

Paul's Shipwreck (A Wrote)

Today we are going to hear about a man named Paul and an exciting adventure that he went on.

Now Paul was ALWAYS involved in something. Many of you may remember that Paul was originally named Saul. He hated Christians and wanted to kill any that he came in contact with. BUT! When Saul changed his evil ways and asked Jesus to come into his heart, God changed his name from Saul to Paul.

Once he was re-named Paul, Paul set out to carry the Gospel everywhere. In fact, He became a great missionary for God.

A missionary is someone who leaves their home and travels somewhere else in order to tell others about Jesus and how they can

accept Jesus into their hearts and be allowed
into heaven when they die.

Now Paul was ALWAYS finding adventure
in his travels BUT on this one particular
day, He was in for a HUGE adventure.

You see, Paul had been thrown into prison
because certain people did not want him to
spread the good news about Jesus.

BUT, when he was brought in front of the
officials no one could find ONE SINGLE
THING that he had done wrong.

The officials knew that if he was allowed to
go free, the Jews would be very angry. So,
they decided that the best thing to do was to
send him to Rome to be tried by Ceasar.

And this is where Paul's great adventure
begins.

In order to get to Rome, Paul was going to have to travel by ship.

Now traveling by ship is a slow and unpredictable journey. It wouldn't be a quick or easy trip, and as usual, Paul found himself in the middle of an adventure.

Traveling with Paul, were a few of his friends, some other prisoners, some soldiers and a man named Julius.

Julius was the Roman commander who was in charge of Paul and the other prisoners.

Now when you travel by ship, sometimes you have to travel on one ship for a little while and then the ship will dock and you may be shuffled onto another ship in order to finish your journey. And that is what happened to Paul.

At Paul's second stop, in Myra, Paul and his traveling companions boarded a large Egyptian ship. This ship had 276 crew members and passengers on board.

As soon as the ship left Myra, a strong wind began to blow against the ship. The ship rocked and rolled and rocked and rolled. But after a difficult journey, it made its way to Fair Havens.

The sailors and all the passengers were very grateful to have made it to shore.

They spent several days in Fair Haven and each day that past, the risk of bad weather grew worse!

Paul knew that fierce storms came to the Mediterranean Sea at this time of year.

He told Julius and the ship's captain that they should stay in Fair Haven.

But the ship's captain disagreed. "Fair Haven is not a good place to stay!" he said. "We should go to a town called Phoenix and spend the winter there."

So the crew and passengers re-boarded the ship and set sail for Phoenix.

The first few days of sailing were calm and traveling was good.

A gentle breeze blew behind the ship and filled the sails. The waves were calm and peaceful.

Perhaps the captain was right after all.

BUT then a very strong wind called the "northeaster" came from the island and the ship was caught in it.

The waves grew larger and tossed the ship from side to side. Then ENORMOUS waves began to crash against the wooden ship.

The powerful winds caught the sails and blew the ship farther and farther off course.

Soon they realized that they could not use the sails to guide them so they lowered them and allowed the winds to carry the ship wherever it would.

It looked as if the ship and all the passengers were doomed.

Day after day angry waves pounded against the ship's sides.

The sailors knew their ship would not hold together much longer, so they passed ropes under the ship's belly and tied them together in an effort to prevent the ship from splitting apart.

To make the boat lighter, they threw all the extra cargo overboard.

A day later, they threw out the ships equipment which meant that they would have nothing whatsoever to guide them.

They hoped that without the cargo, the boat wouldn't sink. BUT the ship was still being blown around wildly.

By this time, they were totally lost in the big open sea. With nothing to guide them and no one to save them.

The crew and passengers lost all hope of being saved.

“We’re going to die!” cried the sailors in despair. “Nothing can save us!”

BUT there was someone who could save
them wasn't there?

After the men had gone with out food for a
long time, Paul stood up before them and
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“Cheer up because none of you will die.
Only the ship will be lost.

Last night an angel came to me from the
God I belong to and worship.

The angel said ‘Paul, do not be afraid. You
must stand before Caesar. And God has
promised you that he will save the lives of
everyone sailing with you.’”

So men, have courage. I trust in God that
every thing will happen as his angel told me,
but we will crash on an island.”

For 14 nights, the boat tossed and turned on the ocean. BUT on the 14th night, the sailors thought they were close to land, so they lowered a rope with a weight on the end of it into the water.

They found that the waster was only one hundred twenty feet deep.

They went a little farther and lowered the rope again. It was ninety feet deep.

The sailors were afraid that they would hit the rocks, so they threw four anchors into the water and prayed for the daylight to come.

Some of the sailors wanted to leave the ship, and they lowered the lifeboat, pretending they were throwing more anchors from the front of the ship.

But Paul told the officer and the other soldiers, “If these men do not stay in the ship, your lives cannot be saved.”

So the soldiers cut the ropes and let the lifeboat fall into the water.

Just before dawn Paul began persuading all the people to eat something. He said, “For the past fourteen days you have been waiting and watching and not eating. Now I beg you to eat something.

You need it to stay alive. None of you will lose even one hair off your heads.”

After he said this, Paul took some bread and thanked God for it before all of the people.

Once the two hundred and seventy six people on board had eaten, they threw the grain overboard in order to lighten the ship.

When it was fully light, the passengers and sailors on board the ship looked out across the sea toward the land.

There was a sandy beach! The captain ordered the sailors to cut the anchors loose and head for shore.

The sailors followed the captain's orders, and it seemed as though the ship was going to land safely on the beach.

But then the bow of the ship hit a sandbar and it stuck.

As the huge waves crashed against it, the stranded ship began to break apart.

We'd better kill all the prisoners," said the soldiers. "Otherwise they'll swim to shore and escape."

But Julius wanted Paul to stay alive. He told the soldiers not to kill anyone and ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first to get to land.”

One by one, the ship’s passengers jumped into the cold, wild waves, floating on pieces of the ship of swimming toward the shore.

The ship was in pieces. The cargo had sunk. But not one person had been lost at sea, just as God had promised!

Paul's Shipwreck

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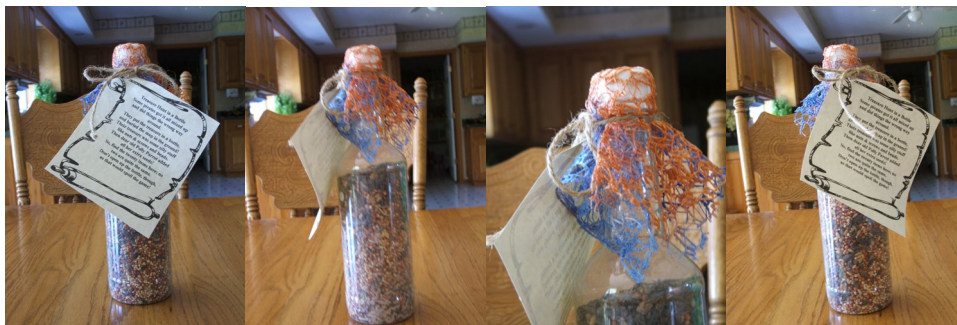
Treasure Hunt in a Bottle Craft

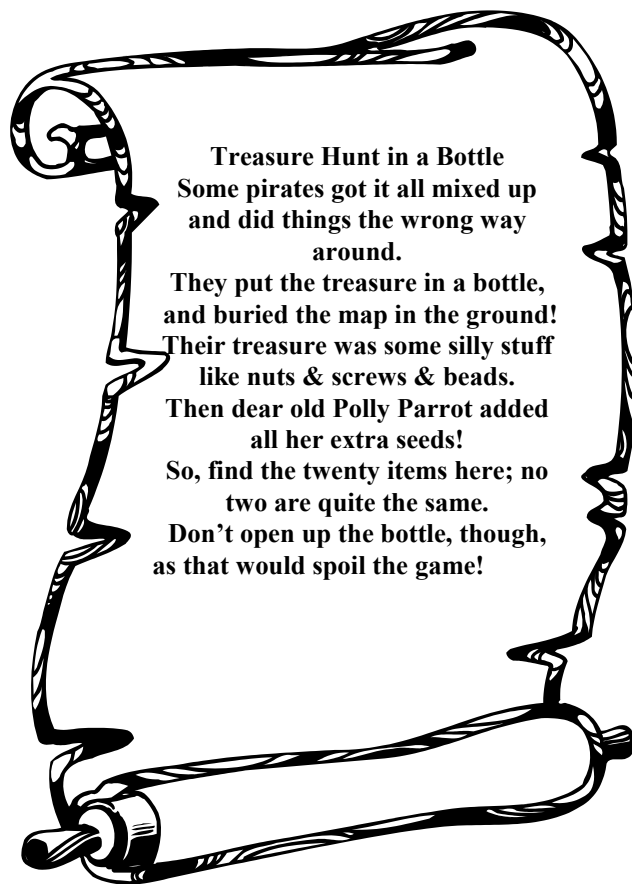
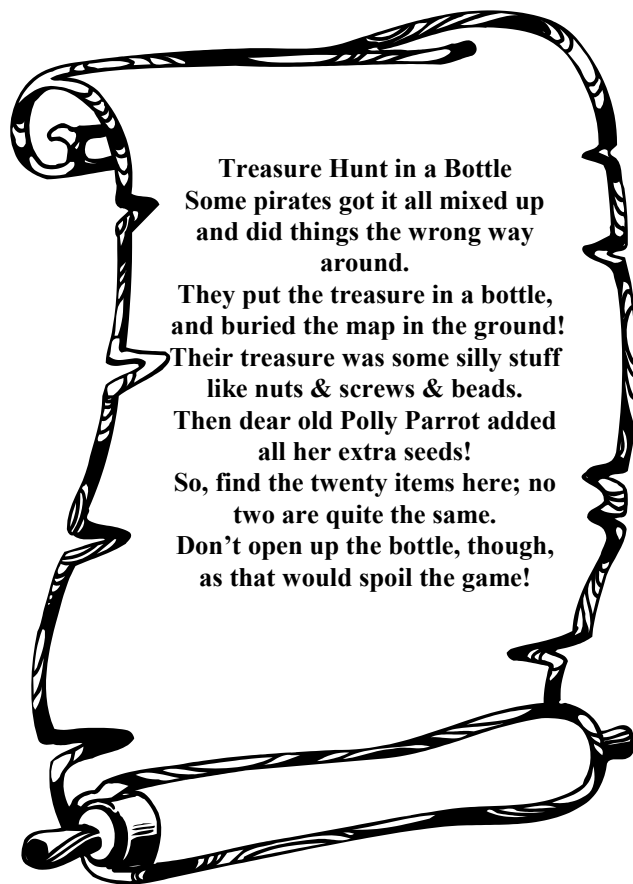
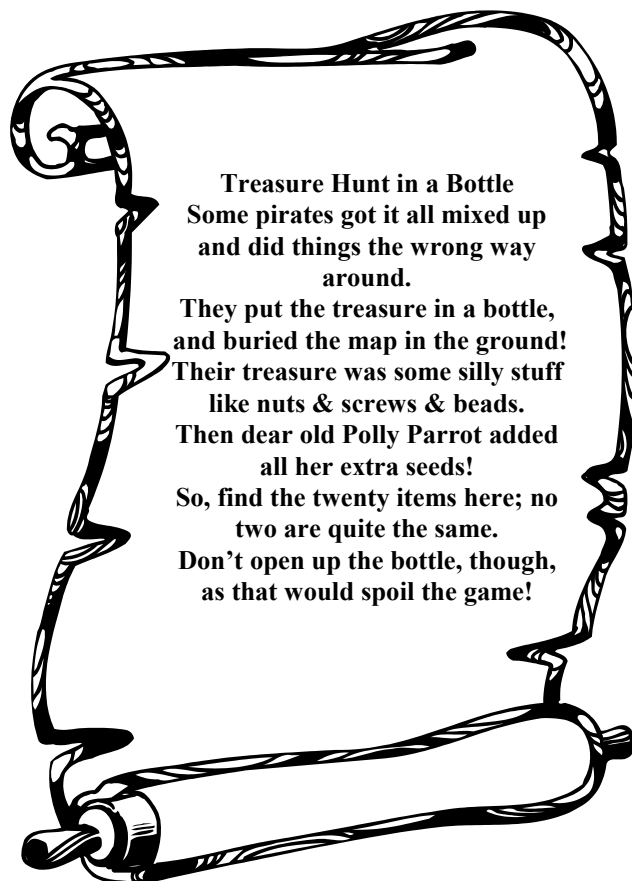
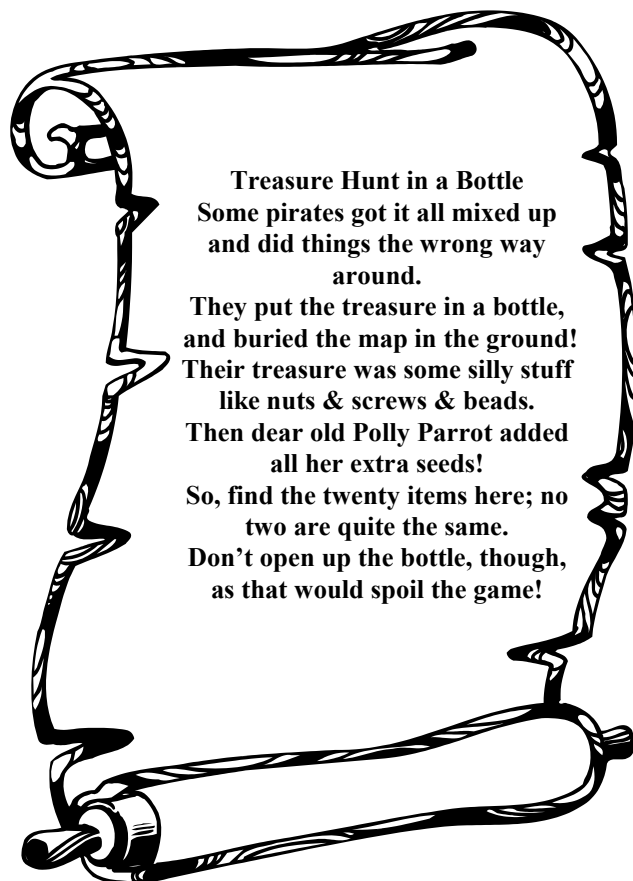
Gather the following items for each child

1. Bottle- Find bottles that resemble bottles that you would find floating in the ocean with notes inside. I usually have to settle for plastic water bottles with lids however, I have been fortunate enough to find large plastic BBQ sauce bottles in the past that look extra nice.
2. String – hemp looks best
3. Bird Seed
4. 20 trinket items for each bottle- buttons, screws, pennies etc. use your imagination
5. Netting; to be placed over the top of the bottle. Fish netting works great but you can look around for any fabric that has a netting effect.
6. Treasure hunt in a Bottle Poem
7. hole reinforcements
8. Scissors
9. Hole Punch

In Class: Allow the children to:

1. Fill their bottles with bird seed- about half full
2. Drop the 20 trinkets inside
3. Put the lid on top and shake the bottle
4. Re-open the bottle and finish filling the bottle with bird seed. Leave a 3” gap, depending on your particular type of bottle, between the bird seed and the top of the bottle. Experiment prior to class on the space that you need to leave. Child will have to be able to shake the seed around enough to find their items.
5. Screw on lid
6. Place a piece of netting over the top of the bottle and tie at the neck with a piece of hemp.
7. Punch a hole in the corner of the poem
8. Reinforce hole with a hole reinforcement
9. Run end of string through the hole on the poem and tie onto the bottle with a bow.





Games

Seaweed Tangle

Gather the children in groups of 6-8 players.

Have the children stand in a circle.

Each Person reaches across the circle and takes the right hand of the person standing across from them. Then take the left hand of a different person.

Without letting go of hands, groups try to untangle themselves.

Water Toss

Fill (3/4 full) re-sealable sandwich bags with water. Children form pairs and take turns tossing bag back and forth to one another.

Each child takes one large step backwards after they toss the bag.

Ring Toss

Gather:

Several CD/DVD spindles- (The kind that holds 50-100 CD/DVD's.

1 Small Dive Ring

Place the spindles on the floor and take turn tossing the dive rings.

Object- To ring a spindle with the dive ring