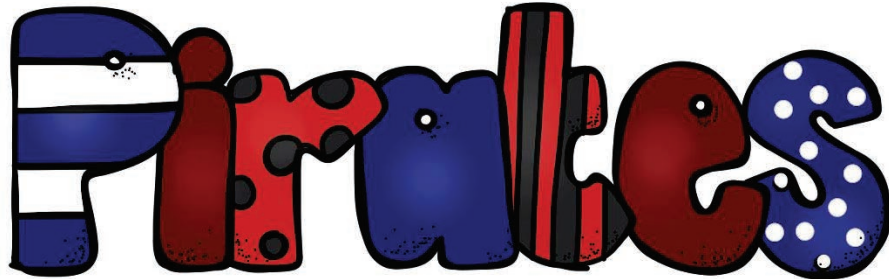


Pirates Theme for Preschool

From Miss Cheryl at [Preschool Plan It](http://www.preschool-plan-it.com)



Ahoy there, Matey!

These Pirates pages have activities and ideas for swashbuckling fun!

This theme includes preschool lesson plans, activities and Interest Learning Center ideas for your Preschool Classroom!

On the following pages you'll find:

- Themed Activities for Your Interest Learning Centers
- Pirate Themes Calendar Pieces (ABCD pattern)
- Pirate Treasure Playdough Recipe
- Activity Mat 1: Decorate Your Pirate Ship
- Activity Mat 2: Create Some Pirate Treasure
- Pirate Ship Letter Hunt File Folder Game
- Some Pirates Went to Sea-- Song Poster & Song Card

Let the Pirates Theme Planning Begin!



Art

I Spy Parrots

Materials needed: white paper, variety of colors of paint and brushes; glue, googly eyes and feathers.

The children paint the paper in bright colors. They squirt glue randomly on paper.

They stick colorful feathers onto the glue.

They glue on 2 googly eyes.

Very creative parrots!!!

Paper Pirates

Materials needed: plain white paper, black paper, scissors, googly eyes, markers, fabric, glue, crayons/markers.

The children cut a piece of black paper into an eye patch (let them practice cutting--don't worry about which shape it ends up being!) and glue it and one eye onto the paper.

They then use the fabric and/or crayons/markers to make a headband on the paper for a pirate hat. They draw on the rest of the face (nose, mouth, beard, etc.) of their choice and print their name.

Flags

Show pictures of different flags. Encourage the children to paint their own flag!

Headbands

Provide paper that you have pre-drawn thick black lines on for the children to cut out into a headband strip (great scissor practice).

Provide crayons, stickers and stamps. Let the children decorate their headbands to wear this week!

Classroom Treasure Chest

Materials Needed: Cardboard box, construction paper, paint brushes, glue and glitter glue

The children use their hands to tear pieces of construction paper--big and small (no scissors! This is to help develop their hand muscles!)

After you have your "paper tearing" party, provide the children with bowls that have glue in them and paintbrushes.

They brush glue on the box and press the pieces of construction paper on the glue.

Cover the entire box (outside only! Not the inside) and cover the lid of the box this way as well.

When dry, brush over the paper with glitter glue (the teachers can do this--it's fun and therapeutic and a great activity to do during a staff meeting!). It is AWESOME and SHINY when dry!

When dry, you will have a BEAUTIFUL treasure box for your classroom!

You can use this in any way you want!

Some things to use this box for:

A holder for your stuffed animals.

A box to place written acts of kindness you notice this week (Pirate Sue helped Matey Joe open his snack).

A storage box for your themed books.

A suggestion box for parents.



Blocks

Shipmates!

Ask parents for plastic ships and boats (Fisher Price has many!) and add them to your block area this week along with little people!

Pirate Ship!

Ask parents if they have a toy pirate ship they might want to donate!

(I have suggested links to both of the above items [on the website here](#).)



Circle

Circle Time is such a great time for children to learn the social skills of being together as a large group AND to learn more about your theme!

Our High Seas Tale

Materials needed: A white board or chart paper

Tell the children that you are all going to make up a pirate story!

Draw a picture of a ship on the board/paper. Say:

Once upon a time, there was a Pirate ship. On the ship there was:

Take it from here! Let each child add items or ideas to your story!

You can make suggestions if they are stuck or get off track such as:

What type of animals did the pirates in our stories have? (Parrots). Should we have one? What is its name? What does it say when it speaks?

Where is our ship going?

What will we find when we get there?

What type of weather are we having on the ocean today?

If someone can record or write down the story and who said what, that would be great! You could then read the story to the children at another circle time on another day!

EXTENSION: If you do write down what each child says, ask them to illustrate it either at the art table or the writing table. This would be a small group activity.

"Cheryl, you said there was a beautiful parrot on the ship who liked to sing. Would you draw me a picture of the parrot?"

Then you print what they said on the bottom of their illustrations.

Put them in the order of the story to make a class book.

If you can, also make color copies of the book--one for each child to take home!

Aye Spy, Matey!

Have a list of items you want the children to find in the classroom. Set them up in pairs (safety in numbers!).

Give the 2 children going first paper towel tubes or binoculars. Give them a verbal description of what they need to find or a picture (a parrot, a glue stick, whatever).

When they have found it, they come back to Circle and place the items in front of you.

You could have all the pairs search at the same time and then come back.

EXTENSION: Once all items are brought to you, play "What's Missing?" They all hide their eyes; you remove one or two items. They open their eyes and then guess what is missing.



Cooking

Cooking with children helps develop their math skills and helps them to learn how to follow directions. It also allows for some great conversation! Ask many questions while cooking with your children to encourage conversation! Be sure to ask specific themed questions while making these fun snacks!

Orange Slice Boats

Help children cut oranges into wedges.

Sit orange, peel side on the table.

Insert a toothpick into the meat of the orange.

Stick a piece of a healthy breakfast bar onto the top of the toothpick for a sail!

Boat Load of Salad!

You will need a large watermelon and a variety of other fruit (oranges, pineapple, strawberry, etc.) and plastic knives.

In advance, cut the watermelon in half lengthwise.

Scoop out the center.

Place different fruits in different bowls.

Let children choose fruits to help cut into smaller chunks.

Assist them in cutting the fruit.

They place the cut fruit into the scooped out watermelon.

You now have a boat load of fruit salad for snack!

Add a large craft stick with a piece of paper on the top with the name of your school!



Drama

The Hide Out!

Add a large box (refrigerator box or other appliance box) to your dramatic play area. Add a skull and crossbones picture to it. Encourage the kids to decorate the hide out so that others "can't find it"! They can add large leaves that they have cut out or color it to match the walls!

Provide magnifying glasses, eye patches, hats, binoculars and, of course, a treasure chest with treasure in it!



Easel

Feather Painting

Use feathers to paint with this week!



Gross Motor

Walk the Plank

Create an obstacle course for you kids to follow to find a treasure chest! Use your balance beam to "walk the plank"; provide a thin strip of blue fabric for the children to "jump over the

water", include areas for them to hop (perhaps they can hop from one paper to the next and each paper has a large letter "X" on it to mark the spot!) --have fun!

Fishing

You will need: Thin dowel posts (for fishing poles), yarn, magnets to tie onto the end of the yard (thick magnets with holes in the middle), and paper clips.

In advance, tie yarn to each dowel post and tie the magnets on the other ends of the yarn. These are great to have for MANY themes so it is well worth taking the time to make and keep all year!

What will the children fish for? Well, that's up to you! Are you working on letters? Numbers? Colors? Plain, old visual discrimination?

Make pictures in fish shapes for what you are working on (print numbers or letters on fish; cut out different colored fish; cut out different themed items--such as a ship, skull and cross bone, pirate hat, parrot, fish, ocean, etc.).

Laminate your pictures. Attach a metal paper clip to each one.

Place pictures on the floor for the children to fish for them (or place them in a wading pool with no water in it!).



Language & Literacy

Pirate Ship Letter Hunt (This game is in this packet)

There is a file folder game in this packet with instructions on how to create and use. This game gives children practice with upper case letter recognition and matching.

Book Suggestions for the Library

[Do Pirates Take Baths?](#) by Kathy Tucker

[How I Became a Pirate](#) by Melinda Long and David Shannon

[I Spy Treasure Hunt: A Book of Picture Riddles](#) by Scholastic

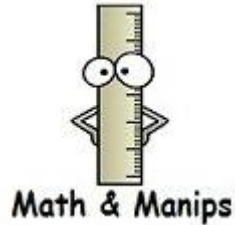
[Pirate Potty](#) by Samantha Berger

[Pirate Princess](#) by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen and Jill McElmurry

[Pirates Go to School](#) by Corinne Demas

[Roxaboxen](#) by Alice McLarren

[Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC](#) by June Sobel



Treasure Counting

In advance, collect the small miniature cereal boxes (or other small boxes you may have). Decorate them to look like treasure chests. Print a different number on the top of the boxes (1-10 or higher depending on where your class is at). Provide gold coins. Encourage the children to count out the corresponding number of coins into the boxes.

Pirate Playdough (recipe card is in this packet)

Use the playdough recipe in this packet for some pirate fun! Make MANY batches of it in a variety of colors to use along or to use with the activity mats in this packet.

Activity Mats (2 mats are in this packet!)

There are 2 Activity Mats in this packet that you can use with playdough or with dry erase markers: *Decorate Your Pirate Ship* and *Create Some Pirate Treasure*.

High Seas Board Games

Make your own simple board game. Using large paper, add dots or circles in a slightly curvy path on the paper. Print "Start" at one end and "Finish" at the other end. Perhaps add a picture of a pirate at the Start side and a ship at the end side. Add instructions that your own students can follow and/or understand. You might put "+ 2" on a dot (if a student lands there, they move 2 spots more). Use bingo chips or other items for play pieces. Provide dice with 1-3 dots on it (or 1-6 would be fine also). Let the children freely explore the game and make up their own rules to this game!

Treasure Sort

Materials needed: Egg carton, jewels (colored, glass ones found in craft stores), spoon to scoop a jewel with. Simply provide these materials and let the children sort, scoop, and place in the cartons as they wish.

The purpose of this activity is not so much to learn counting, but to build up those small muscles by scooping the jewel with the spoon and then turning their wrist to drop it in! Sometimes we get so caught up in the "academics" of math that we forget about the muscles required to do some of the writing activities we provide!



Music & Move

Bandana Dance

Use bandanas as dancing scarves while playing different tempos of music. When you stop the music, the children freeze.

Give instructions if you'd like about "how" to move:

Walk the Plank (walk in a straight line)

Hoist the Sails (wave the bandanas up and down as they squat down and jump up)

Some Pirates Went to Sea Song (An 8 X 10 Song poster and song card are in this packet)

This goes to the tune of the traditional song "A Sailor went to Sea".

I've changed the words and added a fun "freeze" ending to this song. Everyone freezes, you point to one child and ask what they would want in THEIR treasure chest!

Some pirates went to sea, sea, sea
To see what they could see, see, see
But all that they could see, see, see
In the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea
Was a treasure just for me, me, me!
FREEZE!
What's in YOUR treasure box, matey?!

Shipwrecked Band!

Give the children musical instruments to make music together!



Sand & Water

Pirate Booty in the Sand!

Add treasure to your sand table! Add play necklaces, seashells, gold coins, rings, etc. Keep the sand a bit moist and add shovels and spoons and a box or two that are decorated like treasure chests to collect the booty in!

High Sea Adventure

Add blue food coloring to the water and small plastic boats, corks, little people and gold coins...you will NOT need to give any instruction!

EXTENSION: On some days, add ice cubes to the water...be careful not to hit the icebergs!



Science

Discovery Bottles

I LOVE discovery bottles---for any and every theme!

For this theme, add sand and theme related items (small plastic parrots, seashells, shiny stones (jewels), bracelets, gold coins, etc.)

The children move the bottles around to find all the items.

EXTENSION: In advance, make a picture list of all the items in the bottles. Laminate the list and provide a low-odor, dry erase marker.

The children then look for each item on the list and check it off as they find it!

Individual Storm Bottles

Collect a small, plastic pop or juice bottle with the cover for each child; vegetable oil, water, blue food coloring, sand, hot glue gun

Help them to fill their bottle half way with water. They add a few drops of blue food coloring.

Add a little bit of sand.

They fill it the rest of the way with vegetable oil.

Add a few beads or glass jewels (or metallic confetti!).

Hot glue the cover on.

The child can make waves with their bottle (by moving it back and forth), or make a storm (shake it and then set it down and watch the layers separate again).



Personalized Telescopes

In advance, paint paper towel tubes (of course, you could have this as an art project! However, make some on your own as well, the children tend to make the tubes pretty soggy when they paint!).

In advance, cut out the bottoms of large, paper (colored) cups so that the paper towel tubes fit in.

Provide markers and crayons for the children to decorate one of each (a tube and a cup). They insert the tube into the bottom of the cup and, voila! Telescopes for ya, matey! (Go to the Pirates Theme on my Pinterest account to see one example of this! Click on the Pinterest link at the bottom of this page).

Treasure Maps

Provide small, brown lunch bags. (In advance, cut them open so they are larger).

The children draw their own maps, complete with drawing "X" wherever they want.

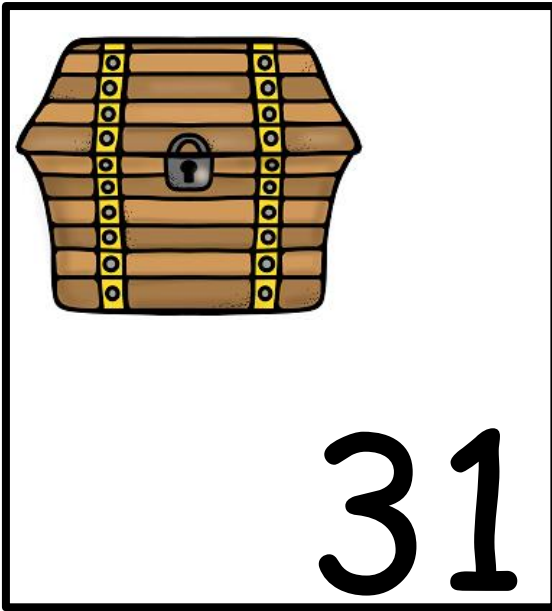
They print their name on their map.

Show them how to crumple up and then open up the map to make it look old!

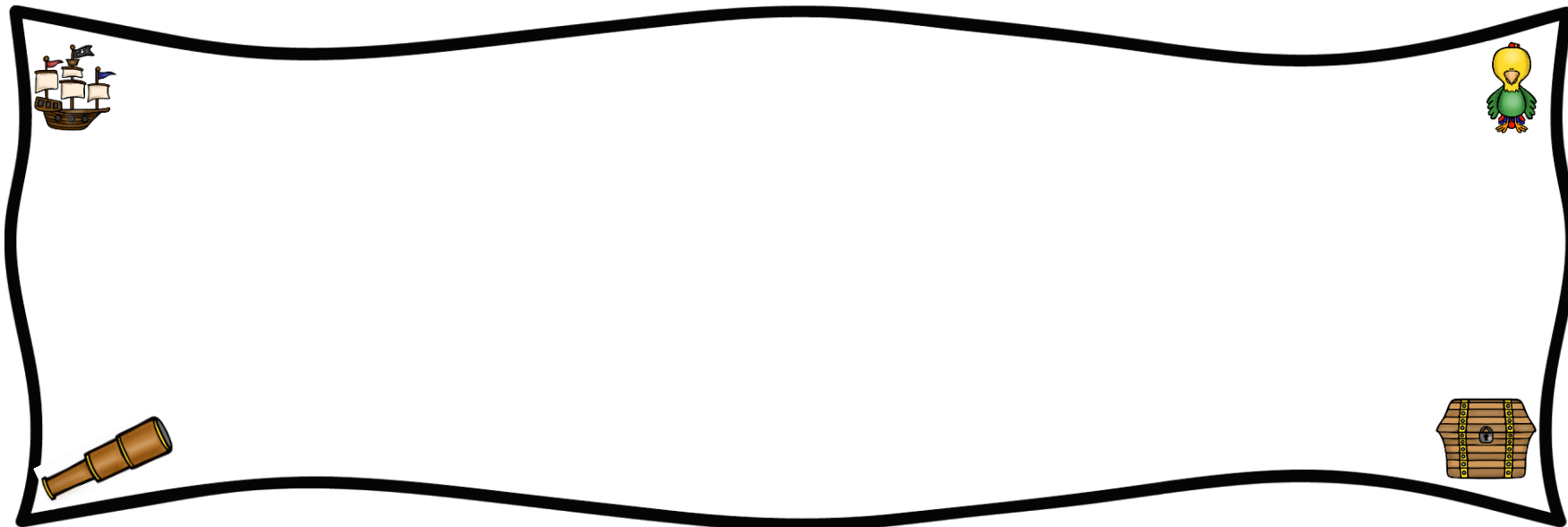
Show them how to roll up their maps as well.

Your children will have too much fun pretending they are following a map around the classroom to find a treasure!

Pirate Theme Calendar Pieces ABCD Pattern



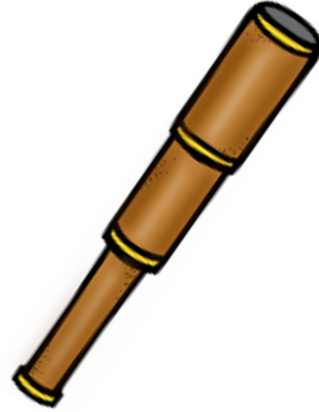
Print and laminate all of these pieces.
Use a dry erase marker to print the month on
the card below (after you have laminated it).
You can then erase and use again any month
you'd like!



Pirate Theme Calendar Pieces ABCD Pattern



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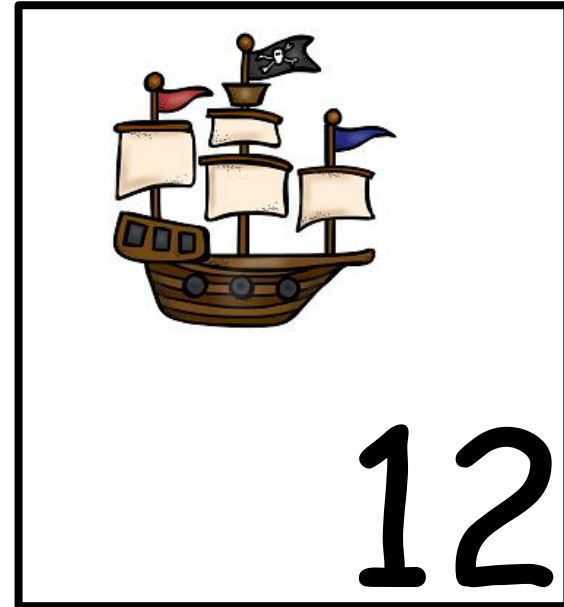
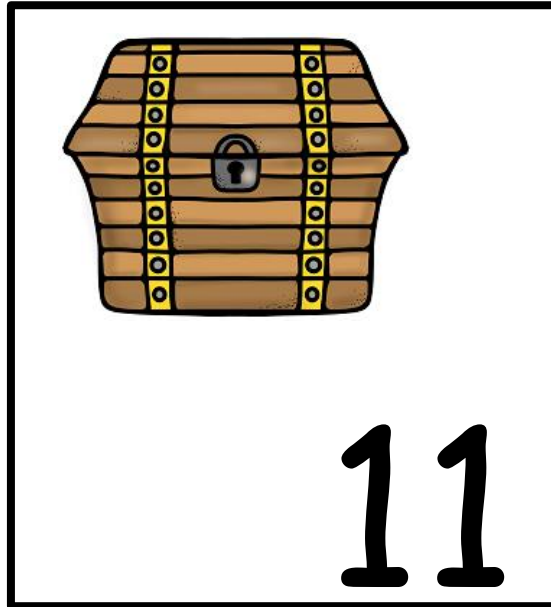
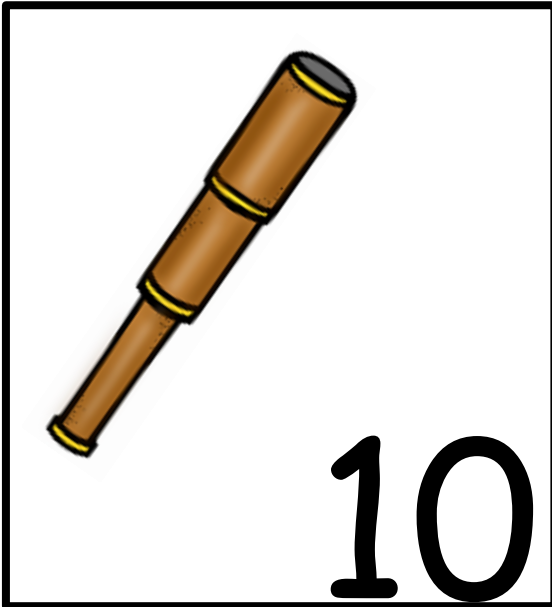
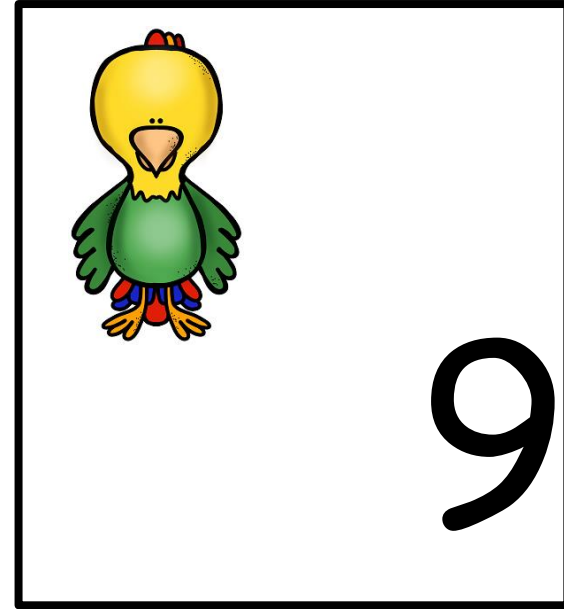
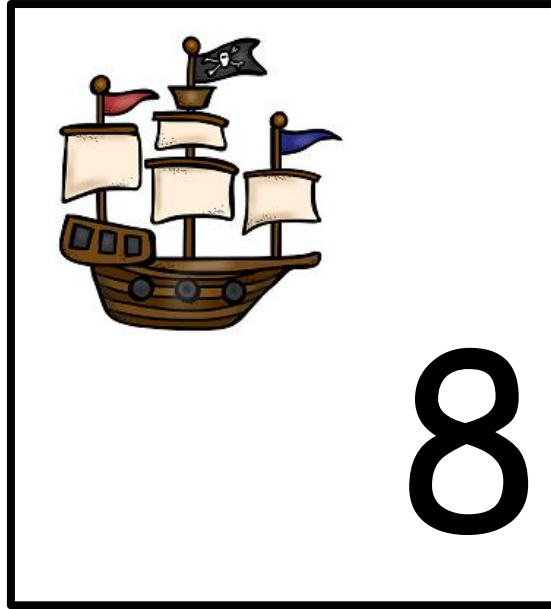
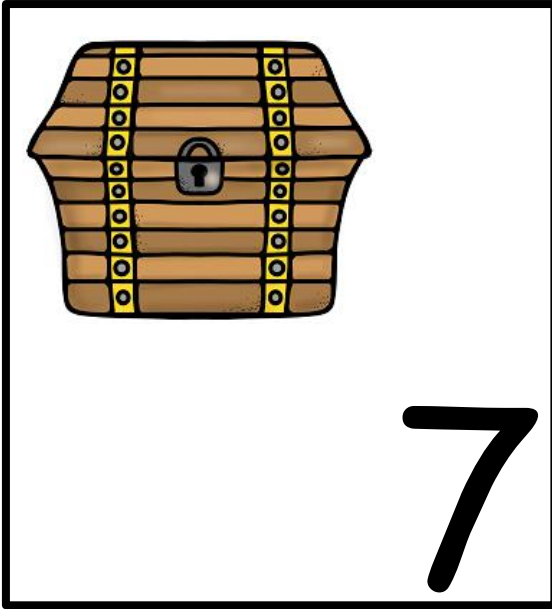


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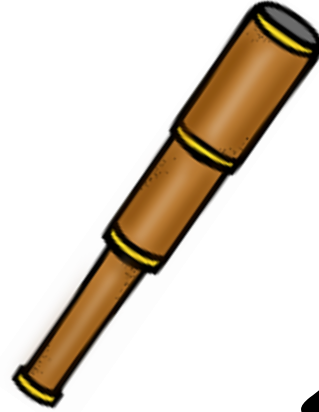
Pirate Theme Calendar Pieces ABCD Pattern



Pirate Theme Calendar Pieces ABCD Pattern



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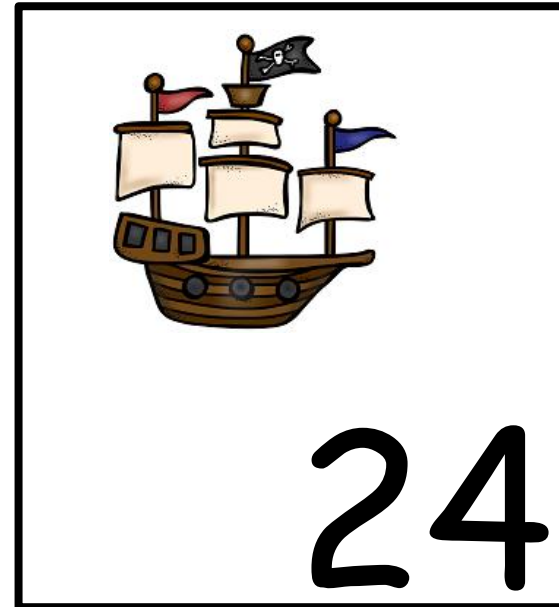
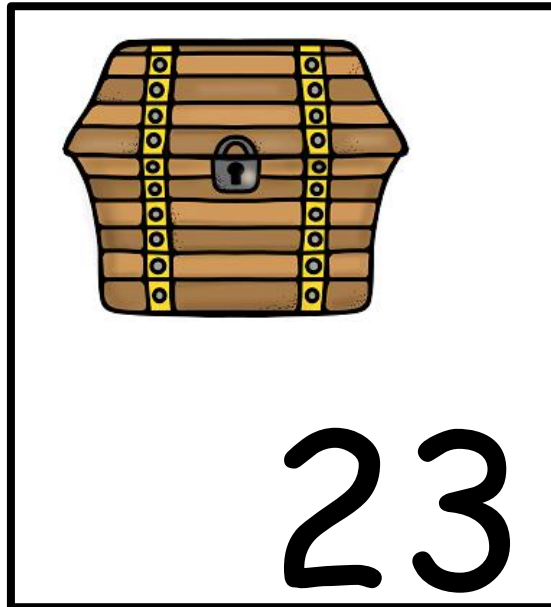
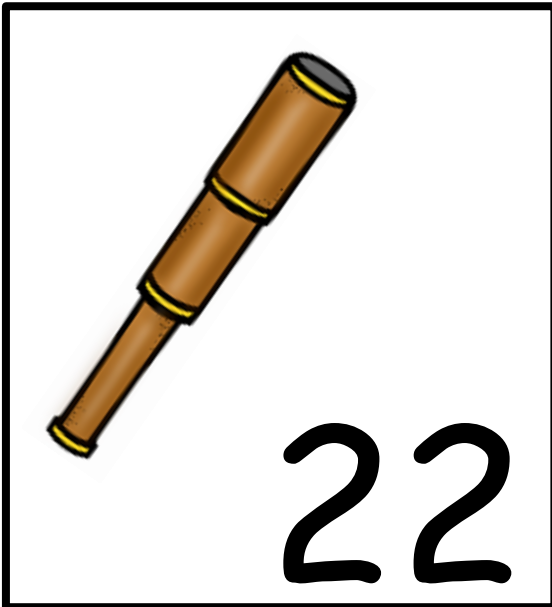
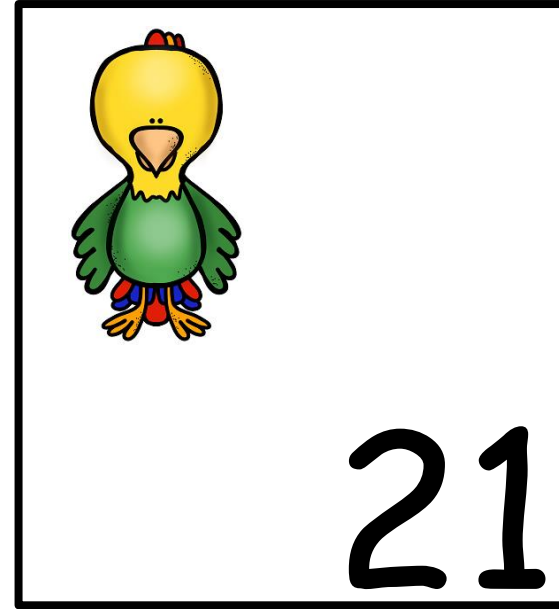
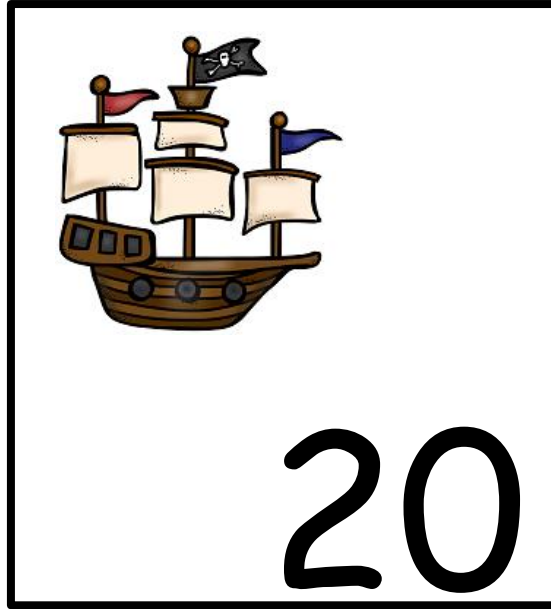
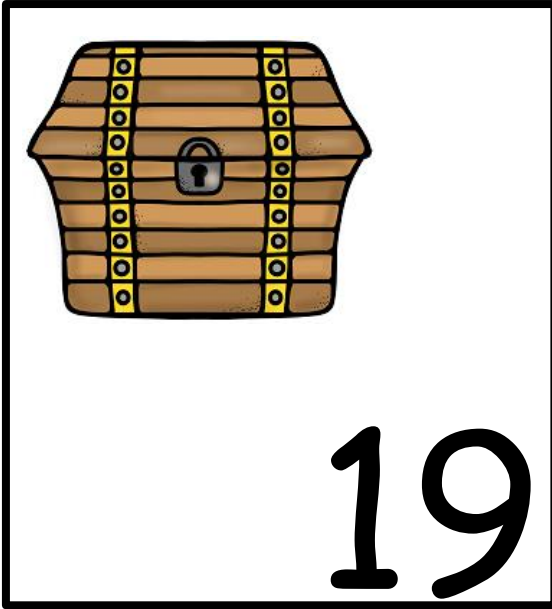


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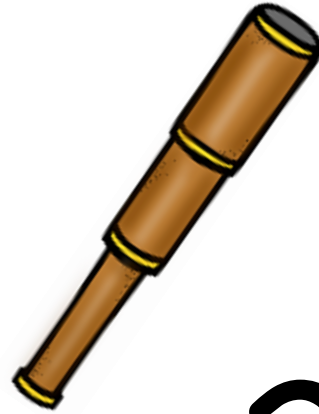
Pirate Theme Calendar Pieces ABCD Pattern



Pirate Theme Calendar Pieces ABCD Pattern



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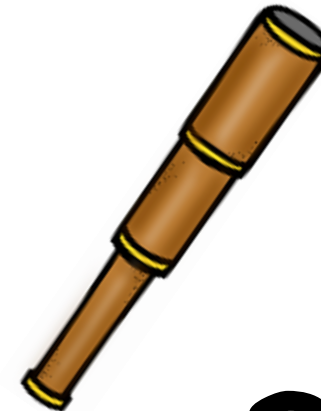
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Glitter Playdough Recipe

2 c (500 mg) flour

1 c (250 mg) salt

2 Tbsp (30 ml) alum

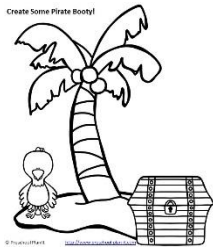
LOTS OF GLITTER!!!!

1 c (250 ml) water

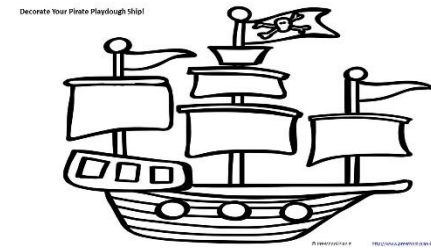
2 Tbsp (30 ml) oil

food coloring or paint

1. Make this with the children!
2. Mix the dry ingredients.
3. Pour in the wet ingredients.
4. Stir. Knead. Enjoy!
5. Make many batches of this in varying colors to use alone or with the activity mats in this packet!



Activity Mats!



There are 2 activity mats in this packet. Print and laminate as many copies as you'd like.

Make many color variations of the playdough recipe in this packet. The children can use it with these activity mats or they can use dry erase markers!

1. Decorate Your Pirate Ship!

Encourage the children to use different color of playdough to squish, roll, press or create items to go on their ship. If using dry erase markers, encourage the children to draw in the open spaces of this ship (i.e. they can print letters, numbers or draw pictures on the sails, flags), fill in water and add fish, or perhaps draw sand (if their ship is shipwrecked) etc.

2. Create Some Pirate Treasure!

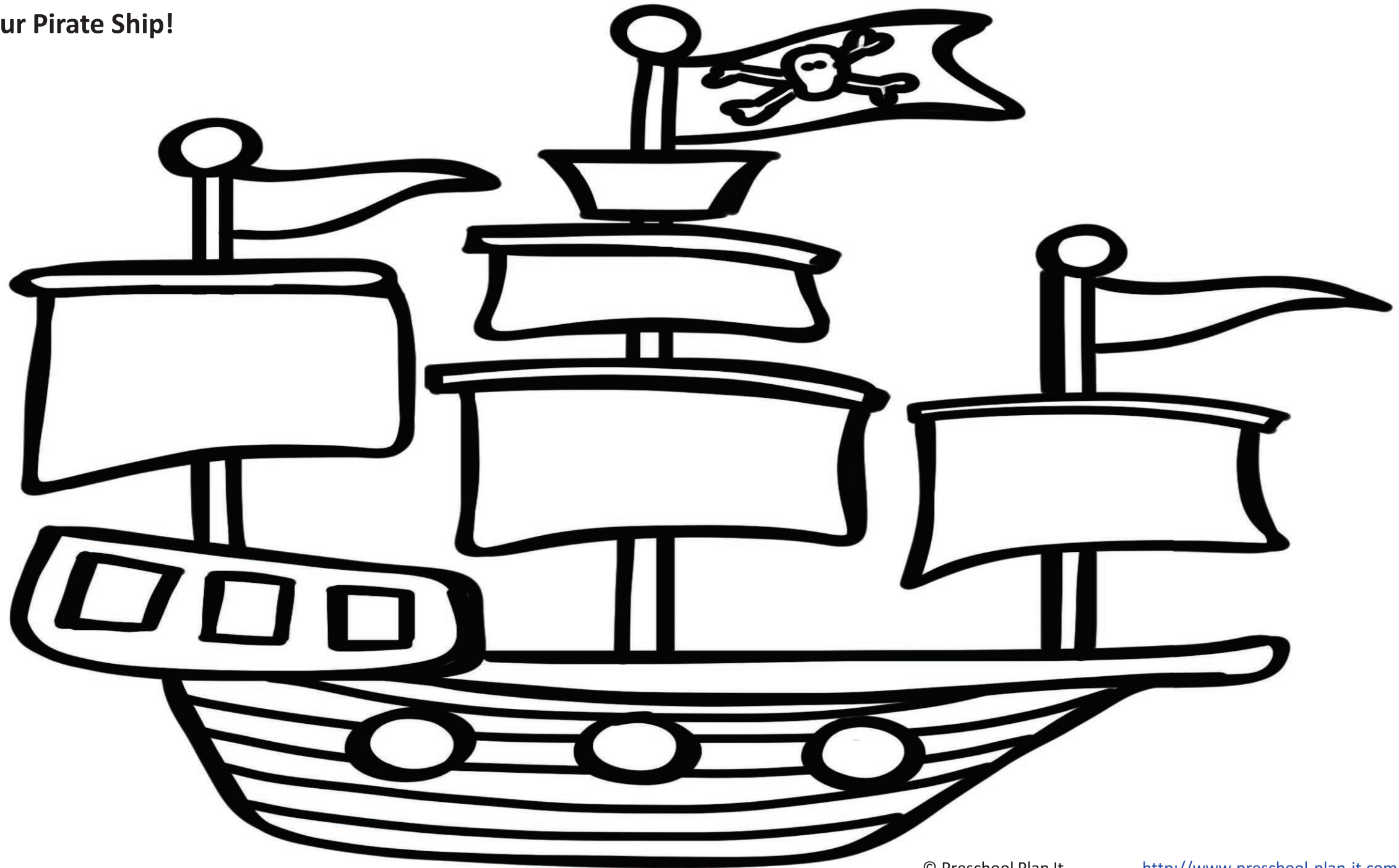
Again, the children can use playdough or dry erase markers.

Encourage them to create what THEY would want to be in their treasure chest to the right of the island.

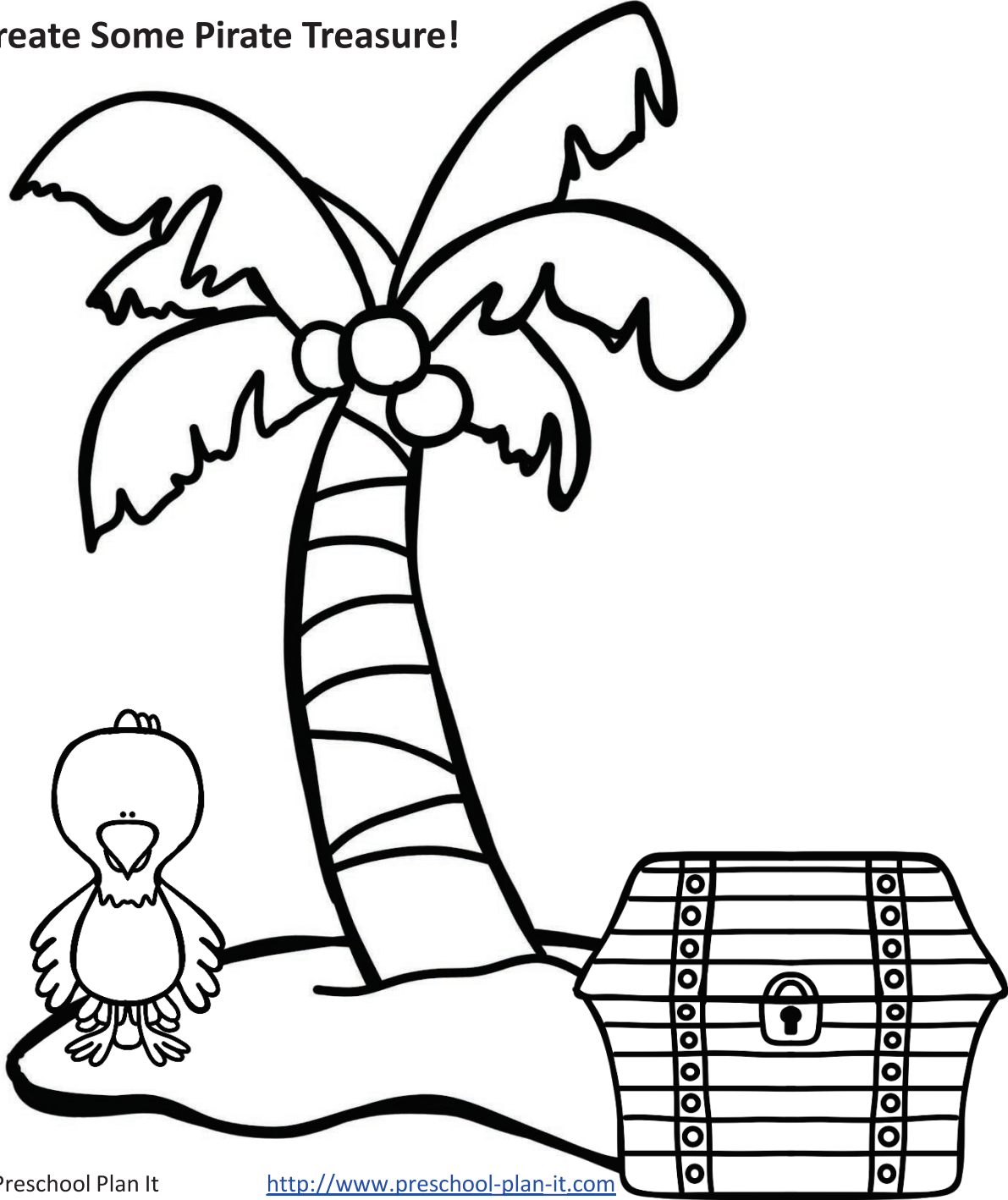
They can also use the playdough to fill in the tree and parrot!

(Skills: muscle development; fine motor control; eye-hand coordination)

Decorate Your Pirate Ship!



Create Some Pirate Treasure!



Pirate Ship Letter Hunt File Folder Game

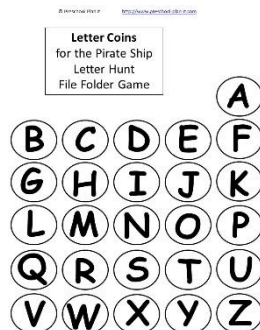
How to make the file folder game:

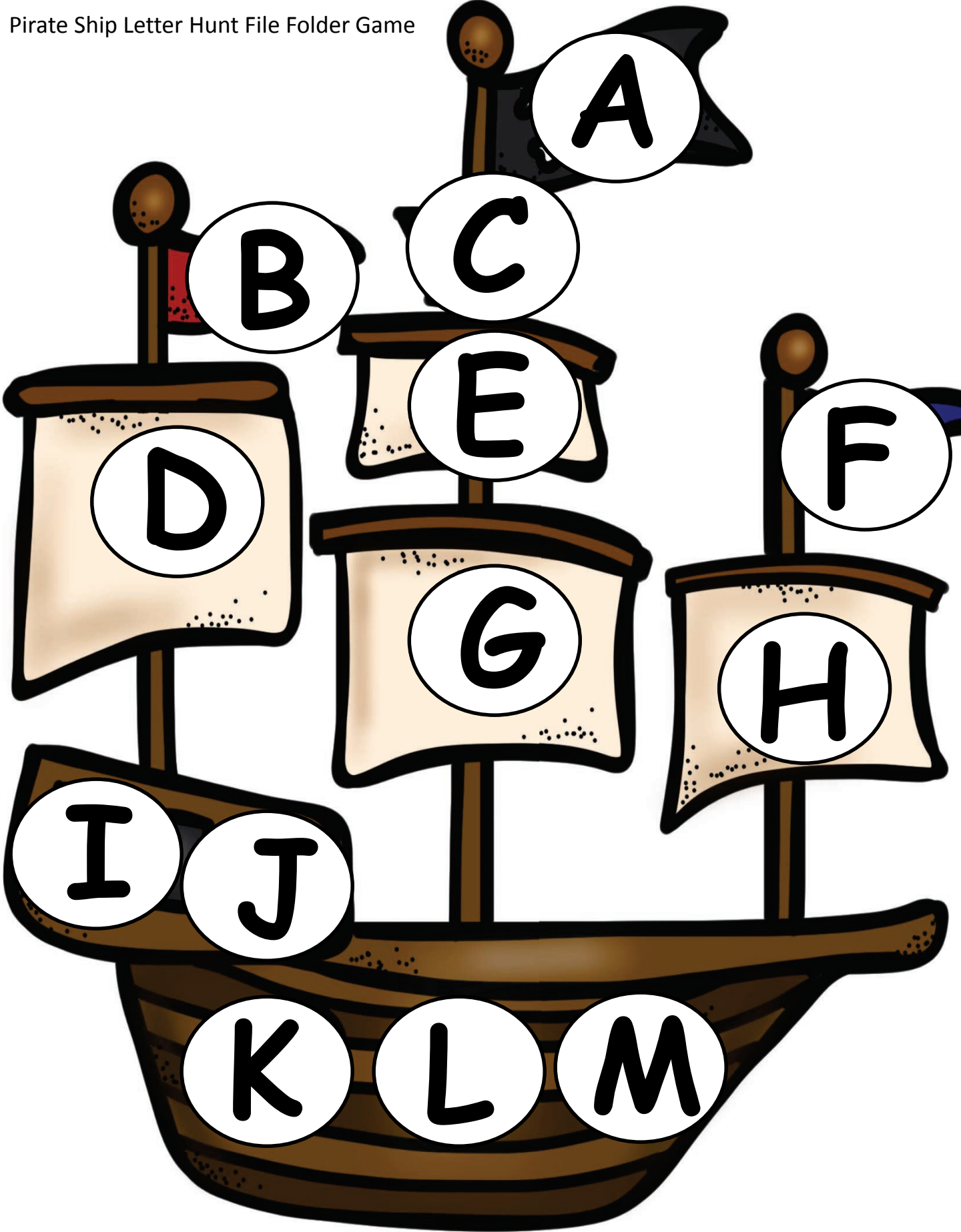
- Print out all pages.
- Cut out game title and the instructions from this page.
- Glue title onto tab of file folder & instructions on the front.
- Laminate pirate ships and attach to the inside of the folder.
- Cut out the letter “coins” and laminate. Place these in a sealable bag for storage.

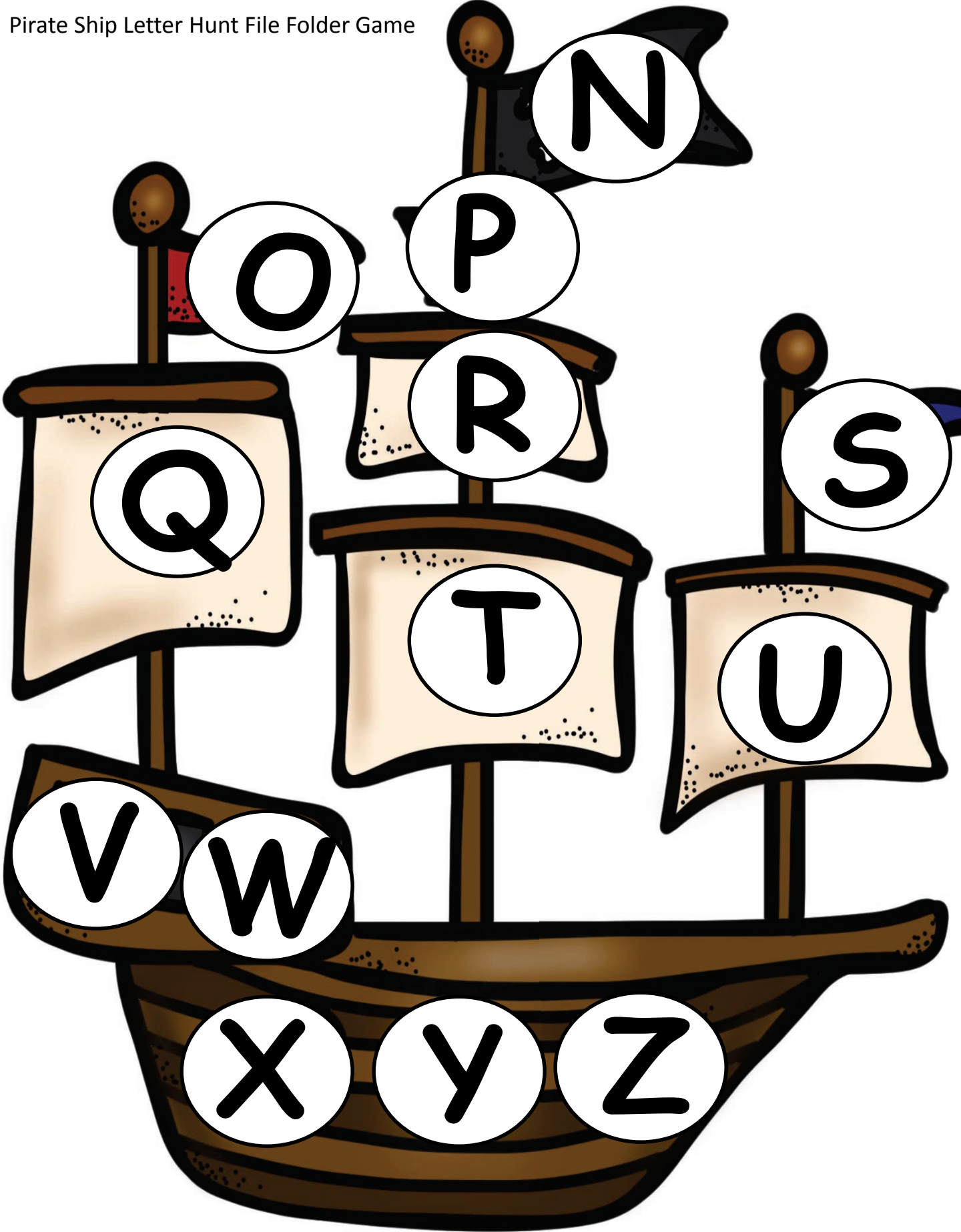
Instructions:

Children place the letter “coins” a the corresponding letter on the ship.

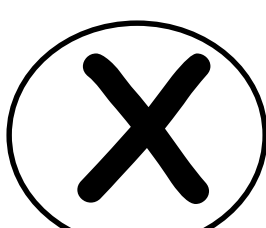
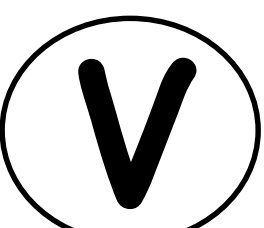
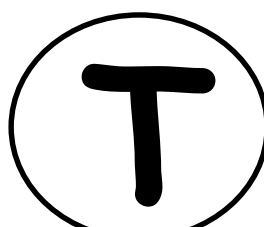
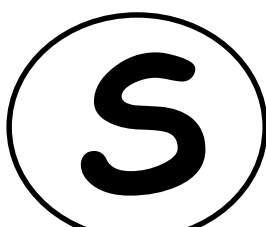
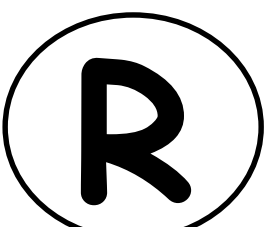
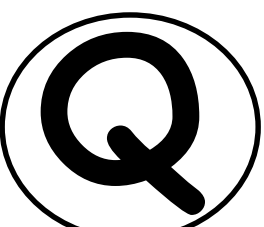
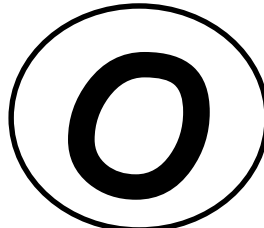
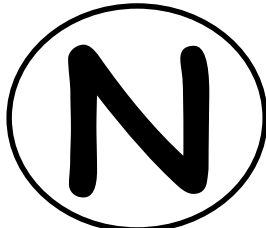
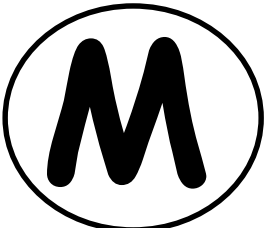
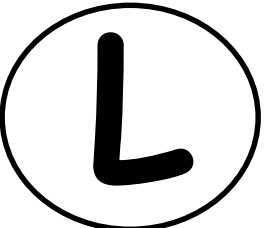
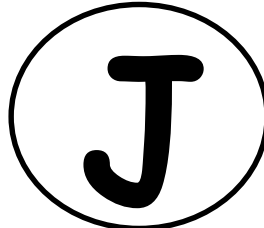
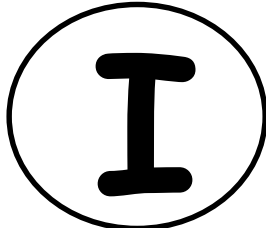
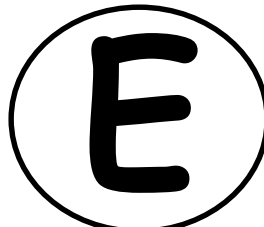
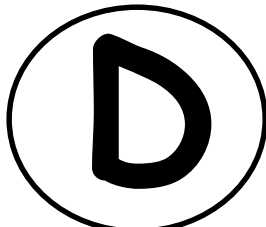
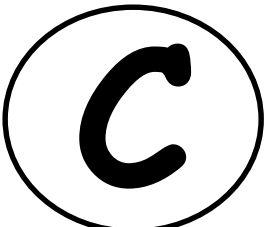
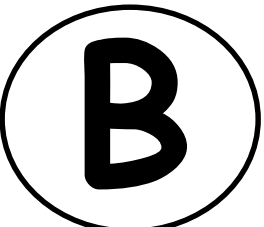
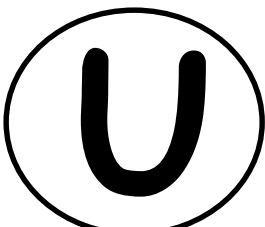
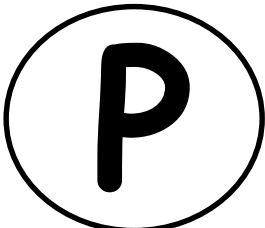
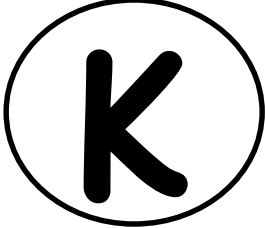
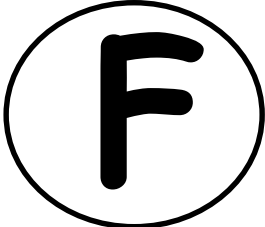
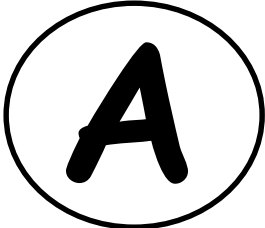
Variation: Use plastic coins and tape or print letters (using a marker) on them to use instead of the paper “coins”!







Letter Coins
for the Pirate Ship
Letter Hunt
File Folder Game



Song Card & Song Poster

How to use:

- Print and laminate the song card below (it is 5" X 3").
- Place in a can or box with other cards of songs your children love!
- In transitional times (waiting to go outside or wash hands, etc.), pull out your song box or song can (I use a decorated coffee can!).
- Shuffle the cards in your hands saying "Shuffle, shuffle, shuffle" and your children yell "STOP"!
- When they yell stop, whichever card is on top is the one you sing! The kids LOVE this!

Each month you'll receive one of these cards that correspond with the song poster for the month to add to your Song Card Collection!

On the next page, you'll find the Song Poster! Print and laminate for use over the years!





Pirates



**Some pirates went to sea, sea, sea
To see what they could see, see, see.**



**But all that they could see, see, see
In the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea
Was a treasure just for me, me, me!**

FREEZE! What's in YOUR treasure box matey?





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