treasure: fill a plastic box with kinetic sand, hide plastic numbers or letters or craft jewels!

BOOKS



Teatime for Pirates - Richard Dungworth & Sharon Harmer

The Night Pirates - Peter Harris

Pirate Girl - Cornelia Funke

The Pirates Next Door - Jonny Duddle

Board book: That's Not My Pirate - Usborne Children's Books

FOOD IDEAS

Fish n Chips!

Dead Man's Fingers / Pirate Boats - Hot dogs

Gruel - soup | Seaweed Wraps: sushi or tortilla wraps

Cannon Balls: date-coconut-pecan energy bites! Recipe [here](#)

Rum - ginger beer or sprite!

Seawater i.e. water...

BIRTHDAY PARTY

- Dot pieces of black duct tape on the ground leading up to your front door & mark your front door with a big red X!
- Place eye-patches & bandannas next to the entrance for guests
- Decorate treasure chests: plain wooden chests, acrylic paint, jewels & stickers
- **Games: Capt'n Hook's Ring Toss | Pin the earring on the Pirate**
- Going home gift: bag of chocolate 'golden' coins to put in their treasure chests!

