

Unit Overview: Parent Guide

Treasure Island, Grade 3

What is the goal of this unit?

Your child will read fiction and nonfiction texts to learn about different types of treasure, the ways people hunt for treasure, and the various treasures which have been found, lost, and stolen over time.

What topics and skills is your third grader learning in this unit?

- Treasure hunting
- Exploration
- Pirates
- Motivation
- Research
- Informational writing

What tasks will your child engage in to help them consider the topics and skills of this unit?

- **Culminating Writing Task:** Your child will bring together all her learning near the end of the unit by writing an essay that responds to the question: *How do Jim's feelings about treasure change from the beginning of Treasure Island to the end?*
- **Extension Task:** Your child will extend her learning by conducting research and writing an essay in response to the question: *Why is art stolen, and how is it recovered?*

Your child will read these texts:

Text Title	Author/Source	How it is used in the Unit
<i>Treasure Island (Classic Starts Series)</i>	Robert Louis Stevenson	Main text of the unit
<i>Magic Tree House Fact Tracker: Pirates</i>	Will Osborne and Mary Pope Osborne	Group text
<i>Finding the Titanic</i>	Robert Ballard	Group text
<i>The Mona Lisa Caper</i>	Rick Jacobson	Group text
"Kids Were Onboard the Titanic, Too"	Marylou Tousignant	Student text

Geocaching Fact Sheet	Groundspeak	Student text
"Treasure"	LDOE	Student text
"The Day the Mona Lisa was Stolen"	Craig Roland from Art Junction	Student text

Ideas for discussing treasure hunting and human motivation

- What is a treasure?
- Why do people search for treasures?
- Who are pirates?
- Describe a time you have gone on a treasure hunt. What did you find? Why did you go on the hunt?
- What is art?
- Why would people want to steal art?
- What motivates you? Why?

Want to deepen your and your child's knowledge on the topic being studied?

Here is a suggested book list:

Title	Author
<i>The Treasure</i>	Uri Shulevitz
<i>All for Me and None for All</i>	Helen Lester
<i>Snow Treasure</i>	Marie McSwigan
<i>Mieko and the Fifth Treasure</i>	Eleanor Coerr
<i>The Seven Treasure Hunts</i>	Jennifer Barrett
<i>The Map to Everywhere</i>	Carrie Ryan and J.P Davis

What does independent reading look like at home?

Independent reading gives your child the opportunity to read and interact with books that are on her reading level and that address topics that she chooses. Supporting independent reading at home helps build your child's confidence with reading, her reading stamina and reading achievement, and will help her do better in school.

Here are some ways you can encourage independent reading at home:

- Let your child pick out books that she finds interesting
- Prioritize reading. Protect time every day for reading. Before bedtime is a great time to read!
- Read together
- Read aloud
- Discuss what you're reading. Ask questions like:
 - What was that book about?
 - What did you like about it?
 - What didn't you like about it?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have about what you read?
 - What didn't you understand about what you read?
 - What do you want to learn more about after reading the book?
 - How does this book connect to other books you've read?