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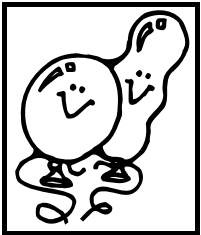


# Robinson Crusoe Day

February 1

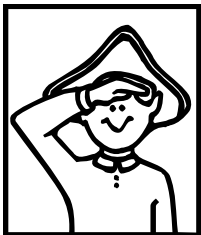


Robinson  
Crusoe



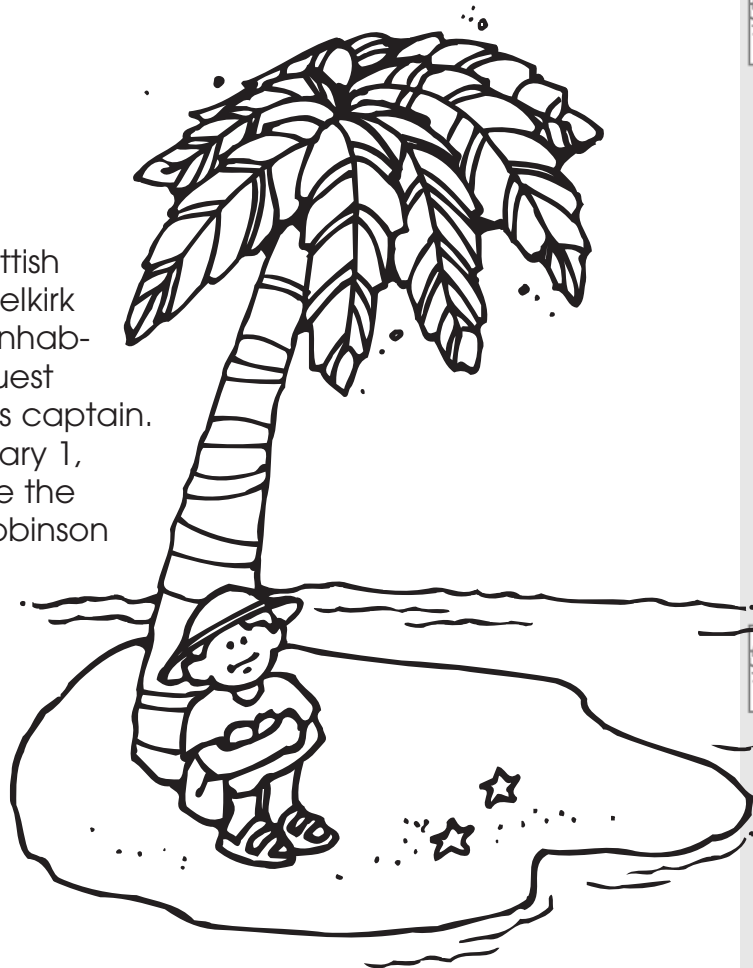
## Setting the Stage

- Display island "souvenirs" (seashells, fish, coconuts, palm trees, etc.) around a copy of the book *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe.

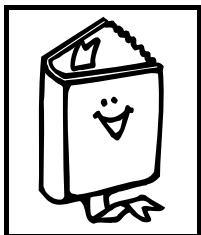


## Historical Background

In September 1704, a Scottish sailor named Alexander Selkirk was put ashore on an uninhabited island at his own request after an argument with his captain. He was rescued on February 1, 1709. His adventures were the basis for the legendary Robinson Crusoe.



Robinson  
Crusoe

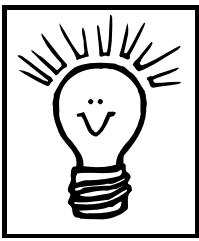


## Literary Exploration

*The New Robinson Crusoe* by Joachim Heinrich Campe  
*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe  
*Robinson Crusoe: Retold for Today's Children* by Anne deGraf  
*Selkirk's Island* by Diana Souhami  
*Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss

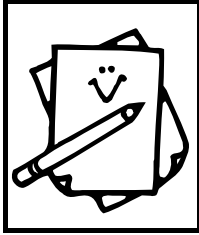


Robinson  
Crusoe



### Language Experience

- Challenge students to come up with as many adjectives as they can to describe what it would be like to live on a deserted island.



### Writing Experience

- Have students write postcards home from Robinson Crusoe's perspective.
- Let students imagine they are all alone on an island. Have them write journal entries to describe how they got there and what happens to them.



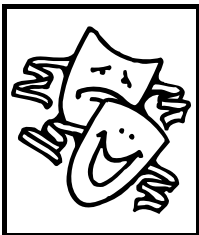
### Science/Health Experience

- Challenge students to consider Robinson Crusoe's nutritional needs. What did he find to eat? What kinds of foods were good for him? What did he need that he did not have to stay healthy?



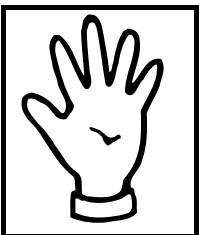
### Social Studies Experience

- Have students research life in the early 1700s in Great Britain. What would life as a sailor be like? What things would Robinson Crusoe not have missed that we would miss today? (electricity, running water, etc.)



### Music/Dramatic Experience

- Let students pretend they meet another person after being alone on an island for years. How would they act? Let partners act out their feelings.



### Physical/Sensory Experience

- What exercise did Robinson Crusoe do to stay fit? Challenge students to create some exercises that would help keep them in shape if they were marooned on a deserted island.



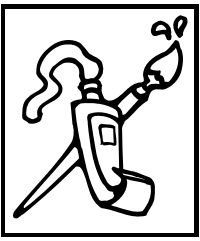
Robinson Crusoe



Robinson Crusoe

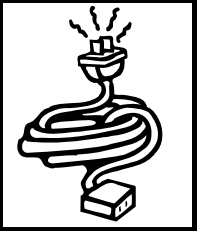


Robinson Crusoe



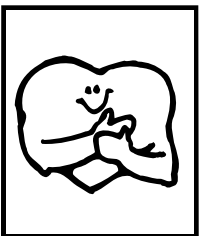
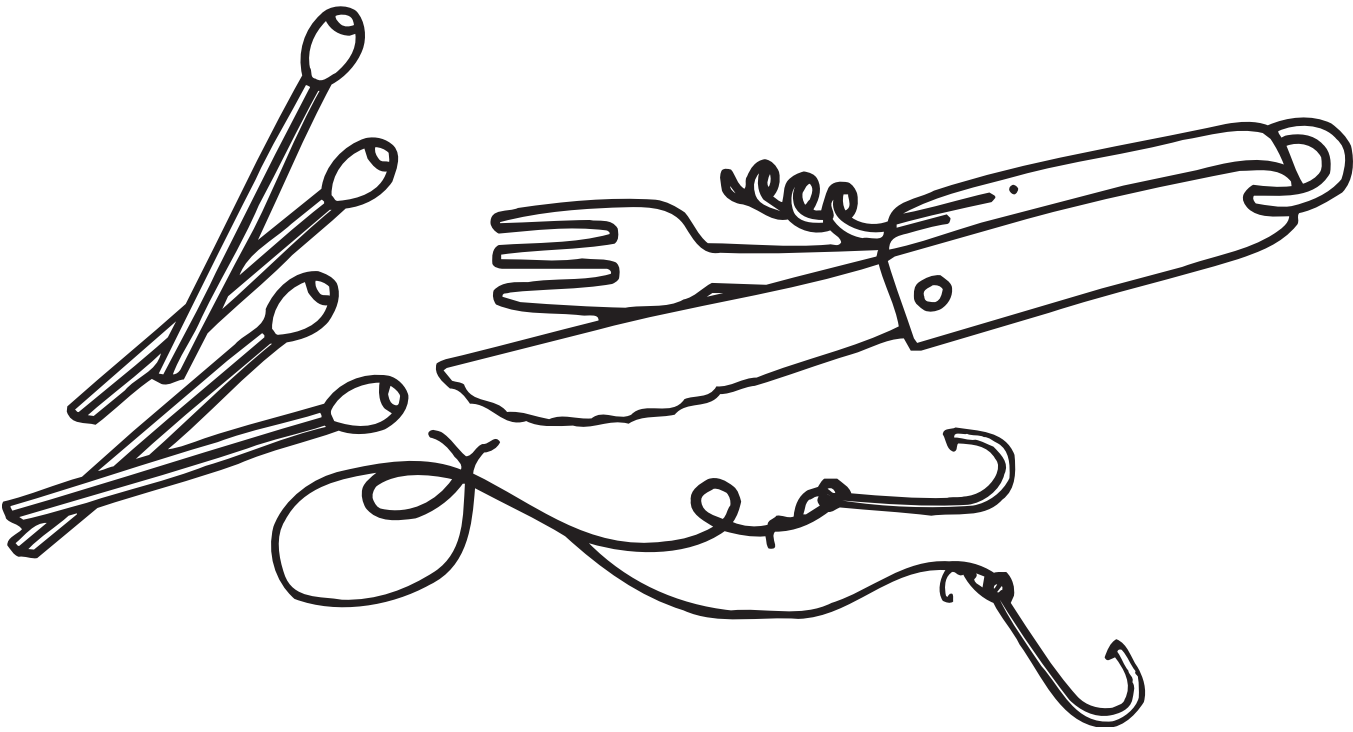
## Arts/Crafts Experience

- Let students work together to turn a corner of your classroom into an island. Provide some sand and shells. Construct palm trees by wrapping cardboard tubes with brown crepe paper, then cutting big leaves from green paper and taping them to the trunks. Others may draw a long ocean, sunset scene on mural paper. Let them go to the island corner to read when they finish their work early.



## Extension Activities

- Challenge students to bring two items from home that they feel would be absolutely invaluable if they were stranded on a deserted island. The items must be small enough to fit in a suitcase. Have students explain why their items would be indispensable.



## Values Education Experience

- Ask students to share why living alone on an island for an extended time would be a difficult adventure. Discuss feelings such as loneliness and fear. Talk about the advantage of having other people around to talk with, do things with and enjoy. But it's also important to be somewhat self-reliant, able to be by ourselves sometimes.



**Robinson  
Crusoe**



**Robinson  
Crusoe**



**Robinson  
Crusoe**