

***Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson**
Vocabulary, part 1

buccaneer

tottering

connoisseur

berth

mate

skipper

hawker

hamlet

cutlasses

tallowy

lancet

lugger

cannikin

gully

weevil

dingle

squire

bluff

thimble

prodigiously

schooner

frigate

consort

keel-hauling

nautical

galley

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Vocabulary, part 2

forecastle

swivel

stern

capstan's bars

helm

luff

careen

yardarm

scuppers.

amphitheater

gig

undulating

contorted

bulrushes

languor

extricate

supplication

gaskin

accouterment

marooned

catechism

union jack

stockade

dysentery

jolly boat

knoll

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Vocabulary, part 3

partridge

galipot

leeward

valet.

priming

acquiescence

morass

puncheon

imprecations

coracle

truantry/truancy

hawser

phosphorescent

promontory

dilapidation

jibs

halyards

niggardly

truculently

marlinspike

squalls

junk

teetotum

obsequious

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Short Answer Questions

Answer in complete sentences.

1. In what way did the Captain help business at the Admiral Benbow Inn?
2. Who did Black Dog turn out to be?
3. What happened to the Captain after his fight with Black Dog?
4. What was the reason for the Captain's stroke?
5. What did the Captain beg Jim for when he was bedridden?
6. What did the Captain's old ship mates want from him?
7. What happened to Captain Jim after he met the blind beggar?
8. What was on the bottom of Captain Jim's chest?
9. What saved Jim and his mother after they had to flee the inn?
10. What happened to the blind beggar Pew?
11. What did Mr. Dance offer Jim after they tried to hunt down the buccaneers?
12. What did the oil-cloth package contain?
13. What was the name of the ship that the Squire bought?
14. What fears did Jim have about Long John Silver?
15. What familiar face did Jim spot at Long John Silver's inn?
16. Why did Long John Silver prove to be such a good companion to Jim when they walked through Bristol together?

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Short Answer Questions, part 2

17. What were Captain Smollett's cautionary suggestions to the doctor and the squire on board the ship?
18. Why didn't Jim like Captain Smollett at first?
19. What was the name of Long John Silver's parrot?
20. Why was the *Hispaniola's* crew described as spoiled by Captain Smollett?
21. What did Jim learn about Long John Silver while eavesdropping?
22. What did the term "a gentleman of fortune" mean to the buccaneers?
23. Why was Long John Silver not in a hurry to execute his mutiny plans?
24. What did Captain Smollett, Squire Trelawney, and Doctor Livesey decide to do about the uprising plans?
25. What did Jim do when Silver and the crew went to the island on an afternoon off?
26. What did Silver and his accomplices do when they were ashore the island?
27. Who was Ben Gunn?
28. How did the life-boat adventure end for Dr. Livesley and the others?
29. Captain Smollett did something that seemed to relieve him very much when they prepared to defend the blockhouse. What did he do?
30. Who built the Stockade many years before the crew of the *Hispaniola* came there?
31. What was it that Ben Gunn wanted Jim to do for him?
32. What did Doctor Livesley carry in his snuff-box?

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Short Answer Questions, part 3

33. What kind of deal did Long John Silver want to strike with Captain Smollett?
34. Before the battle, Captain Smollett told his men that they had two advantages over the pirates. What were the advantages?
35. Where did the doctor go after the attack of the pirates?
36. What did Jim want to do when he left his comrades at the blockhouse?
37. What great advantage did Ben Gunn's boat have, in spite of being ill made and small?
38. What did Jim want to do to the *Hispaniola* from Ben Gunn's little boat?
39. Why did the watchmen not notice that the *Hispaniola* was adrift at first?
40. What bargain did Jim strike with Israel Hands on board the ship?
41. How does Jim's skirmish with Israel Hands end?
42. What did Jim discover when he returned to the block house after hiding the *Hispaniola*?
43. What reason did Jim give the pirates to keep him alive?
44. What is the meaning of the outstretched corpse on the way to the treasure?
45. How did the pirates react when they heard someone sing the old pirate song in the woods?
46. Why had the doctor given the treasure map to the pirates?
47. What did Captain Smollett, Doctor Livesley, and Squire Trelawney decide to do with the last three remaining pirates?
48. What happened to Long John Silver in the end?

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Essay Questions

Answer in detail, in complete sentences. Support your answer with information from the text and/or from your own experience.

1. Why do you think a steady supply of rum was so important to Captain Bill, and what did he mean by “seeing horrors” otherwise.
2. Why do you think that Jim and his mother were so afraid after the captain’s death?
3. Why do you think no one in the neighborhood would help Jim and his mother to defend the inn?
4. What did “the black spot” turn out to be, and what was the meaning of it?
5. Explain what made J. Flint such a feared legend
6. Describe the Doctor’s and the Squire’s plans after seeing the map, and why secrecy was so important.
7. When Jim read the squire’s letter from Bristol, he was worried for several reasons, why?
8. Describe Jim’s feelings when he sees his mother again, and the boy the squire hired to help her while Jim was away.
9. Describe the typical characteristics of a seaman, observed by Jim in Bristol.
10. Explain why captain Smollett didn’t like the crew of the Hispaniola.
11. Explain what was going on in the conversation Jim listened in on, between Long John Silver and the youngest deck hand.
12. Long John Silver was a charismatic person with ability to tie people to him, describe his methods.
13. Describe the seamen’s behavior when they reached the island, and in contrast Long John Silver’s. Why do you think they behaved like that?
14. Explain how the Doctor’s plans for defense were affected by the discovery of the block house.
15. Discuss why you think Captain Smollett, doctor Livesey and the others in the end decided to keep the British flag on the roof of the block house, in spite of it attracting enemy fire.
16. Explain why you think doctor Livesey said to Jim that Captain Smollett was a better man than himself.
17. Explain why Jim’s solitary adventure, leaving his comrades in the block house was a very risky thing to do.
18. How did Jim end up on the Hispaniola without any means of retreat?
19. At one point Jim says to Israel Hands that he should pray, and Hands in turn gives him his honesty life philosophy, how would you interpret Hands’ experiences?
20. Explain why you think Long John Silver defended Jim against the pirates in the end.
21. Describe in what ways Long John Silver wins over the crew again, after being served the black spot.

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ANSWERS

Vocabulary

Possible vocabulary exercises: find definitions in a dictionary; define in original words; locate the words in the text and re-write them; use original sentences to show the meaning in context. Below are sample definitions.

buccaneer – a pirate; a ruthless speculator or adventurer.

tottering - walking unsteadily or shakily.

connoisseur - an expert able to appreciate a field, especially in the fine arts.

berth - a shelf-like sleeping space on a ship; the space allotted to a vessel at anchor; the position or rank of a ship's officer or the cabin of a ship's officer.

mate - an assistant to a warrant officer or other functionary on a ship.

skipper – the master of a ship.

hawker - someone who travels about selling his wares (as on the streets or at carnivals).

hamlet - a small village.

cutlasses - a short heavy sword with a curved single-edged blade, once used as a weapon by sailors.

tallowy - resembling tallow in consistency and color; fatty.

lancet - a surgical knife with a short, wide, pointed double-edged blade, used especially for making punctures and small incisions.

lugger - a small ship lug-rigged on two or three masts.

cannikin - a small can or drinking cup, a wooden bucket.

gully - a ditch or gutter.

weevil - any of several families of mostly small beetles that feed on plants and plant products; especially snout beetles and seed beetles.

dingle - a small wooded hollow.

squire - a title applied to a justice of the peace or other local dignitary of a rural district or small town; also an English country gentleman, particularly the proprietor in a district.

bluff - good-naturedly direct, blunt, or frank; heartily outspoken.

thimble - a small metal cap to protect the finger while sewing; can be used as a small container, any of various tubular sockets or sleeves in machinery.

prodigiously - extraordinarily in size, amount, extent, degree, force, etc.

schooner - a fore-and-aft rigged sailing vessel having at least two masts, with a foremast that is usually smaller than the other masts.

frigate - a high-speed, medium-sized sailing war vessel of the 17th – 19th centuries.

consort - a companion or partner; one vessel or ship accompanying another.

keel-hauling - a severe form of corporal punishment for sailors at sea. the sailor was tied to a rope that looped beneath the vessel, thrown overboard on one side of the ship, and dragged under the ship's keel to the other side.

nautical - relating to or involving ships or shipping or navigation or seamen

galley - a kitchen or an area with kitchen facilities in a ship, a long rowboat, as one used as a ship's boat by a warship or one used for dragging a seine.

forecastle - a superstructure at or immediately aft of the bow of a vessel, used as a shelter for stores or as quarters for sailors.

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ANSWERS

Vocabulary, continued (2)

swivel - a fastening device that allows the thing fastened to turn around freely upon it, esp. to turn in a full circle, a swivel gun.

stern - the rear part of a ship or boat.

capstan's bars - parts of a capstan, an apparatus used for hoisting weights, consisting of a vertical spool-shaped cylinder that is rotated manually or by machine and around which a cable is wound.

helm - the steering gear of a ship, especially the tiller or wheel.

luff - the forward edge of a fore-and-aft sail, to bring the head of a sailing ship closer to or directly into the wind, with sails shaking.

careen - (of a ship) to heel over or list.

yardarm - either end of a yard of a square sail.

scuppers - an opening in the side of a ship at deck level to allow water to run off.

amphitheater - an oval or round building with tiers of seats around a central open area, as those used in ancient rome for gladiatorial contests.

gig - a light boat rowed with four, six, or eight long oars.

undulating – to move in waves, rising and falling.

contorted – twisted or strained out of shape.

bulrushes –wetland herbs.

languor - lack of energy or vitality.

extricate - to release from an entanglement or difficulty; disengage, to distinguish from something.

supplication – a way of humbly pleading for something.

gaskin - a light line for securing a furled sail to a boom, gaff, or yard.

accouterment - clothing that is worn or carried, but not part of your main clothing; equipment.

marooned - to put ashore on a deserted island or coast and intentionally abandon.

catechism - an elementary book containing a summary of the principles of the christian religion, in the form of questions and answers.

union jack - the british national flag.

stockade - a defensive barrier consisting of strong posts or timbers fixed upright in the ground.

dysentery - an infection of the intestines marked by severe diarrhea.

jolly boat - a light boat carried at the stern of a sailing vessel.

knoll - a small, rounded hill.

partridge – a form of bird related to the grouse.

galipot - a type of turpentine exuded on the stems of certain species of pine.

leeward - toward the side to which the wind is blowing.

valet - a male servant who attends to the personal needs of his employer, as by taking care of clothing or the like; manservant.

priming - the powder or other material used to ignite a charge, fuse.

acquiescence – a passive agreement without protest or other verbal expression.

morass - a place of low, soft, wet ground, a marsh or bog.

puncheon – a cask with a capacity of from 72 to 120 gallons.

imprecations – curses

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ANSWERS

Vocabulary, continued (3)

coracle - a small, round, or very broad boat made of wickerwork or interwoven laths covered with a waterproof layer of animal skin, canvas, tarred or oiled cloth, or the like: used in Wales, Ireland, and parts of western England.

truancy/truancy – a state in which a person neglects his duties.

hawser – a heavy rope for towing.

phosphorescent - emitting light without appreciable heat as by slow oxidation of phosphorus; "the phosphorescent glow of decaying wood"

promontory - a high ridge of land or rock jutting out into a body of water; a headland.

dilapidation - a state of deterioration due to old age or long use.

jibs - triangular sails stretching from the foretopmast head to the jib boom and in small craft to the bowsprit or the bow.

halyards - ropes used to raise or lower a sail, flag, or yard.

niggardly - meanly or ungenerously small or scanty

truculently – aggressively or defiantly

marlinspike - a pointed iron hand tool that is used to separate strands of a rope.

squalls – loud harsh cries, winds.

junk - hard salt beef for consumption on board a ship

teetotum - a kind of die having four sides, each marked with a different initial letter, spun with the fingers in an old game of chance; a child's toy with the same shape.

obsequious – servile and compliant

Short Answer and Essay Questions

For the short answer questions, students may answer questions briefly on the page or at greater length on their own paper or in writing journals. For the essay questions, we suggest a writing journal where students could record answers as they read. Alternatively, a limited number of questions could be assigned to each student. The essay questions can also be used as discussion questions.

1. The Captain brought excitement to the quiet countryside with his stories.
2. He was an old shipmate of Captain Bill's.
3. The Captain had a stroke.
4. The Captain drank too much rum.
5. He wanted Jim to bring him more rum.
6. The shipmates wanted to get his old sea chest.
7. The captain had another stroke and died.
8. There was a bundle in oil-cloth and a money bag.
9. The buccaneers were quarreling and the revenue officers arrived.
10. Pew was trampled by one of the officer's horses.
11. He offered him a ride to Dr. Livesey's .
12. The package contained Captain Bill's account book and a map of an island.
13. The ship's name was the *Hispaniola*.

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14. Jim feared that Silver would be the same one-legged pirate that he had been hired by Captain Bill to look out for.
15. Jim sees Black Dog.
16. Long John Silver told Jim all there was to know about different ships and he taught him nautical phrases.
17. He suggested that they kept secret who had the map and that they kept their own men along with arms and powder close to them in the stern of the ship.
18. The captain put Jim to hard work and didn't have any favorites on the ship.
19. The parrot's name was Captain Flint.
20. The crew was often treated with grog, and a barrel of apples was always on the deck.
21. Jim learned that Long John Silver was quartermaster on Flint's ship, and that half of the crew on the *Hispaniola* also were old crewmen of Captain Flint's.
22. It simply meant that they were pirates.
23. Long John Silver wanted the captain, the doctor and the squire to do all the work with finding and loading the treasure, before getting rid of them.
24. They decided to pretend nothing happened, notify their own men, and stall for time.
25. Jim snuck to the island along with the crew.
26. The pirates gave all the honest seamen an offer to go along with their mutiny, and if they declined, they killed them.
27. Ben Gunn was an old pirate from Flint's ship who had been left on a desolate island as a punishment.
28. The cannonball flew above the lifeboat, but it sank the boat with their provisions.
29. Captain Smollett hauls the British flag on the roof of the block house.
30. Captain Flint built the stockade.
31. Ben Gunn wanted Jim to give a message to the doctor and the squire from him.
32. Doctor Livesey carried a piece of Parmesan cheese in his snuff-box.
33. He wanted the map, and offered them a part of the treasure and a ride to a safe harbor, or to attract a friendly ship for them.
34. The advantages were cover and discipline.
35. The doctor went to meet Ben Gunn.
36. Jim wanted to find Ben Gunn's hidden boat.
37. The boat was very light and portable.
38. Jim wanted to cut the *Hispaniola* loose from her anchor and let her drift.
39. The watchmen were fighting with each other.
40. Hands would help Jim to sail the ship to shore if Jim would give him food, drink and something to bind his wounds.
41. The skirmish ended with Hands pinning Jim's shoulder to the mast and with Jim shooting Hands.
42. Jim discovered that the block house was filled with sleeping pirates.
43. Jim claimed that he could be a favorable witness and save them from the gallows back in England.
44. The body was supposed to act as a compass.
45. The pirates got frightened and thought it was the ghost of Captain Flint.
46. The doctor gave the map to the pirates because he knew that Ben Gunn had already moved the treasure to another place.
47. They decided to leave them on the island with plenty of provisions.
48. Long John Silver stole some money and escaped in an American port.