



An interactive mystery game

(Approx. 10+ years old)

Here's how to organize the investigation:

Before the party:

1. Print off one copy of the suspect roles (pages 8-13).
2. Print off enough copies of the notes, diagram and answer sheet (pages 4-7) so that everyone who is investigating the mystery has a set. You can, at your discretion, make "clipboards" by stapling these pages to sheets of cardboard.
3. Print off the solution (pages 14-16) and keep it hidden.

At the party:

1. Assign the roles of the six suspects. Everybody else becomes private investigators hired to solve the case. No information needs to be memorized because each suspect has notes containing the answers to questions.
2. Read "The Prates' Pilfered Plunder!" and "Rules of the Game" (pages 2 & 3) out loud to everyone.
3. Distribute the notes and answer sheets to the investigators. The investigators will need to make notes to collect information. If the suspects are investigating the events, they'll also need clipboards.
4. Tell the kids to talk with each other to find out what everyone knows about the events. You can organize this if you want to, or you can just let it happen.
5. When time's up (after an hour or so) gather everybody together and, one at a time, ask them the questions on the answer sheet.
6. Read the solution to the crime. You may want to award a prize to the person who came closest to the correct answers.



The Pilfered Plunder!

Captain Nobeard is one of the most feared pirates on the seven seas. He and his crew have been robbing merchant vessels and evading the Royal Navy for years. However, their greatest score came not from an act of piracy, but from a stroke of luck.

On a foggy night, as Nobeard and his crew steered their ship, the *Lady Avarice*, along the craggy coast of Isla Peligrosa, the ship's lookout spotted the familiar flap of a foresail jutting out of a hidden cove. After carefully steering their ship into position, they realized they had found the remains of the *Deathly Maiden*, the flagship of the infamous dread pirate Captain Steele. The crew cautiously boarded the wrecked ship, and in the waterlogged hold they found a chest of gold and jewels worth more than any other treasure they had ever seen.

Gleefully, the pirates loaded the gold onto the *Lady Avarice* without a second thought. Once it was safe and secure in their cargo hold, they set sail for the friendly Puerto Seguro to celebrate their fortune.

The pirates gladly settled in for a long night of celebratory grog and tone-deaf chanteys in Puerto Seguro's small but cozy tavern. When Nobeard and his crew returned to their ship the following dawn, ready to split their profits, they opened the cargo hold to find that the treasure was missing!

There were no other ships in the harbor that night, and no citizen of Puerto Seguro would ever dream of stealing from the dread pirate Nobeard, not for all the gold in the world. That only leaves Nobeard's own crew. The pirate captain is convinced that one of his own betrayed him, and is determined to find out who it was.

Now it's up to you, the greatest pirate detectives in the world, to question the suspects, gather the clues, and figure out who would dare steal from a pirate, and why? Is it a case of simple greed? Was Nobeard betrayed by one of his closest mates? Or could it be Captain Steele's otherworldly vengeance? Only you can find out.



Be sure to ask: 1. Who are you? 2. What would you do with your share of the gold? 3. Have you seen anything suspicious? 4. Who do you think did it?



Notes about Captain Nobeard



Notes about Bobby Bones



Notes about Bill Drat



Captain Nobeard

You are a suspect. Always tell the truth when people ask you questions.



Who are you, and what do you do on the ship? I'm the ship's captain, most call me Nobeard. I rob the rich, keep these landlubbers of a crew in line, and turn the big wheel to make the ship go back and forth.

What would you do with your share of the treasure? Whatever I want, obviously! My plans are my own, you just need to focus on finding the scallywag who thought he could steal from the great Captain Nobeard!

Have you noticed anything suspicious lately? Aye, I have. A few notable members of my crew were late to the celebration last night. Bobby Bones and Porter Starboard swaggered in well into the night, though separately, and Jolly Rogers didn't show up at all! Of course, neither did Bill Drat.

Who do you think stole the gold? I'm sure one of these scurvy dogs made off with it, the bloody backstabbers. Why, I'm of half a mind to make 'em all walk the plank!

***Were you planning on retiring?** Yarr, Bobby told you that did he? Aye, it's true, I've been planning my retirement for a few years now. It ain't the golden age of piracy anymore, matey. A man's gotta know when to walk away. I was going to buy a villa on the coast of France and pass the Lady Avarice on to Bobby. This last score was finally enough for me to retire comfortably. Of course now that some blasted scoundrel has got his hands all over my booty, that's not an option anymore...

Oh, and do me a favor and keep this a secret. Nobody but Bobby knows I'm retiring, and I'd like to keep it that way for now.

***Do you know what Bill and Rogers were fighting about?** I don't know and I don't care. All I know is that if I catch'em at each other's throats like that again, I'll send'em both to Davy Jones' locker.

***Do you think the gold might be cursed?** Of course not. Cursed treasure, undead crewmen- they're just a bunch of stories Steele spread around to spook people. It's smart; you'd be surprised how fast an unguarded ship'll surrender when they think they're being hounded by the devil herself.



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The Pirate's Pilfered Plunder



Bonus Pages

Suspect List

Anatomy of a Ship

Glossary of Pirate Slang

Customized Party Invitation