

NAME: _____



Learn More about Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson led a fascinating life. One of the very best web sites about him is www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/britlit/rls/rls.html

Your task is to go to this web site, click on **“Island One”**, and look for the answers to the questions that follow. Be sure to answer each question in complete sentences.

When you have finished answering the questions, put all the information you have learned together in a five-minute talk about the life of the author of *Treasure Island*. Ask your teacher when you may present your speech to your classmates.

Before you give your speech, study your notes so that you won't have to read everything word for word. Look at your audience. Take a deep breath, and enjoy yourself.

FACTS ABOUT ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S EARLY LIFE

1. When was Stevenson born and when did he die? _____
2. What was Stevenson's nickname when he was a boy and what does it mean?

3. Look at the picture on "Island One". If you click on it, you'll see a larger version of Stevenson and his mother. How did his mother dress him when he was a young boy? How do you think this made him feel? _____

4. Where was Stevenson born? Describe the house he was born in. _____

5. Stevenson's mother kept a "baby book" about his early childhood. Click on the picture and see how she dressed him when he was about three years old. What does he look like?

6. Who was "Cummy"? _____



Poetry

Robert Louis Stevenson was also a very good poet who published several books of poetry. His best-known poetry book is *A Child's Garden of Verses*.

The following is one of his most famous poems for children:

The Swing

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
River and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside--

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown--
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

Go to www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/stevenson/stevenson_ind.html and choose **at least two** more poems by Robert Louis Stevenson. Copy each one on a piece of white paper and then decorate the borders to illustrate the subject of the poem. For instance, for "The Swing", you could draw children swinging all along the edges of the paper.

When you have finished, show your work to your teacher. Perhaps, you and your classmates could put your choices together to make your own collection of the poetry of Robert Louis Stevenson. Have fun!

At the Seashore

When I was down beside the sea
A wooden spade they gave to me
To dig the sandy shore.

My holes were empty like a cup.
In every hole the sea came up,
Till it could come no more.

by Robert Louis Stevenson

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The Golden Age of Piracy

There are many excellent web sites about pirates and piracy. The one that we'll use for this activity is <http://blindkat.hegewish.net/pirates/pirates.html>

After you arrive at the site, click on the appropriate topic to find the answers to the following questions. When you've answered the questions, choose one or more topics and draw posters to summarize the information you've learned.

Ask your teacher for a time to present what you've learned to the class or small group by using your posters. Be sure to allow time for questions after your talk.

1. What is piracy?
2. What are some tools of modern pirates?
3. Did the pirates in the "Golden Age" really fly a "Jolly Roger" flag?
4. What did the "Jolly Roger" look like?
5. Did every real pirate use the same flag? If not, illustrate some of the different ones that were used. Be sure to tell which flag belonged to which real pirate.
6. What were the titles of jobs of some of the people who worked in the medical field for pirates during the "Golden Age"?
7. What were some of the kinds of medical problems pirates of that time had?
8. Discuss at least eight of the myths and monsters related to piracy.
9. Discuss at least six notorious places of pirate lore.
10. List and define at least 20 words in the Pirate's Lexicon.

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How Did Pirates Dress?

It is only natural to wonder how pirates such as Long John Silver and Blackbeard may have dressed. Choose a real-life pirate from the list below and **write a short report** about his/her life using the following web site -
<http://tinpan.fortunecity.com/lennon/897/>

Henry Avery (Long Ben/Bridgeman)

Stede Bonnet

Anne Bonny

George Lowther

John Rackam (Calico Jack)

Mary Read

Edward Teach (Blackbeard)

Charles Vane



After you've written your report, **draw a picture** of what your pirate may have looked like and what kind of clothes he/she would have worn. You will find some great information at the following web sites:

www.bonaventure.org.uk/ed/clothing.htm

www.gentlemenoffortune.com/sailorskit.htm

<http://beej.us/pirates/pirates.html>

www.swashbuckler.co.nz/Realpirates/Piratelife.htm#Fashion

www.history.sa.gov.au/maritime/exhibitions/Pirates!/pirate%20life.html

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Make Your Own Pirate Ship

The following directions are from:

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/bluepeter/content/articles/makes/2006/06/19/pirate_make.shtml

Go to the web site listed above and follow the directions to make your own model pirate ship:

WHAT YOU NEED:

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| ✓ large pieces of corrugated card | ✓ some dowelling | ✓ 3 small beads |
| ✓ some newspaper | ✓ garden canes | ✓ 3 cocktail sticks |
| ✓ thin cardboard tube | ✓ some string | ✓ cream fabric |
| ✓ PVA glue | ✓ yogurt pot | ✓ clear plastic lid |
| ✓ thin card | ✓ paint: dark grey or black, medium grey, brown and gold | ✓ small yoghurt drink bottles |
| ✓ strong tape | ✓ cardboard egg box | ✓ dolly peg |
| ✓ plastic container (e.g. cake container) | ✓ 3 large buttons | |

Click on "Print Instructions".

Also, click and print each template under the heading "More from CBBC".

Follow the directions to make the hull of the pirate ship.

Then click on www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/bluepeter/content/articles/makes/2006/06/20/pirate2_make.shtml to find directions for finishing the ship.

Your finished pirate ship should look like this:





Sea Shanties – the Music of Pirates

Sea shanties are the chants and songs sailors used to make their work go faster. Go to www.contemplator.com/sea/index.html and read about the sea shanties.

Admiral Benbow was a real sailor and it was probably for him that Stevenson named the Admiral Benbow Inn in Treasure Island.

Go to www.contemplator.com/sea/benbow.html and read about the real Admiral Benbow and find the lyrics to the song about him. You may wish to click on "Download Midi File" to hear the music to the song.

When you've finished reading about Admiral Benbow and his song, go back to www.contemplator.com/sea/index.html and choose three sea shanties that you'd like to hear.

Click on the name of each shanty and you'll see the words to the song and some extra information about it. Then click on "Download Midi File" to hear the music.

Chances are that you will learn a bit more about the life of pirates and hear songs like Long John Silver's "Fifteen Men on a Dead Man's Chest".

Blow the Man Down

Come all ye young fellows that follow the sea,
to my way haye, blow the man down,
And pray pay attention and listen to me,
Give me some time to blow the man down.

I'm a deep water sailor just in from Hong Kong,
to my way haye, blow the man down,
if you'll give me some grog, I'll sing you a song,
Give me some time to blow the man down.

'Twas on a Black Baller I first served my time,
to my way haye, blow the man down,
And on that Black Baller I wasted my prime,
Give me some time to blow the man down.

'Tis when a Black Baller's preparing for sea
to my way haye, blow the man down, You'd split
your sides laughing at the sights that you see.
Give me some time to blow the man down.

With the tinkers and tailors and soljers and all
to my way haye, blow the man down,
That ship for prime seaman on board a Black Ball.
Give me some time to blow the man down.

'Tis when a Black Baller is clear of the land,
to my way haye, blow the man down,
Our Boatswain then gives us the word of command
Give me some time to blow the man down.

"Lay aft," is the cry, "to the break of the Poop!
to my way haye, blow the man down,
Or I'll help you along with the toe of my boot!"
Give me some time to blow the man down.

'Tis larboard and starboard on the deck you will sprawl,
to my way haye, blow the man down,
For "Kicking Jack" Williams commands the Black Ball.
Give me some time to blow the man down.

Pay attention to order, now you one and all,
to my way haye, blow the man down,
For right there above you flies the Black Ball.
Give me some time to blow the man down.