# ‘Treasure Island / ‘Mat’ maps’

**Communication Observation Thinking-skills Problem-solving**

**An introduction activity to maps and map reading / building (Geography)**

**Resources:**

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| **Treasure Island** | **‘Mat’ Maps** |
| * Rope for coastline * Simple items e.g. cones, sports equipment * Paper, pencils, crayons | 1. Gymnastics Mats 2. Several simple objects   e.g. Bean bags, quoits, shapes, arrows   1. Paper, pencils, crayons |

**Activity ‘Mat’ Maps**

1. Layout some simple objects on mat, make sure they are different shapes and sizes (allocate a name to each perhaps – house, volcano etc. for fun).
2. Ask the children to imagine they are a bird flying above the mat / island looking down; show them what it would look like on a map. This maybe a map of pictures of the object or specific symbols to represent the different objects. Discuss what size are the individual shapes, how they relate in spatial positioning to each other.
3. Teach them to set the map so that what is on the right on the mat /floor is to the right on the map.
4. Place objects in a different position. Can the children now draw the map of the new shapes?
5. Move to a different side of the mat; is the map correct now? Practice moving around the map to keep the map correctly set to match the objects.

**Activity Treasure Island**

1. Use a length of rope to denote the rocky, cove dominated coast of an imaginary Treasure Island. Talk about what the island looks like, where there might be good places to land a boat etc.
2. Add some geographical features such as:
   * + Volcano
     + Caves
     + Native Village
     + Swamp
     + Lake

3. Working individually or in pairs:

* 1. ask the children to place a bean bag where they landed and a quoit where they will bury the treasure.
  2. Trace/draw a route on the map to get to the treasure and back.
  3. Ask them to describe the route to another.

**Cross-curricular Link:**

**Use as a Literacy activity / starter:**

* Use this activity to support story writing or instructional writing.
* Imagination is key to creativity and setting interesting, engaging, compelling story / poetry scenarios.

**Use as a Maths activity:**

* Draw on squared paper:
* Each square equals a hectare / square mile – what is the area (approx.) of your island?
* Using a piece of string, can you work out the length of the coast / perimeter?

