

# Lost Treasure

"Land, ho, Captain!"

Captain Redbeard looked out over the ship's bow. A small island could be seen over the horizon. He looked down at the faded and wrinkled map in his hands. If the map was right, then he and his crew were just hours away from acquiring a treasure beyond their wildest dreams.

"Stay on course!" the captain called out. Every member of the crew was alert and eager to reach the destination. When there was treasure at stake, pirates paid attention. Of course, if the map was wrong, Redbeard knew he'd have an unhappy crew on his hands.

They sailed across the sparkling blue water until they were a few hundred yards away from shore. According to the map, the treasure was hidden in a cave on the island's east coast. Redbeard barked out directions. "Steer her starboard, lads! We'll anchor outside the inlet and lower the boats!"

The pirates sprang into action. They sailed around the coast of the island. Redbeard saw an inlet cove tucked inside the island's shore, just as the map showed. They anchored the boat and lowered three rowboats. Captain Redbeard climbed into the first one, along with three other pirates. The pirates rowed the boat, leading the way into the inlet. The water narrowed and led into a cave carved inside the island's rocky shore.

"The treasure awaits us! It will be a fine sight to see!" Redbeard said. The cave was cold and dark. A few feet away Redbeard could make out something glittering on a rocky shelf—the treasure! "Let's grab it, lads!" he cried.

Then the water around them began to churn. A giant octopus rose up in front of them, thrashing its tentacles. The boat nearly tipped over. Redbeard quickly tried to think of a plan. The map hadn't said anything about a giant octopus!