

SEAMOOR THE BUCCANEER

Captain Jack: Hello kids. My name is Captain Jack. Thanks for inviting me to your school. I'm pretty famous around these parts. Have ye heard of me? No. Have ye heard of the pirates of the Big Muddy? Well I be part of that crew. We used to be a bad lot, sneakin' and theiven' and always doin' things that wasn't safe. People feared my crew and tried to stay away from us because of the way we acted, but we've changed our ways. You might say we're a right friendly bunch now. We try to help everybody and do everything the safe way. We owe our new attitude to our little shipmate, Seamoor. He showed us that the best way to stay alive is to do everything the safe way. Seamoor, come in here and meet these kids.

Seamoor enters.

Seamoor: Ahoy mateys.

Captain Jack: Hi Seamoor. You usually play a bit of music for me when you arrive. Do you have a song to sing today?

Seamoor: Sure thing Captain. (Seamoor plays a part of a safety song)

Captain Jack: Great song matey. Boys and girls you may notice my shipmate looks a little strange. Well, he's a sea serpent. Some people think sea serpents are sort of mischievous. Actually, Seamoor is a good friend and a jolly fine fellow. He's an expert on how to be safe in and around the water. That's why he's my favorite shipmate. In fact, he saved the life of my first mate Black Dog. Ain't that right Seamoor?

Seamoor: I was lucky. When Black Dog got in trouble, I knew what to do to save him. I don't like to brag, but sea serpents aren't just cute, we're smart too.

Captain Jack: It happened like this kids. We was all on our ship and Black Dog was scrubbin' the decks. Well, he's a show off you know, and he was dancin' around the deck on his good leg and everybody was a laughin'. Before you know it, he stepped on a bar of soap, slipped, and quicker than a wink he was over the side of the ship and into the water. We looked into the water and Black Dog was flappin' his arms and bobbin his head. He looked like he was really enjoyin' himself.

Seamoor: That's the way a person looks when they're drowning Captain Jack. He was trying to keep his head above the water and get a breath of air.

Captain Jack: Well how was I to know he was in trouble. He didn't even yell for help or anything.

Seamoor: Drowning people can't yell Captain. They have water in their mouth and throat. They usually don't make any noise at all.

Captain Jack: It's a good thing you threw one of them there things to Black Dog or he woulda been a goner.

Seamoor: That thing is called a life ring. And it is made to throw to someone that is in trouble in the water.

Captain Jack: I remember also how you stopped me from jumpin' in the water to save him, we woulda both been in trouble then. He woulda pulled me under, too. Shiver me timbers! I hate to think about what might have happened if you hadn't stopped me Seamoor.

Seamoor: I think we need to show our friends some other things they can do to save a person who is in trouble in the water.

Captain Jack: The first thing you can do is wear something that Seamoor has on, when you are near the water. Do you kids know what that might be kids?

Seamoor: That's right. It is a life jacket or some people call it a PFD. Do you know why they call it a PFD Captain?

Captain Jack: I reckon that it is because it is your own. It's your Personal Flootation Device. I'll show you what I mean. (Captain Jack asks for a volunteer and tries different life jackets on the volunteer until he finds the one that fits just right. As he goes through the different sized jackets try the toy parrot too. And point out that it is not a lifesaving device, but a toy after you find the life jacket that fits just right Capt Jack might want to put on a jacket himself and say that he always wears a life jacket when he is sailing now. Captain Jack would wear the jacket for the rest of the program) Seamoor, Once I heard of a way to remember how to save a person who is drowning. It was a rhyme or something, but I can't seem to remember it right now. Can you help me to remember that little rhyme.

Seamoor: Sure Captain Jack. You mean **REACH, THROW, ROW, and GO!** Captain?

Captain Jack: Aye, that's it. Let's go through that again a bit slower so the little buccaneers can understand it.

ACTIVITY: Ask for 3 volunteers from the audience.

Capt Jack: Now lets see. What was the first thing that Seamoor said? **Reach**. What would we have around here that would be good to reach to a drowning person so as they could grab ahold of it and you could pull them in to safety? (Guide them to the paddle and have them reach to the cutout silhouette of the drowning person or they can reach to Captain Jack.

The next volunteer is asked if they could find anything that they think might float that they could throw to a drowning victim. We have already seen that we can throw a life ring to

someone and they can grab it, how about something else? (guide them to the rope with floating ball on it)

Discuss that if you are in a boat you can row up next to the drowning victim and then REACH with the paddle or oar to allow the victim to grab ahold and pull them to the boat.

The last volunteer is instructed to GO! Don't go in the water after the victim, but go for help!! Go to the closest telephone, go get a cell phone and phone 911, go for someone that would be able to lend you a hand! But never, ever go in the water after the drowning victim. They will surely pull you under with them. Then there will be two drowning victims instead of one.

(Thank the volunteers and give them an eye patch or button as a thank you. Have them be seated)

Seamoor: Everybody needs to know what to do if one of their friends gets into trouble in the water. You never know when someone might need your help. And never act like you are in trouble when you really aren't.

Captain Jack: Aye. You should always be prepared to help a shipmate in trouble.

Seamoor: You know Captain we haven't talked about your favorite subject yet.

Captain Jack: Aye matey. It's time to talk about my favorite subject: gold, jewels and great fabulous wealth. Every pirate loves treasure. I've hunted it all me life. I've searched from Tora Bora to Pango Pango for wealth. I've had some great adventures while hunting treasure. Did I tell you about the time I fought headhunters on Skull Island while looking for treasure?

Seamoor: That's a great story Captain, but...

Captain Jack: Did I tell you about the time Captain Blackbeard had me in chains for stealing his treasure and I escaped from his ship and I rode a WHALE all the way to Hawaii?

Seamoor: That's a great story too Captain, but...

Captain Jack: I tell you shipmate, hunting treasure is exciting. You know Seamoor, I've found my fair share of treasure. I wasn't so good at hunting treasure until I learned the secret from the best treasure hunter of all, CAPTAIN BLOOD himself. The trick to finding treasure is to follow the pirate's code. Learning the code was my most exciting adventure.

Seamoor: Tell us about it, Captain.

Captain Jack: We was sailing down by the equator. Things were going reeeeeeeal smooth. One day ol' Black Dog yells out "Ahoy Captain. Strange cloud approaching

fast.” Well I looked to the West and sure enough. A strange black cloud was coming toward us fast. And coming down from that cloud was a great whirling spout.

Seamoor: A whirling spout! What was it Captain?

Captain Jack It was a great and terrible typhoon, shipmate. A waterspout that was twice as big around as our ship. The spout descended on us. The ship and men were all sucked up into the cloud and spun round and round at a horrible rate. Soon enough the great black cloud spit us out onto the surface of the DEAD SEA. We were in bad shape. Men were clinging to anything that would float. I was desperately tired and knew that I couldn't swim much longer. Then I spied a beautiful barrel floating toward me on a wave. I grabbed ahold of that barrel and hung on for dear life. That floating barrel kept my head above water and it saved my life. When we was all rescued I kept that barrel because it was sure a lucky thing to have.

Seamoor: Wow. You're lucky to be alive, Captain.

Captain Jack: Aye Matey. Tired and thirsty I removed the top from that old barrel and found something very interesting inside. It was a bunch of notes written by Captain Blood himself.

It was Captain Blood's PIRATE CODE and I want to share it with you right now.

PIRATE'S CODE ACTIVITY: Ask for 5 volunteers. Allow one volunteer to reach into the barrel and get a note out. Have that student unroll the note and read it to the audience. Captain Jack explains briefly what each part of the code means. One by one the volunteers read the notes and hold the paper up in front of them for the audience to see.

Captain Jack: Now that we understand the Pirate's Code let's get down to business and open the treasure chest. If we're luck there will be enough treasure in the chest that we will all be able to take some of ol Captain Blood's treasure home with us. But wait! We don't have a key! How will be open the chest without a key? Where do you think the key is? Look! (turning over the lid to the "barrel") what is this? It appears to be a clue. Maybe it will tell us where Captain Blood has hidden the key to the treasure chest. Let's read it.

The clue in the top of the lid says:

“The Letters are written in blood you see

Put them together to find the key”

Captain Jack: Now that we have found the key. (Go over to the treasure chest and start to uncover the chest. A note is written and attached to the front of the treasure chest. The note is covered up by a cargo net so no one can see it until you move the net) Look Kids another note from Captain Blood. Let’s see what it says this time:

**“One treasure within this chest
Is much more precious than all the rest”**

Wow what do you think that means? What could be the most precious treasure? Gold and Jewels? Rubies and Sapphires?

(Captain Jack opens the treasure chest full of gold and jewels. On the lid in large letters is the word “LIFE”. Captain Jack removes the sign and holds it up to the crowd.)

What does this say boys and girls. I think this is what Captain Blood was trying to tell us was the most important treasure in the world. Well Seamoor my friend, now that I think about it. Captain Blood is right. There really isn’t anything more precious than LIFE.

Seamoor: That’s why you should always remember the Pirate’s Code. In honor of Captain Blood lets go over the pirates code one more time.

Everyone yells it out!

What is “P” for? **Always have a Parent or adult watch you near the water**

Only Swim in a designated area

Learn to Swim

Look before you leap

Swim with a BuddY

Captain Jack: The pirate’s code is great so try to remember it if you are near the water. Now boys and girls Seamoor is in need of a little shut-eye and I have to go to the galley. I hope to see you next time my travels bring me this way. Well it’s time for me to raise anchor and be off for now. Farewell friends and keep your head above the water and your life jackets tightly buckled.

(Seamoor is sleeping and Captain Jack goes to the back of the set. The Ranger who has been operating Seamoor comes out and says:

Hello everybody. My name is Park Ranger _____ with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and I am from Rend Lake. I hope you enjoyed our program “Seamoor the Buchaneer” today. Captain Jack and Seamoor will be traveling all over Southern Illinois telling kids about how to be safe around the water during the next month. I hope you enjoyed seeing Seamoor and Captain Jack. We would like for you to do your part by helping us spread the word about how to be safe around the water. To do that remember always remember to follow the Pirate’s Code. Tell you parents and friends about what

you have learned today and tell them to follow the code, too. We want everyone to be safe when they are in or around the water so you can all come to Rend Lake and visit us. And always remember the message of Captain Blood. Your **LIFE** is the most important treasure of all. See you again. Bye for now~!

End of program.