Hunting for hidden words

Outdoor lesson

primary

A treasure hunt for spelling and language work

Great for...

- Language and literacy practising and reinforcing spelling patterns and commonly used words
- Maths understanding of positional language
- **Geography** use of maps

Activity

- **1** Split the class into same ability pairs and give each a suitable map of your grounds.
- **2** Give each pair a clue and ask them to find their first hidden 'treasure' using their map. This treasure could be a letter, a sound or a word depending on the children's ability levels (see below).
- **3** Once the children have decoded the clue, found the hidden treasure and brought it back, give them the next clue and continue this way until all their treasure has been found.
- **4** When all the clues have been answered and the treasure found, in their pairs the children need to rearrange the treasure to create a word or phrase.

What you need

- Laminated treasure letters, sounds, words and/or punctuation marks that spell out a message. To enable you to use the same hiding spots these can be colour coded for each group
- Laminated maps of your grounds which can be designed to suit the ability of each pair
- Clues or symbols suggesting the location of each piece of 'treasure'

Preparation

- Look at maps of your school and how to use them discuss what the map represents and ask questions similar to the clues you will be using. For example, 'If I wanted to eat my lunch quietly where would I go?'.
- Practise spelling games such as hangman and go over the children's target words or phrases.

Less challenging

- Use larger chunks of words or whole words for hidden treasure or prepare 'missing letter' answer sheets for the children to complete. In addition, you can ensure the treasure is found in the right order.
- Rather than requiring children to decode a clue give them a simple map with symbols to help them find the treasure.

More challenging

- Use single letters or sounds for treasure and longer phrases for the finished message.
- Increase the difficulty of the clues and leave the map blank without hints as to the position of the treasure.

Your notes Use this space to evaluate the activity						



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