

Trinity Stars Stage 3 – Activity plan – Treasure Island

Stage: 3

Language aims:

- ▶ Present Continuous questions and answers.
- ▶ Vocabulary: ship, mermaid, pirate, treasure island.

Performance aims:

- ▶ Improvisation
- ▶ Creating mood and atmosphere through movement, mime and sound.
- ▶ Choral and personal interaction through dialogue

A note about timing:

With any improvisation activities, it is hard to be exact about timing as the children may get very involved and want to continue for longer, or may not respond as you expected. However as a rough guideline, you could spend approximately 15 minutes on each activity. With very young learners it is better to do a little and often.

When rehearsing for a performance, spend at least one lesson making sure everyone knows where to move and when.

For Trinity Stars Stage 3, performances should last from 15-30 minutes.

Materials needed:

- ▶ Pictures of: an old-fashioned sailing ship, a desert island, a treasure chest.

Activity

Improvisation

1. Get straight into the topic by showing the children a picture of an old-fashioned ship and moving, swaying as if you're on board.
2. Encourage them to come onto the ship with you; 'I'm on a ship! Come on. Come with me! All aboard, all aboard!' Note: you can throw in some fun language such as 'all aboard'. The children will not be confused if you have already set the scene and this encourages their passive comprehension and develops their imagination.
3. You could mark out the boundaries of the ship by using chairs. Hold onto the backs of the chairs and sway and move as if you are all travelling across the waves.
4. Point to the sails of the ships on your picture and mime hoisting them up. Get a rhythm going as you do so and chant, for example, 'Heave ho, heave ho!'
5. Now show the children a picture of a desert island. Say 'Look! We're going to an island!' You can of course, ask the children to make suggestions for where you are going and follow their lead. Here it is suggested that you lead the improvisation to begin with.

Online resources:

[Treasure Island flashcards](#)
[I'm on a boat song](#)

Using imagination

1. Now that you have outlined the main framework of the improvisation, let the children use their imagination.
2. Point to the imaginary sea and act as if you have seen something. Say 'Look! In the sea! What is it?'
3. Let the children suggest ideas. They might imagine that they see fish, whales, dolphins, mermaids, pirates.

Online resources:

[Big ship sails song](#)
[Under the sea song](#)

Using movement and sound

1. Once you have agreed on what you can see in the sea, play around with how these creatures move and what they sound like.
2. You could divide the class into groups and let each one devise a special dance for their allocated creature.
3. Encourage them to move in different ways - mermaids might swirl their arms and hair around, for example, whales might sing to each other, as they do in real life, pirates could dance a funny jig.

Creating atmosphere

1. You could also add to the atmosphere by using musical instruments. Change the mood for each group - for example, the mermaids could have dreamy, soft music, the pirates could have lively dance music, the whales could have mysterious sounds.
2. You don't have to have real music instruments to create sounds in the classroom. You could blow through cardboard tubes, make home-made shakers by putting beans in an empty water bottle or you could use 'body percussion'; clapping, stamping, clicking your fingers.

Tableau

If you are working with several groups at the same time, encourage the children to stand or sit still 'in character' as another group does its dance or special movements. Of course the children will not be able to stay still for long so choose 'tableau' positions which are easy for them to hold – sitting on the floor with their arms crossed for example.

Performance

1. Use this script as it is or as a basis for your own ideas.
2. Incorporate musical interludes if you would like to use music in your performance.
3. The script and directions can be found on the next page.

Project ideas

Below are some ideas for projects that could be used with this activity plan:

- ▶ Decorate a cardboard box. Each child adds something - it could be a card cut out of a toy or their favourite food. Help the children to write on the back of their 'treasure', 'This is a watch' or 'This is my favourite colour.' You could encourage them to think of 'treasures' in the world around them; the moon maybe, or the stars or their parents or friends. They could put photos of their family in the Treasure Chest.
- ▶ Colour and label a pirate or a mermaid. Give the children cut-outs and help them to label and name their characters. For example: 'This is a pirate. His name is Jack.'

Treasure Island performance

You can write a short script for this performance or use as a basis for your own ideas.

Group 1: *Where are you?*

Group 2: *We're on a ship!*

Group 1: *Where are you going?*

Group 2: *We're going to a Treasure Island. Come with us!*

Group 1 'climb aboard' the ship, joining Group 2.

They all act as if they are sailing on the ship – act out putting up sails, looking out to sea and so on.

All: *Heave ho, heave ho!*

Child 1 points to something in the sea

Child 1: *Look!*

Child 2: *Mermaids!*

Group: *What are you doing?*

Mermaids: *We're swimming.*

The Mermaid Song

We're mermaids, we're mermaids

We're swimming in the sea

Come with us, come with us, swimming in the sea.

The Group from the ship 'dive' into the sea and swim with the mermaids.

Child 1: *Look!*

Child 2: *Pirates!*

Group: *What are you doing?*

Pirates: *We're dancing!*

The Pirate Song

We're pirates, we're pirates

We're dancing round and round

Jiggety jig, jiggety jig

Come with us, come with us, dancing round and round!

The Group from the ship dance with the pirates.

Child 1: *Look! Treasure Island!*

All: *Hooray!*

They climb off the boat and go to Treasure Island. They discover the treasure chest.

Each child (including the mermaids and the pirates) takes something from the chest. You could make cardboard 'treasure' or you could have small toys or even cakes, sweets or fruit within it.

All sing

Treasure for me, treasure for you,

Treasure for everyone

We're on Treasure Island

We're having lots of fun!

The children all hold hands and take a bow or come forward in their groups and take bows as pirates, mermaids, sailors etc.