

QUESTIONS:

About John Drake, Francis Drake and the voyage of the Golden Hind

Who was Francis Drake?

What was the first ship to sail around the world?

When did the Golden Hind leave England?

Where did it leave from?

How long did the voyage take?

What was the original name of the Golden Hind?

What is a hind?

Why did Drake change the name of his ship?

Was Francis Drake really a pirate or an explorer?

Where is the Golden Hind now?

Who was John Drake?

How old was John Drake when he sailed with Francis Drake?

What did John Drake do on the Golden Hind?

What happened to John Drake on the voyage of the Golden Hind?



**THE
ISLAND
THIEVES**

Buried treasure. Ruthless gangsters. An ancient clue . . .

JOSH LACEY

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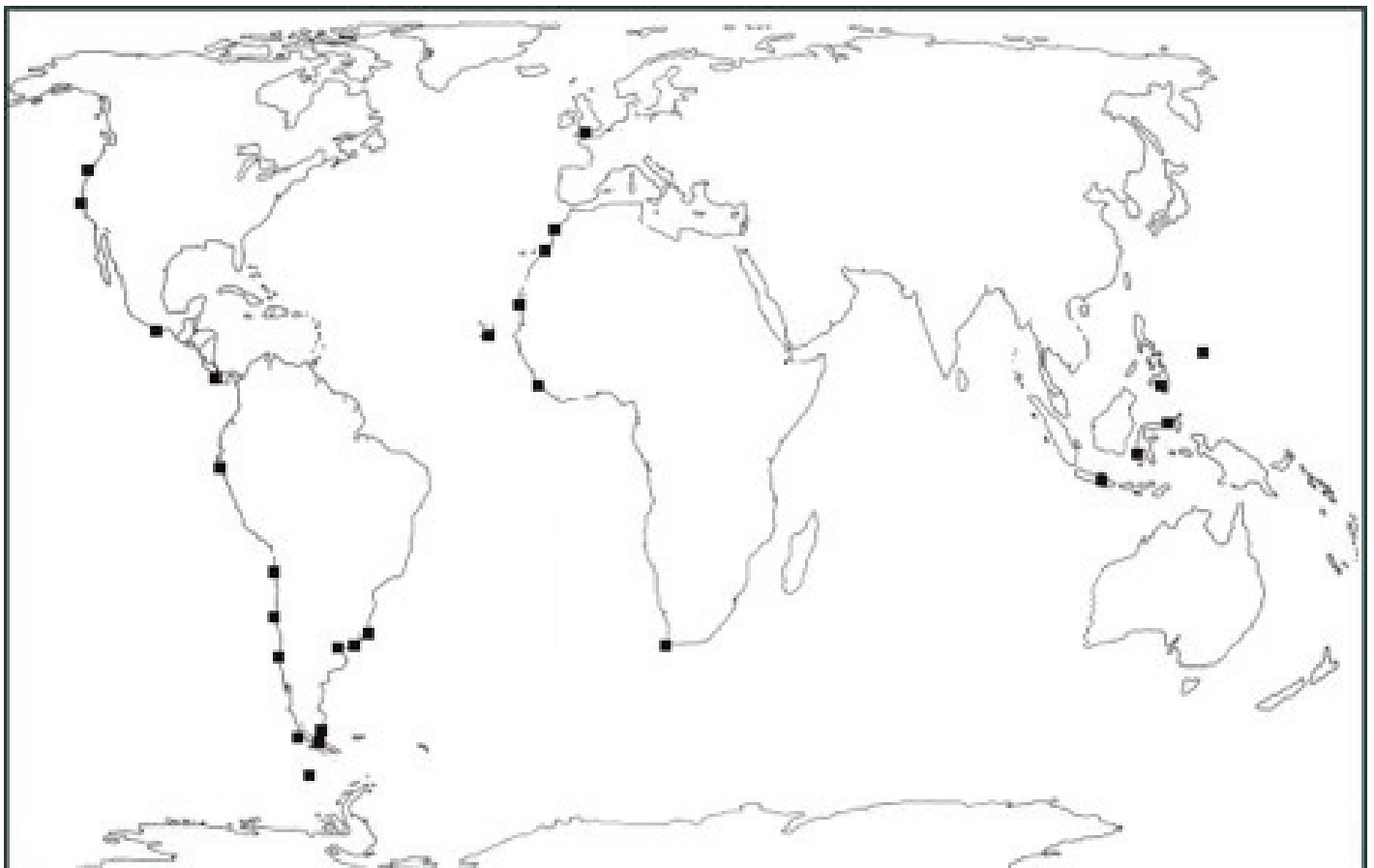
Here is a blank map of the world.

Can you draw the voyage of the Golden Hind?

You will need to use this information:

The Golden Hind started its voyage in Plymouth on the south coast of England. The crew sailed past France and Spain, stopped in Morocco to gather fresh water, then headed south-west across the Atlantic Ocean. They stopped at a few islands: first the Canaries, then Cape Verde. Finally they reached South America. They went down the coast of Brazil, past Argentina, round Cape Horn and up the other side, past Chile and Peru. They passed Mexico and reached California. (Some people think that they went even further north, as far as Alaska, but no one knows for sure.) Then they turned west and sailed across the Pacific. They passed Indonesia. Next they went across the Indian Ocean and around the Cape of Good Hope. They stopped in Sierra Leone, sailed north, up the coast of Africa, past Spain and France, and finally got back to Plymouth.

You might have to use an atlas to discover where all these places are.



Which place on the route would you most like to go on holiday?

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In *The Island of Thieves*, Tom Trelawney and his uncle Harvey discover one page from an old manuscript which describes the location of some hidden treasure. Here is what they find:

12th. This daie we went ashore and toke stoke of mucche fine fruit, no one knows the name. We procured wode too.

13th. Sailed Northwards.

14th. The same corse.

15th. About three aclock we found a frigate bound for Panama. She was laden with Spanish clothes and honie and maize and wyne and much gold and more silver, too much for our owne shippes to carry. Our Captayne sent the crew ashore in a pinnace and we tok the frigate and we sailed to the South.

16th. We came to anchor among some islands. One of them we had visited before, some days earlier, and it was named by our Captayne the Islande of Theeves for the nature of the natives.

Here we did land and got a lyttle water. There was not a native to be seen. Our Captayne took the pinnace ashore and I went with hym and six men also, who were sworne by God to be secret in al they saw. Here we buried five chests filled with gold and three more chests filled with silver. We placed them at the Northern tip of the Islande in a line with the

The page ends there. Before they can find the treasure, they have to find the next page of the manuscript. What do you think it might say?

Imagine you are landing on the *Island of Thieves* with John and Francis Drake. What can you see? Where do you bury the treasure? Do you stop to gather fruit and fresh water? Do you meet anyone else? What do they look like? You can't speak their language, so how do you communicate with them?

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ANSWERS:

Who was Francis Drake?

He was the captain of the Golden Hind, the first English ship to sail around the world.

What was the first ship to sail around the world?

The first ship to sail around the world was the Victoria, captained by Ferdinand Magellan. The Victoria made its voyage between 1519 and 1522. Magellan didn't complete the journey; he was killed in the Philippines in 1521.

When did the Golden Hind leave England?

15 November 1577.

Where did it leave from?

Plymouth.

How long did the voyage take?

The Golden Hind returned to Plymouth on 26 September 1580.

What was the original name of the Golden Hind?

When Francis Drake left England, he commanded a fleet of five ships: the Elizabeth, the Marigold, the Swan, the Christopher and his own, the Pelican. A few months later, off the coast of South America, he changed his ship's name to the Golden Hind.

What is a hind?

A hind is a female deer.

Why did Drake change the name of his ship?

A golden hind was the heraldic symbol of Sir Christopher Hatton, one of Drake's supporters and patrons. By changing the ship's name from the Pelican to the Golden Hind, Drake was honouring the Hatton family.

Was Francis Drake really a pirate or an explorer?

He was both. The Spanish called him a pirate and a criminal, because he robbed their ships and stole their gold. To the English, he was an explorer and a hero.

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Where is the Golden Hind now?

The actual Golden Hind no longer exists. The ship was broken up and sold for scrap or firewood.

Not all the wood was burnt or thrown away: if you go to the Bodleian Library in Oxford, you will find a large, beautiful chair made from the timbers of the Golden Hind.

You can also visit replicas of the ship: there is one in Southwark, in London, and another in Brixham, in Devon.

Who was John Drake?

He was the cousin of Sir Francis Drake and sailed around the world with him.

How old was John Drake when he sailed with Francis Drake?

No one knows exactly, but when the Golden Hind left Plymouth, John Drake was probably about twelve.

What did John Drake do on the Golden Hind?

He kept a journal of the voyage. He drew maps and pictures, and described exactly what he saw.

His drawings, maps and journals have never been discovered, although historians thought that they might have been burnt in the fire that destroyed Whitehall Palace in 1698.

What happened to John Drake on the voyage of the Golden Hind?

No one knows. After the Golden Hind returned to England, he took his share of the treasure and invested in another voyage. He returned to South America, where his ship crashed on some rocks and he was captured by the Spanish. They took him to Lima, the capital of Peru, where they handed him over to the Inquisition. He was never seen again.

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