

October STEAM Challenge:

PIRATES

Step 1: Think

When you think about pirates, what are some things you think of? Make up a short story about pirates using what you already know. Write your story, or put on a play or puppet show.

Here are some things to think about:

What do the pirates want?
Where are they from and where are they going?
What do they look like?
How do they talk?
Are there both male and female pirates?



Step 2: Find

The pirates that we see in movies and books are often very different from the real thing. Use these LCPL resources to find the truth about pirates.

Video: Watch this month's STEAM Challenge video on [YouTube](#).



Book: Read *Weird, True Facts: Pirates on Hoopla*. (Click on the book cover for a link)



Watch: Pirate Ship Wreck Uncovered | National Geographic on YouTube (Click on the image for a link)

Contact your local LCPL branch for more resources.

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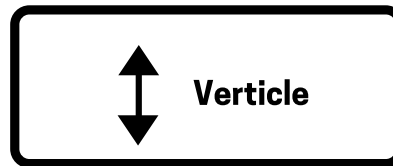
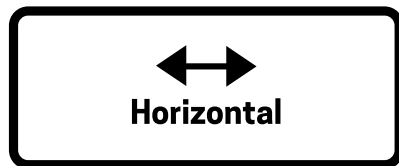
Step 3: Create & Explore

Make a Treasure Map

Pirates used maps to travel and sail their ships. They may have also used maps to hide their treasures. Learn how to use a **grid map**. Then, hide a treasure for a friend and draw a map to help them find it.

What is a Grid Map?

A grid is a pattern of **horizontal** (parallel to the ground) and **verticle** (pointing straight up and down) lines.



Each column is given a letter and each row is given a number.

| | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | X | |
| 4 | | | | |

To explain an item's location, you can say the letter and number of the box it is in. The red X in this grid is in box C3.

Try it! Where is the:

Orange circle

Blue square

Red triangle

Pink heart

Green star

| | A | B | C | D |
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| 1 | | ▲ | | |
| 2 | | | | ★ |
| 3 | ● | | | |
| 4 | | ♥ | | ■ |

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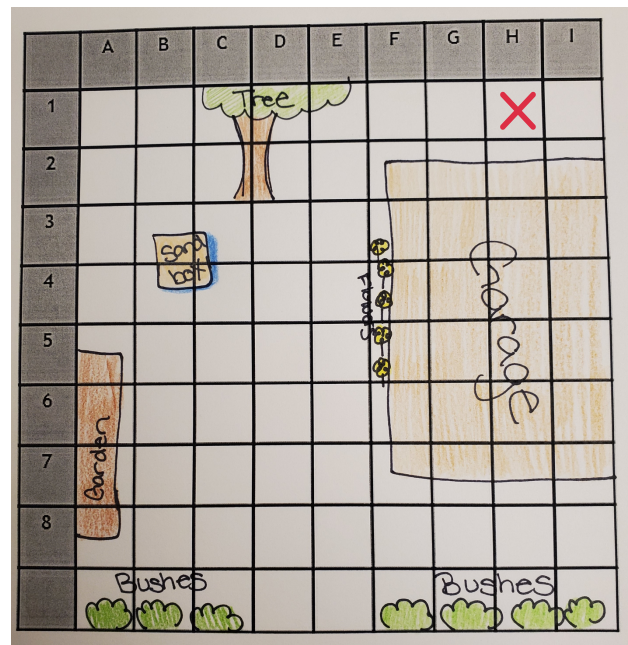
You will need:

- White Paper **or** printed grid (page 4)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Treasure to hide

First you will need to choose a location to map. Your location should not be too big or small. Try your backyard or a room in your house. As you practice, you can map larger areas. You can print the next page and use it to draw your map, or draw your own grid by measuring equally spaced lines with a ruler.

Draw your **landmarks**. Landmarks are major objects that are easily recognized. If you are mapping your backyard, your garage, tree, garden, and the bushes along your house would be good landmarks.

Scale is important when drawing a map. Scale represents the size of actual objects. A bush would be much smaller than your garage, so you should draw them to an appropriate size on your map. It's okay if your landmark covers more than one box in your grid.



In pirate lore, a red X is used to show where the treasure is hidden. Hide your treasure, then mark it with a red X in one of the boxes on your map.

Give your map to a friend and see if they can find the treasure you've hidden.

Visit [National Geographic](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/learn/earth-and-space/maps) for more map skills resources.

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | | | | | | | | | |