

Wild at Art—Making A Treasure Map

Ahoy there, my mateys! Humm . . . apparently pirates rarely buried treasure so they didn't make treasure maps. But Edinburgh author Robert Louis Stevenson made such a beautiful treasure map for his book *Treasure Island* that making an 'X marks the spot' treasure map has become an important part of pirate folklore.

At the Water of Leith, we just love a treasure map for our family events. We usually send people up the river looking for treasure but you can make a treasure map of almost anywhere, from a woodlands or park, to a garden, or even of your bedroom.



Here's a step-by-step to making your own totally awesome treasure map.

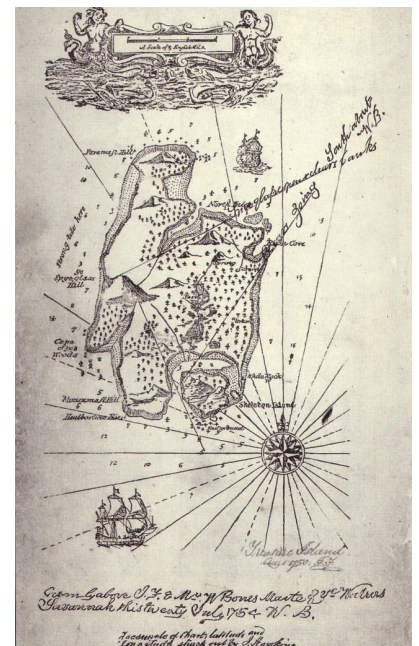
Step One—Make the Map



If you've got a brown paper bag you can cut it up and this makes a great map background. However, what works really well is two pieces of computer paper glued together with the edges of the paper torn away to make it look well-tattered.

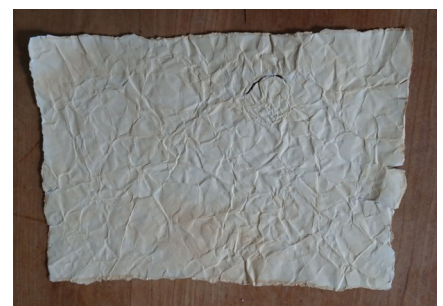


The next step is to make the map look really old. Wet 2-3 tea bags in warm water and then rub them gently against both sides of the paper. Leave the paper to dry or blow dry it with a hairdryer if you're in a hurry to start your treasure hunt.



This is Robert Louis Steven's map of Treasure Island published in 1883.

When the paper is dry crumple it in your hand. Gently unfold without ripping (though a tiny rip adds to the effect) and then crumple it again. Repeat this at least 2-3 times so the paper looks worn and feels a bit like leather. Now you have what looks like a very old and well-worn document. Surely it must have information about something very important, like treasure?



Curricular Links to the Curriculum for Excellence

I can use exploration and imagination to solve design problems related to real-life situations. (EX 1-06a)

I can create and present work that shows developing skills in using the visual elements and concepts. (EX A 2-03a)

Within and beyond my place of learning I am enjoying daily opportunities to participate in physical activities and sport, making use of available indoor and outdoor space. (HWB 1-25a)

Step Two—Create Your Map

Now you are ready to make your map and lead people to find treasure. Or to their peril?

Decide on the location of your map and do a quick sketch of the area on scrap paper. If it's quite a large area then use Google Maps, if you have access to the Internet, to get a sense of the overall shape of the landscape. If it's a small space like a garden or your bedroom you can do a sketch of the area by looking at it.

When you're happy with the limits of your map, then draw it onto the *very ancient* paper that you've made. It may feel strange to write on crinkly paper but you'll get used to it. Make sure you use a strong colour such as black so it's easy for people to read.

Think of the main features and design symbols that you can repeat. You might even want to design a key like an Ordnance Survey map to explain your symbols. Don't hold back from being a little bit dramatic. Little hills could be represented by snow-capped mountains and houses by castles or fortresses.

Draw all the features onto the map. You might want to add in new names. The hill at the bottom of your street may not even have a name but you might want to give it one. Could it become The Perilous Peak of Doom? A little burn in a park might barely be marked on a real map but might you want to draw it in and call it something like The Tumultuous Torrent?

Now you are ready to mark in a route and plot in an X for your treasure. *What could that treasure be?* Can you find an old bottle or a foreign coin that you could dig into the ground?

Final Step—Add a Compass Rose

Maps usually point to the north and a compass rose on a map is a beautiful decorative way to show the map reader the directions of the compass.

Follow the directions below to create your own totally individual compass rose.

