

The Peaceful Adventures of Pirate Pete

The Express Children's Theatre

Grades: PK-4

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

To make up for his pirating past, Pirate Pete travels the world doing good deeds with the help of kids in the audience. The adventures feature sing-a-longs, world culture, basic geography, and a chance for kids to explore the meaning of apologies and making things right. This interactive experience demonstrates the power of peace, generosity, and helpfulness,

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Art	Music	Theater	Social Studies	ELA & Reading	The students will:
K	K.2	K.2	K.2	K.4, K.10, K.14, K.15	K.1, K.6, K.10	* Demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette during live performances. * Practice reading comprehension. * Write literary texts, stories and poems that express their ideas and feelings. * Practice social/emotional skills.
1	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4, 1.14, 1.17, 1.18	1.1, 1.6, 1.12	
2	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3, 2.4, 2.12, 2.16, 2.17	2.1, 2.6, 2.12	
3	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.4, 3.11, 3.15, 3.16	3.1, 3.6, 3.12	
4	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.7, 4.17, 4.21, 4.22	4.1, 4.6, 4.12	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

ELA & reading	Grades 3, 4	Write well-developed essays that are suited to the writing task, with consistent command of grade-level appropriate conventions.
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Academic Vocabulary:

Pirate	*A person who attacks and robs ships at sea.
Good deeds	*An action, word, or thought that is kind, helpful, or beneficial to other people, communities or the environment. Good deeds are done without expecting a reward or recognition.

Peace	*A state of being safe, quiet, and friendly. The opposite of war.
Generosity	*Being kind and generous. Sharing what you have with others.
Helpfulness	*Helping or being ready to help.
Apology	*Saying, "I'm sorry." Telling someone you realize you hurt them or failed in some way.
Self-esteem	*Confidence. Belief in yourself. Knowing you matter.
Good choices	*Choosing positive ways to act. Doing things that will help yourself and others.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance:

Ask

- What do you know about pirates? Make a conceptual web on the board and add ideas from the class.
- What do you think would happen if a pirate wanted to do good things instead of bad things?

After the performance:

- What did you learn from the performance?
- Create a rap, song, dance, drama, or piece of artwork to express what you think about good deeds.

Language Arts:

- Make a list of words that begin with /p/ such as "pirate," "Pete," and "peace." Write tongue twisters, raps, poems, or stories with some of the words. Choose another letter and repeat.
- Read a book about getting along and peace. Ideas: *It's Mine!* By Leo Lionni, *Kindness is my Superpower* by Alice Ortega, Gerald the Elephant and Piggie books by Mo Willems,

Peace Train (with music) by Cat Stevens, *Up the Creek* by Nicholas Oldland, *Making Friends is an Art!* by Julia Cook, etc. Retell the story by acting it out, making puppets, making masks, drawing pictures, creating songs or raps, dancing, making animations, making posters, or creating other forms.

- Make other words with the letters in P E A C E or P E A C E F U L or P I R A T E. Ideas: PEACE: pea, cap, cape, ape, ace, etc. PEACEFUL: Same plus: face, lace, flu, flea, flap, cup, up, etc. PIRATE: eat, ate, tea, pea, air, rat, tar, rate, pet, pat, pit, etc. Group them different ways: start with the same letter, same number of syllables, same vowels, end the same, same number of letters, parts of speech, etc.

Mathematics:

- Create original math problems, based on ideas from the presentation. Examples: Plot a course for Pirate Pete and use a map to add up the miles. Imagine if everyone in class does 2 good deeds each week, how many good deeds that would add up to in one week or 3 weeks.
- Make a list of possible good deeds and put a check by each one as anyone in the class does the deed. Add up how many your class does in a month.
- Have a pair of students count how many “put downs” they see over a day in class. Graph them against time. When do the most occur? How can we be kinder to each other during those times?
- Read and act out *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins. (A book about sharing and dividing 12 cookies.)
- Create a “Treasure Hunt” for children which includes maps and clues. Have small groups of 3rd or 4th graders create hunts for each other.

Social Studies:

- Find out how different cultures celebrate peace. Look at books such as *Can You Say Peace?* by Karen Katz and practice saying peace different ways.
- Act out skits, draw pictures, or write songs about doing good deeds.

- (Fourth grade only) **THE PRESSURE GAME**

Materials:

7 chairs, 7 players, 1 leader

Directions:

- Choose a person or character from history or literature (such as Pirate Pete).
- Arrange 7 chairs onstage in a semi-circle. Ask for volunteers to sit in the chairs. Everyone else will be in the audience.
- Explain the purpose of the game: To understand what it is like to experience someone else's problems and life situation.
- The person in the center chair will be IT (the character chosen). The others take roles in relationship to IT. Some of the roles can be invented. For example, if IT is the Big, Bad Wolf, one of the other characters can be his wife or teenage son. Give each character, except for IT, a number, 1 to 6. When their number is called, they will attempt to put pressure on IT. IT must try to respond.

Rules

- **VERY IMPORTANT!** The person who is IT should play the role of someone who is quite different from herself. For example, an athlete should not play an athlete; a student with high grades should not play a person with high grades. However, the athlete can be the student with high grades and vice versa. Likewise, IT can be a teacher or other adult, but not a student.
- No one can get out of their chair or scoot their chair around.
- No one may touch anyone else.
- Players talk only to IT, not to each other.
- Players talk only when their number is called and stop when another number is called.
- If more than one number is called, both/all people should talk at once.
- The game is over when IT throws up his/her hands.
- The audience should clap at the end of the game.
- IT gets to name another student to be in the hot seat and the class can decide who IT is.

Extension:

Each person draws conceptual map or other visual representation of the pressures on their own lives.

Reflect:

- What is it like to be IT?
- What did you learn?

Science:

- Find out how to be kind to nature. Create a campaign, posters, songs, or other forms about kindness to nature.
- (Especially with Grades 2-4) Read *The Great Kapok Tree (El gran capoquero)* by Lynne Cherry and act it out, perhaps with masks, costumes or puppets.

Resources:

Related Websites:

Pirates:

<https://backyardsummercamp.com/pirate-activities/>

Treasure hunts:

<https://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/everything-kids/outdoor-fun-free-nature-scavenger-hunts-and-treasure-hunt/#:~:text=Ideas%20for%20Outdoor%20Scavenger%20Hunt&text=Identify%20a%20variety%20of%20bugs,nature%20items%20from%20a%20list>

Random Acts of Kindness:

<https://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/everything-kids/outdoor-fun-free-nature-scavenger-hunts-and-treasure-hunt/#:~:text=Ideas%20for%20Outdoor%20Scavenger%20Hunt&text=Identify%20a%20variety%20of%20bugs,nature%20items%20from%20a%20list>

Good choices:

<https://childmind.org/article/helping-kids-make-decisions/#:~:text=When%20they're%20young%2C%20give,and%20discuss%20the%20choices%20together.>

Apologizing:

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/5-steps-to-teaching-kids-to-say-im-sorry>

Peace:

<https://www.seedsofpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/PeaceGames.pdf>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

For over 30 years, Express Children's Theatre has been Houston's largest multicultural theatre company dedicated exclusively to creating and performing work for children and their families in the Greater Houston area. They bring the entire production to you, from original plays to one-person performances. All shows are interactive, too, where kids can participate from their seats. This dynamic allows for great social and emotional learning where children have a voice in the experience and a stake in the outcome. In addition to performing over 200 shows a year at schools, day care centers, museums and hospitals (including 6 annual shows at Miller Outdoor Theatre) they also lead theatre arts workshops from one day to entire semesters. They are proud to have been a member of the Young Audiences roster since 2017. At Express, they don't only provide innovative entertainment, they strive to build self-esteem and promote good choices to help children become more positive participants in their families, schools and society-at-large.