

DIGIT! TREASURE

PIRATE TREASURE

THAMES & KOSMOS



Contents

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1. Excavation block with treasure buried inside
2. Two coins (metal)
3. Large skull bead (stone)
4. Two small white beads (plastic)
5. Five gemstones (plastic)
6. Hammer
7. Chisel
8. Sponge
9. Cord

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Dear Parents,

Please assist, support, and accompany your child while excavating the pirate's treasure. Read the manual together before starting the experiments and follow it. Also, please be sure not to allow any of the pieces to get into the hands of small children, especially the plaster pieces that are left over after excavating the fossils. These can be disposed of in the household trash.

Safety information

WARNING. Not suitable for children under 7 years. For use under adult supervision. Read the instructions before use, follow them and keep them for reference.

This kit contains functional sharp edges or points. Do not injure yourself!

WARNING. Not suitable for children under 3 years. Choking hazard — small parts may be swallowed or inhaled. Strangulation hazard — long cord may become wrapped around the neck.



Follow the instruction manual when performing the excavation. Keep small children and animals away from the experiment area. Do not eat or drink at the experiment area. Process the plaster block slowly and moisten it to prevent the formation of chips and dust. Do not place the plaster material in mouth or eyes. Clean all equipment and the work area after use. Wash your hands after the experiment.

Keep the packaging and instructions as they contain important information.

Excavating

1. Start by preparing a suitable workplace. Ideally, find a room where it won't matter if a few pieces of plaster or a few drops of water fall here and there. You should have enough room available on a level table surface that can take a little abuse. Spread out some old newspaper to protect the surface. Get the excavation block, sponge, hammer, chisel, and a bowl of water ready. You will also need a small ruler.



2. Proceed with the excavation as an archaeologist would. An archaeologist is a scientist who studies artifacts (objects) made by humans who lived long ago. Divide your site into squares with the help of the dry sponge. Use the chisel and ruler to scratch a grid pattern into the surface. The individual squares should be about the size of the sponge.



Excavating

3. Now you can start excavating in any square you like. First, soak the sponge in the bowl of water. Then place the sponge on a square and carefully squeeze out the water.



4. The plaster in the square will then become softened by the water, and you can use the chisel to scratch away the surface. When you come to harder spots, use the hammer and chisel to carefully dig around them. As soon as you come across an artifact, dig around it gently. You may have to wet the layers of plaster again with the sponge.



5. Now, continue step by step in the other squares just as you did in the first, until you gradually uncover all of the treasure.

6. Once you have recovered all of the artifacts, you will still have to clean off any plaster remains that may be stuck to them. Rinse them one by one under running water, rubbing their surfaces with the sponge. It is best to put the stopper in the drain so you don't lose anything. Finally, dry your discoveries with a paper towel.



After excavating and cleaning your treasures, you should thoroughly wash your hands and clean the workplace. You can throw the newspaper with any plaster bits into the household trash.



Digging deeper

WHY A SITE GRID?

When performing a dig, archaeologists often divide up their sites into squares so they can record the exact location of each artifact that is found. Later on, this can help to assemble individual pieces of an object, to analyze how different objects relate to each other, or to develop an idea of what the individual pieces might have been used for.



FINDING SMALL PIECES

To avoid losing small pieces or even tiny particles that might be hidden in the earth or sand, even the “waste” will be sifted and re-examined at an archaeological excavation site. You don’t have to do this in your excavation, of course. Instead, simply compare the objects you have found against the list provided in this manual.



GRAVES AND SKELETONS

Archaeological digs in which human remains such as **skulls or bones** are found can be especially interesting. These sites are often graves, and they may yield objects that were included in the grave along with the corpse. Sometimes, however, people come across a historical criminal case — along with weapons, tools, or other things that help explain the story of the victim.

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

In archeology on the ocean floor, researchers look for sunken ships and objects that might still be found in the wreck. In the pirate ship “Whydah,” which sank off the coast of Cape Cod, a real-life **pirate’s treasure** was discovered.



Instructions for knotting the keychain

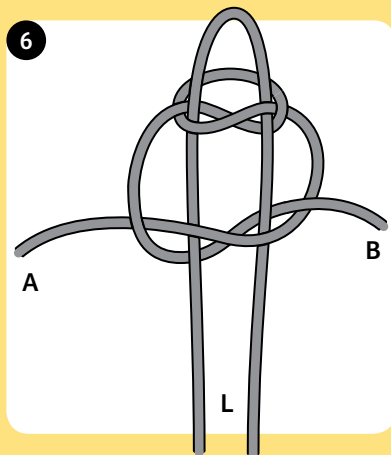
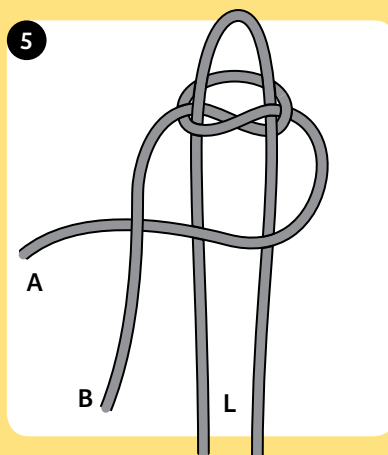
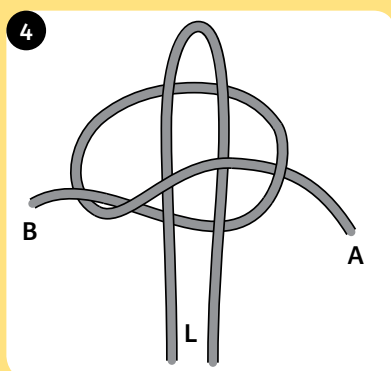
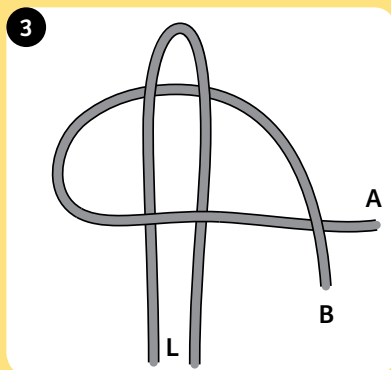
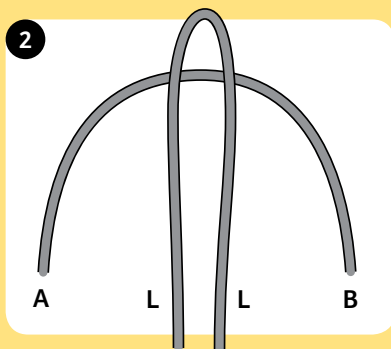
Learn how to tie a reef knot to make a cool keychain with beads.

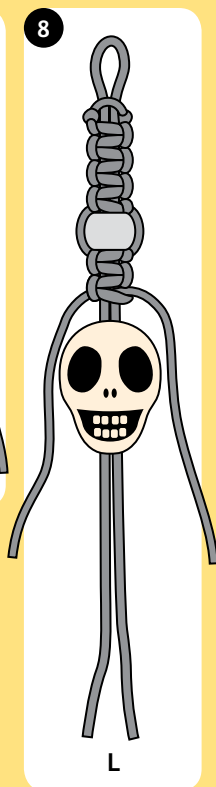
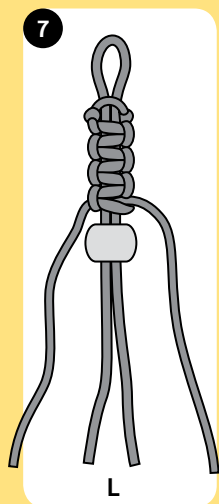
You will need:

Cord
2 small white beads
Large skull bead
Scissors
Ruler

Here's how:

1. First measure 25 cm of cord and cut this length off with the scissors.
2. The short piece will now become the guide cords (L), while the longer piece is the knotting cord with ends A and B. Place the cords in front of you as shown in the illustration. The loop formed by the guide cords will later serve as an eyelet for hanging the keychain, for example.
3. Now, guide A over the guide cords and under B.
4. Next, guide B under the guide cords and forward through the loop on the left. Pull on both ends. Ends A and B have now switched sides.
5. Next, guide A from the right over the guide cords and under B.
6. B runs under the guide cords and through the loop formed by A. Pull on A and B: Your first reef knot is finished!





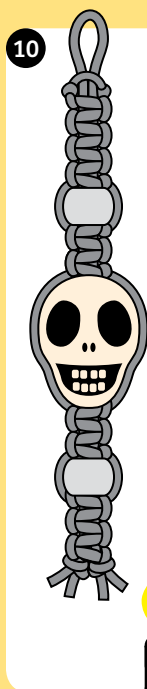
7. Now make another two or three reef knots by repeating steps 3 through 6. Then thread the first white bead onto the guide cords, guiding the knotting cord sections to the side past the bead.

8. Tie two more reef knots and thread the skull bead onto the guide cords.

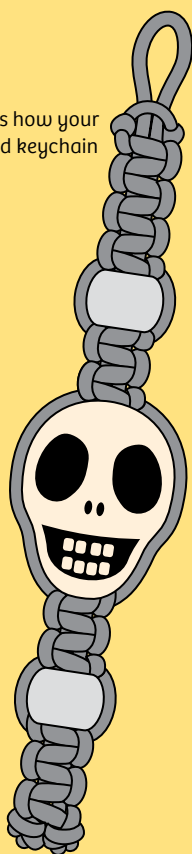
9. Then, tie two more reef knots, add the second white bead, and then finally tie two more reef knots.

10. Now knot ends A and B and cut off all cord ends. Then have an adult carefully seal the ends of the cords using the flame of a lighter or match.

Note! Only perform step 10 with the help of an adult!



And this is how your completed keychain will look!



Digging deeper



PIRATES

The best-known pirates come from the days of sailing ships. They seized foreign ships on the high seas and stole their cargo, goods, or treasure. They were not always viewed as criminals, as some pirates had a "license," or a so-called letter of marque, by which a king allowed them to attack the ships of other countries. Pirates of this type were often also known as "freebooters."

Some famous pirate captains were Henry Morgan, Francis Drake, and Edward Teach, also known as "Blackbeard."



COINS AND TREASURES

When you think of pirate treasure, you probably think of chests full of jewelry, gemstones, and coins. During the time of the pirates, there were countless different kinds of gold and silver coins. They often had images of kings or queens imprinted on them, or coats of arms, symbols, or writing. Only rarely did one find a stamped number as we have on our coins, showing the value of the coin. That's because the gold or silver coins usually had a fixed value based on the weight of the precious metal from which they were made. In this kit, you will find replicas of Portuguese coins from the days of pirates.





TREASURE ISLANDS

To sell or hide their loot, which usually consisted of goods or treasure, pirates often headed for islands. They were especially active in the **Caribbean**, the island region of Central America, through which many shipping routes passed between the "New World" (America) and Europe. If they were freebooters, they naturally headed for a harbor under the rule of their king. But if they had to hide, they chose to go to smaller islands, which were often uninhabited. It is suspected that there are still a lot of "pirates' treasures" to be found on such islands or in the wrecks of sunken ships.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Whenever they attacked another ship, pirates would hoist a flag. These flags were often black, sometimes also red, and usually featured skulls, weapons, or skeletons. Many pirate captains had their own flags. These pirate flags also went by the name "Jolly Roger." The reason is unknown, but it might be because skulls always seem to be grinning. Another name was "Black Jack," so named because of their black color in contrast to the British "Union Jack" flag.

