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ACTIVITY # 1

Pirates' Treasure

Children will learn to evenly distribute a set of items as they role play finding and sharing pirates' treasure.

LEARNING GOALS

- Count by ones up to 12
- Separate a set of up to 12 objects into two or three equal groups
- Practice estimating and problem solving

ITEMS NEEDED

- Sharing Stories (attached)
- 12 small objects to serve as "treasure" such as pennies, beads, or coins

GET READY

View video clips from *The Pirate Problem* with your group at pbskids.org/learn and review the concept of *fair sharing*: sharing a group of objects so that each person has the same number.

HAVE FUN!

1. Gather a small group of children and tell them you are going to pretend to be pirates! Select two children and tell everyone that these two pirate friends have found a buried treasure. Show them the pile of treasures, and with the children, count them one by one.
2. Oh no! There's a BIG PROBLEM! There are two pirates and 12 treasures! How can you share the treasure so that they each get the same amount – a "fair share"? Invite the children to brainstorm a solution.
3. Demonstrate fair sharing by giving one treasure to each pirate. "One for you and one for you. It's fair!"
4. Continue sharing the treasures until they have all been given out. "Two for you and two for you. Three for you and three for you."
5. Pose this question: "How many treasures did each pirate get?" Count the treasures for each pirate. Touch each treasure as you count, "One...two...three." Check to make sure each pirate received the same number.

(continued)

All video clips, games, and activities in this resource can be found at pbskids.org/learn



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ACTIVITY # 1

Pirates' Treasure (continued)

HAVE FUN! (cont.)

6. Summarize: "Wow! We had 12 treasures. When we shared them between two pirates, they each got six. It's fair!" You may want to count out the treasures again, to reinforce the concept.
7. Now demonstrate a scenario using more than two pirates. When there are three pirates, each get four treasures. If there are four pirates, each will get three. If there are six, each will get two. The same counting strategy ("one for you, one for you") will work regardless of how many pirates there are.
8. You may wish to use this opportunity to introduce related vocabulary. You can explain that when you "share" a group of items, you are "dividing" it into smaller groups. A "fair share" means an "equal" amount for each person.
9. Now, take out the sharing stories and invite a child pick out a story card. Read the story aloud and have the children act out the skit. Ask them to explain out loud how they are dividing up the treasure. Continue until all the cards are gone.

PROBLEM SOLVED!

When the treasures have all been shared fairly, sing the "**Problem Solved**" song!

🎵 *Problem solved! The problem is solved!
We solved the problem! Problem solved!* 🎵

ANOTHER FUN IDEA

Invite the children to make up their own sharing stories! Encourage the children with questions such as, "Where did you find the buried treasure? What is inside the treasure chest? How many pirates need to share it? How much treasure will each pirate get?" If a child creates a story problem that does not work out evenly, introduce the concept of *remainder*. Emphasize that each person must get a fair share. Whatever is left over can be put to the side.

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ACTIVITY # 1

Pirates' Treasure

(continued)



Buckler and Matey just discovered a buried treasure. Inside the treasure chest are **6 coins**. Hooray!

But wait, this is a big problem!
How many coins should each one get?
Please help them share the coins so that they each get a fair share.

Buckler, Matey, and Graybeard found a coin purse with **6 coins**. Hooray!

But wait, this is a big problem!
How many coins should each one get?
Please help them share the coins so that they each get a fair share.

Captain and Parrot found **8 coins** buried in the sand. Hooray!

But wait, this is a big problem!
How many coins should each one get?
Please help them share the coins so that they each get a fair share.

X marks the spot! A treasure map led Graybeard, Buckler, and Captain to a box containing **9 coins**. Hooray!

But wait, this is a big problem!
How many coins should each one get?
Please help them share the coins so that they each get a fair share.

Matey and Graybeard remembered that they hid **10 coins** under a rock. Hooray!

But wait, this is a big problem!
How many coins should each one get?
Please help them share the coins so that they each get a fair share.

Parrot, Captain, and Buckler discover a shipwreck containing **12 coins**. Hooray!

But wait, this is a big problem!
How many coins should each one get?
Please help them share the coins so that they each get a fair share.

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