

# Home Learning Branches

## *The Night Pirates* by Peter Harris & Deborah Allwright

### Phonics Investigations

Sing this pirate song to the tune of Wind the Bobbin Up:

Pirate adventure! Pirate adventure!  
Sail off to the sea.  
Bury the treasure, bury the treasure  
Dig, pat, x marks the spot.  
Look up in the air.  
Look far and near,  
Capture the baddies,  
Feel no fear.  
Tie the baddies to the mast, 3,2,1  
Then your pirate work is done!

Can you spot the words that have the trigraphs /air/, /ear/ and /ure/ in them? Try singing the song with these words missed out!

### Wider Curriculum Links

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Sing the pirate song and make up actions for it. Can you perform it for someone else to watch? Arrrrr me hearties!

**Understanding the World:** Can you make maps of your house or garden or of your street/local area? To do this, imagine you are a pirate's parrot flying above things. This is called a 'bird's eye view'.

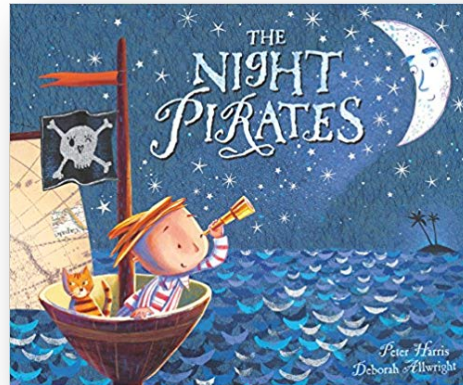
### Discussion Questions

Was there anything in the story that surprised you?

What did you think of the disguise that the pirates used for their ship? What else could they use to disguise themselves?

What does it mean to be brave? Who do you think was bravest in the story?

Would you like to go on an adventure? Where would you go? What do you think you would see?



### Key Vocabulary

How many of these words do you know? Can you find the meanings of new words?

stealthy  
adventure  
stealing (in this context meaning 'to creep')  
bandits  
disguise  
crew  
aboard  
snoozing  
declared

### Writing Opportunities

1. Can you set up a treasure hunt in your home or in the garden? Hide some 'treasure' that you have found- this could be pennies or chocolate coins! Write some clues so that other pirates in your house can hunt for the treasure.
2. The Night Pirates have asked you to join them. Can you write a letter back to the Night Pirates telling them that you'd love to go on an adventure with them? Don't forget to use the words with the /oi/ digraph.
3. Can you draw a pirate ship or make a model and then label its parts and write some sentences about it?
4. So that you can communicate with the pirates on the adventure, write down some things that pirates might say to each other.
5. Set sail for your adventure. Can you write a postcard home to your family to tell them what you've seen and done?
6. Now is your chance to tell the older pirates (who ran away!) how it's really done: can you write a guide on how to be a pirate? Remember to use commands!

### Further reading

*Pirates love Underpants* by Claire Freedman

*The Pirates Next Door* by Jonny Duddle

*Willy the Wimp* by Anthony Browne

*Halibut Jackson* by David Lucas

*A Little bit Brave* by Nicola Kinnear

*Billy and the Beast* by Nadia Shireen

Want to find out more? Why not download the full Planning Sequence on our website?



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- 1 Read the story, *The Night Pirates* and look at the map in the book.

Set up a treasure hunt and hide 'treasure' in or outdoors (pennies/chocolate coins/beads – anything that could be hidden). Play at treasure hunts with family members. Give them clues to help them find the treasure.



Use position words and phrases in your clues:  
**in, under, on, next to, beside, behind, in front**

Now try and write down some clues:

**Look in the pot.**  
**Look under the shelf.**

- 2 Dear Adventurer,  
Would you like to set sail with us?  
You can join in too! But you must not  
spoil things. Did you know that we  
sometimes bury coins in the soil?  
Come and toil with us!  
From  
The Night Pirates

How exciting! The Night Pirates have written to you asking if you would like to join them!

Look at the words from the letter that have the /oi/ digraph in them:

**join, spoil, coins, soil, toil**

Now can you use these to write a reply to the Night Pirates?

Here's a starter to help you:

**Dear Night Pirates,**  
**I would love to join you and hunt for coins...**

- 3 If you are to set sail with the Night Pirates then it might be a good idea to learn a bit about sailing a ship!

Do you know what these parts of a ship are?

**bow, stern, deck, sail, boom, hull**

Try using the  
internet or non-  
fiction books to  
help you.

Draw a pirate ship or – even better – use some boxes to make a model of one!

Label your picture or model ship using the words. Use the words to write some sentences about your ship:

**My ship has a sail. At the front of my ship is the bow.**

- 4 It might be a good idea to learn how pirates talk so that you can be understood on the adventure!

Did you know that the *Little Girl Pirates* in this story get really excited when they are off on an adventure? They can often be heard saying things like /ar/ and /er/ and /or/

Can you practise these sounds in your best pirate voice?

Role play what the pirates might say to each other. You could even dress-up at this point if you can find a hat and some other things for a costume!

Write down the conversation:

**Ar! I'm a pirate and you will do as I say! Ar-arr!**



- 5 Role play a pirate adventure. You could dress up, pretend to set sail, make maps, have another treasure hunt... see if anyone else in your family would like to join in! You could even sing the pirate song again.

How did you feel on your pirate adventure?  
Try using these words:

**brave, strong, excited, scared, tired**

Write a postcard to send to a friend telling them all about your pirate adventure:

**Dear friend,**  
**Today I was so excited to join the Night Pirates.**  
**I ...**



- 6 The grown-up pirates weren't very good at pirating, were they? Let's help them to be better pirates by writing a 'Guide to being a Pirate'.

Think about what pirates wear, what they need to know about sailing a ship, how hard they toil, where to hide or hunt for coins and how pirates might talk to each other.

Being bossy! Here are some command sentences to help you write your guide:

**Dress in a big hat and don't forget your parrot!**  
**Sail on the ship.**  
**Toil hard.**

