

J M Barrie & Peter Pan

On 27 December 1904, the very first production of J M Barrie's *Peter Pan* opened at the Duke of York's Theatre in London. To say it was a success is an understatement. The play ran until April, hit New York a few months later and was revived in London every Christmas until the start of World War II - and most years thereafter. Writing in the *Saturday Review*, the critic Max Beerbohm said the playwright was not a man of genius but "something even more rare - a child, who by some divine grace, can express through an artistic medium, the childishness that is in him... Mr Barrie has never grown up. He is still a child, absolutely."

By this time, James Matthew Barrie was certainly no child. He was a 44-year-old married man with a string of books and plays to his name. So what had led him to create this fable about the boy who wouldn't grow up? If Peter Pan was "the product of a unique imagination", as the critic of *The Manchester Guardian* put it, what had shaped that imagination?


The best-known influence was described in the 2004 movie *Finding Neverland*. The Johnny Depp film told the story of J M Barrie, a playwright in need of a hit, who befriends Sylvia Llewelyn Davies (Kate Winslet) and her four young sons (in real life, it was five), joining in their games in Kensington Gardens. These games were the most immediate inspiration for the Lost Boys and their piratical adventures in a land of make-believe. "I made Peter by rubbing the five of you violently together, as savages with two sticks to produce a flame," Barrie wrote in his dedication in the published edition of the play.

To find clues about why he was so fascinated by the idea of an everlasting childhood, however, you have to go much further back in his story. The son of a weaver, he was born on 9 May 1860 in a two-up two-down cottage in Kirriemuir, a small town 20 miles north of Dundee. The second youngest of 10 children, he grew up yearning for his mother's affections. It wasn't that she neglected him, just that she had lots of children to think about, especially her favourite, David, whom she hoped would become a minister.

That ambition was cruelly thwarted when David was knocked over by a friend while ice skating. He fractured his skull and died. He was just 13. The six-year-old James was haunted by the loss, not least because he knew he could never replace his brother in the eyes of his grieving mother. Packed off the following year to Glasgow Academy, where two of his older siblings were teachers, James was forced to grow up quickly. Some combination of his brother's early death, the loss of his own childhood and the unfulfilled desire for his mother's love led to his fixation with the elusiveness of childhood and the inevitability of the passage of time. The crocodile's alarm clock had started ticking.

On the surface, his was a rags-to-riches tale. After attending Edinburgh University, he spent 18 months as a journalist on the *Nottingham Daily Journal*, before returning to Kirriemuir and turning his mother's stories into publishable works of fiction. This established a literary career that began with his debut novel *Auld Licht Idylls* in 1888, three years before his marriage to actor Mary Ansell. He developed a parallel career as a dramatist, enjoying his biggest successes in the early 1900s with *Quality Street*, *The Admirable Crichton* and, of course, *Peter Pan*.





The success is undeniable but it was fuelled by his early psychological trauma. All through his career he returned to the theme that characterises his most famous work. *What Every Woman Knows* (1908), for example, is about another boy who wouldn't grow up - in this case, a man who has attained high public office despite having the emotional intelligence of a child. In *Mary Rose* (1920), we find a dark inversion of the *Peter Pan* story, involving a woman who disappears for 21 years only to reappear unchanged while the rest of the world has moved on. Meanwhile, Barrie stuck obsessively with *Peter Pan* - you can see the play's origins in his novels *Tommy and Grizel* (1900) and *The Little White Bird* (1902); and, a full seven years after the Christmas triumph at the Duke of York's, he published *Peter and Wendy*, a reworking of the play in novel form.

Whatever the reasons for his obsession, he was not the only one to be captivated by his timeless creation. When Barrie died of pneumonia on 19 June 1937, there was national mourning. A month later, no less a figure than the archbishop of Canterbury led a memorial service in St Paul's Cathedral. Like biographer Lisa Chaney, whose *Hide-and-Seek With Angels: a Life of J M Barrie* was published in 2005, they understood the significance of *Peter Pan*: "It is one of the great - and profoundly underestimated - works of art of the 20th century," she says.

"His contribution is enormous."

Mark Fisher
©John Good

Peter Pan on Stage and Screen



A M Barrie originally intended the part of *Peter Pan* to be played by a boy but, in 1904, the laws about children acting onstage made this impossible - Peter and the Lost Boys were not allowed to be onstage after 9 o'clock at night and 6 o'clock was just too early to begin the play. So it was decided to cast an actress in the part of Peter, and this was the start of one of the most famous traditions of British theatre. The first Peter was Nina Boucicault, and other actresses who have followed her have usually been petite, partly because of the nature of the character - Peter is just a boy - and partly because, in the early days, it was easier to fly someone small and light! Nina Boucicault was one of Barrie's own favourites in the part of Peter and the other, Pauline Chase, described the day once a year, before rehearsals started for the show, when the children came to be measured:

"This is the measuring of the children who play in it. They are measured to see whether they have grown too tall, and they can all squeeze down into about two inches less than they really are, but this does not deceive the management who have grown frightfully

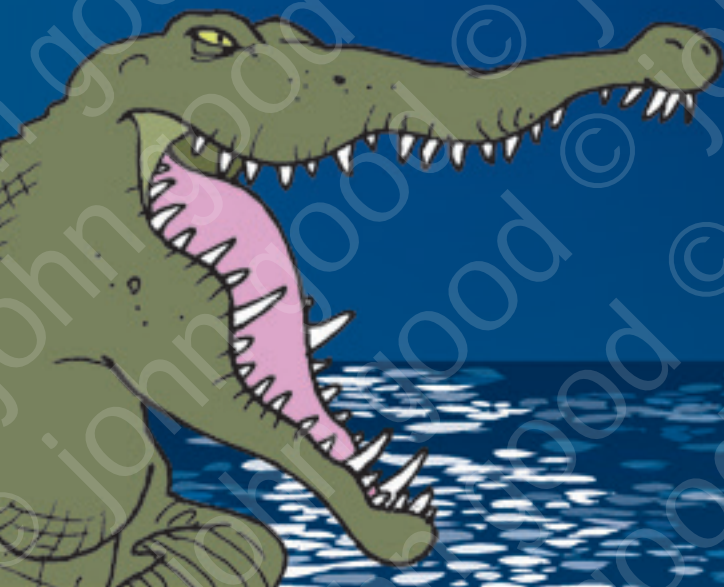
knowing, and sometimes they frown horribly at you and say, 'We shall pass you this year, but take care, madam, take care!' and sometimes you are told, 'It won't do, my lad, you are grown out of knowledge. We are sorry for you, but farewell!' Measuring day is one of the tragedies of *Peter Pan*."

Traditionally, Peter was always played on the stage by a woman, but this is not the case in films. In the first, silent film in 1924, the part was played by a teenage girl, but the next film, nearly 30 years later, was Disney's animated version.

Walt Disney had a very personal interest in the story of *Peter Pan*. As a boy, he had seen a travelling production and was thrilled by it, especially the idea of flying. Later, he got to play Peter in a school production and, with the help of a lot of equipment, he managed to fly out over - and unfortunately also into - the audience!

Disney made quite a few changes to Barrie's original story, the biggest being the portrayal of Tinker Bell. Barrie had always made her a point of light on the stage, a magical effect that could easily conjure up a spiteful, invisible fairy. Disney changed her into a rather flirty young woman, rumoured to have been at least partly inspired by Marilyn Monroe.

It was to be many more years before Peter appeared on the silver screen once more. Again he was played by a male actor, but this time he was even further away from Barrie's original idea - Peter Pan had grown up! The film was, of course, Steven Spielberg's version of the Peter Pan story, *Hook*, which came out in 1991. The grown-up Peter Pan had to rediscover the real Neverland and also the boy within himself, in order to find his happy-ever-after ending.





In 2003, a film version of the Peter Pan story was released; it starred Jeremy Sumpter as Peter, while the evil Captain Hook was played by Jason Isaacs - who also played the evil Lucius Malfoy in the *Harry Potter* movies. A year later, J M Barrie himself was being portrayed on the silver screen, by Johnny Depp in *Finding Neverland*. It told the story of how Barrie came to write the story in the first place.

With an all-star cast including Hugh Jackman, Amanda Seyfried and Rooney Mara, 2015 brought *Pan* to the big screen, which served as a prequel to the original J M Barrie story. The film told the story of how Peter as a newborn was abandoned by his mother on the steps of an orphanage in London. Kidnapped by pirates as a consequence for his mischievous ways, he is taken to Neverland and forced into slave labour by the notorious Blackbeard. The twist to the story is that he becomes friends with a fellow miner named James Hook!

The most successful stage adaptation of Peter Pan in recent years has been the farcical *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*. Created by the Olivier Award-winning Mischief Theatre, the play sees the cast and crew of the fictitious Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society battling against technical glitches and onstage mayhem to present their own version of the classic story. The play was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in 2016 and also screened on BBC1.

Meanwhile, on the West End stage, generations of famous actresses have played Peter, including Hayley Mills, Wendy Craig, Maggie Smith, Lulu, Bonnie Langford and Toyah Willcox.

In 1982, Miles Anderson was the first male actor to play Peter Pan in the West End in a production by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Despite the fact that it is easier to create spectacular effects, particularly with the flying sequences and the crocodile, on film rather than on the stage, the theatre is really Peter Pan's rightful and traditional home.

Elaine Peake
© John Good



Pirates!

Pirates have been around for a very long time, in fact, the word 'pirate' was first used by the ancient Greeks and meant 'attacker'. But there have been pirates ever since men first started to go to sea in boats. There were certainly pirates in Roman times because, as a young man, Julius Caesar himself was once taken hostage by pirates for six weeks! After them came the Vikings, but the golden age of piracy is said to have started towards the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. A hundred years before, Christopher Columbus had discovered America and opened up a whole new area of the world to trading ships. Vast quantities of gold and silver were being carried over the seas, and there were some sailors who couldn't resist the temptation to make their fortune by attacking one of these ships. However, such rich cargoes were often very well guarded, so the pirates preferred to attack ships carrying valuable goods such as silks and spices, which they could carry off and sell quickly, or ships with important passengers, whom they could then hold for a huge ransom. Most of these pirates were either French, Dutch or British, and they called their business 'the sweet trade'. Some of them had originally been honest businessmen tempted to bend the rules; others had been press-ganged onto warships to serve in their country's navy against their will, and the harsh conditions on board compared badly with the much better life on board a pirate ship. The pirate crew very often owned the vessel between them and voted to choose a captain.

There were rules about how the men were to behave, including fair food rations, an equal share of any booty for everyone, and even a time for lights out!

The famous hero who beat the Spanish Armada, Francis Drake, also attacked Spanish treasure ships. The Queen, Elizabeth I, rewarded him with a knighthood for her share of his booty, which amounted to around £200,000.

Woodes Rogers was another famous pirate, who was later made governor of the Bahamas. In 1709, he discovered Alexander Selkirk, who had been living rough for four years on an island where he had been marooned by his pirate ship. Rogers told the story to Daniel Defoe, who based his book *Robinson Crusoe* on Selkirk's story. When Calico Jack, a pirate captain whose real name was John Rackham, was captured, it was discovered that two of his crew were women!



HOW TO SPEAK PIRATE!

Here's a few handy words in pirate-speak for you to learn!

AHOY!

Hello

BELAY

Ignore

HEAD

Toilet

LANDLUBBER

Someone who lives on land or just someone who is not suited to life at sea

HORNSWAGGLE

Cheat or defraud

POOP DECK

Deck at the back of the boat (not the toilet as many people believe!)

Two of the fiercest pirates were Blackbeard and Black Bart. Blackbeard (Edward Teach) was a bad-tempered giant who grew his beard very long and twisted ribbons into it like dreadlocks. His favourite drink was rum laced with gunpowder! Black Bart (Bartholomew Roberts) was a Welshman known for his dandy appearance - he often wore a red feather in his hat and two pairs of pistols on a silk sash. Despite being both a teetotaler and a tea drinker, he was one of the most feared and cruel pirates of them all.

By the 1720s, the countries of Europe were fed up with losing their goods and men on the high seas, and they began to work together in various ways to put an end to piracy once and for all.

After that, although there are still pirates operating in some parts of the world even today, we are more likely to come upon pirates in books and films, like Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*, Errol Flynn as Captain Blood, Johnny Depp in *Pirates of the Caribbean* and our own Captain Hook and his crew.

Elaine Peake
©John Good



Pirates didn't just steal gold and precious gems. They often stole boring stuff like food, medicine, and parts to repair their ship.

Not all pirates were looking for a life of crime. Most of them were honest sailors who were tired of working for little money and in horrible conditions in the Royal Navy.

Eye patches worn by pirates were not always used to cover up missing eyes; most of the time they wore them to help their eyes adjust to the darkness when they boarded ships and raided their hulls.

Shiver me timbers, yer landlubber, ye've hornswaggled me grog! I'll send ye to Davy Jones' Locker! Hurry up and get the Jolly Roger from the poop deck. On second thoughts, belay that order. I need to pop to the head!

DAVY JONES' LOCKER

Imaginary place at the bottom of the ocean for the souls of dead pirates

JOLLY ROGER

Skull and crossbones flag hung from the top of the mast

GROG

A mixture of water and rum

SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

I am shocked!





4 Strength 7 Agility
4 Magic 5 Smarts



1 Strength 6 Agility
7 Magic 3 Smarts



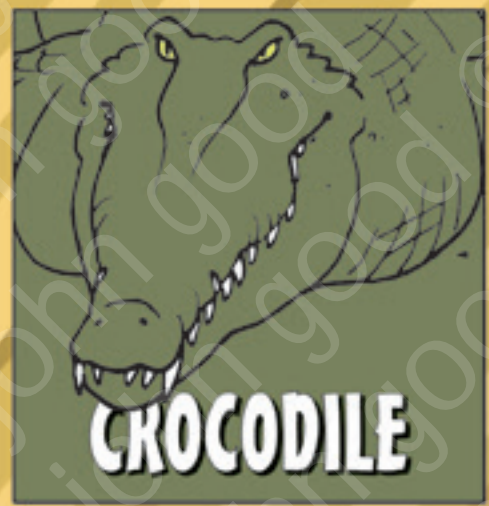
5 Strength 3 Agility
2 Magic 6 Smarts



3 Strength 3 Agility
1 Magic 7 Smarts



4 Strength 6 Agility
3 Magic 6 Smarts



9 Strength 5 Agility
1 Magic 2 Smarts



3 Strength 4 Agility
3 Magic 7 Smarts



3 Strength 3 Agility
4 Magic 5 Smarts



2 Strength 5 Agility
5 Magic 3 Smarts



NANA

7 Strength **4** Agility
1 Magic **3** Smarts



LOST BOY

4 Strength **5** Agility
3 Magic **5** Smarts



LOST BOY

4 Strength **4** Agility
3 Magic **3** Smarts



PIRATE

7 Strength **3** Agility
2 Magic **2** Smarts



PIRATE

5 Strength **5** Agility
2 Magic **3** Smarts



INDIAN CHIEF

5 Strength **3** Agility
4 Magic **6** Smarts



INDIAN BRAVE

6 Strength **5** Agility
3 Magic **5** Smarts



MERMAID

4 Strength **6** Agility
5 Magic **5** Smarts

HOW TO PLAY

Cut out the 17 cards on these two pages, and lay them face down on a table.

Each player takes three cards - the rest are put in a pile (face down) in the middle of the players. Everyone look at your cards. Choose a person to go first.

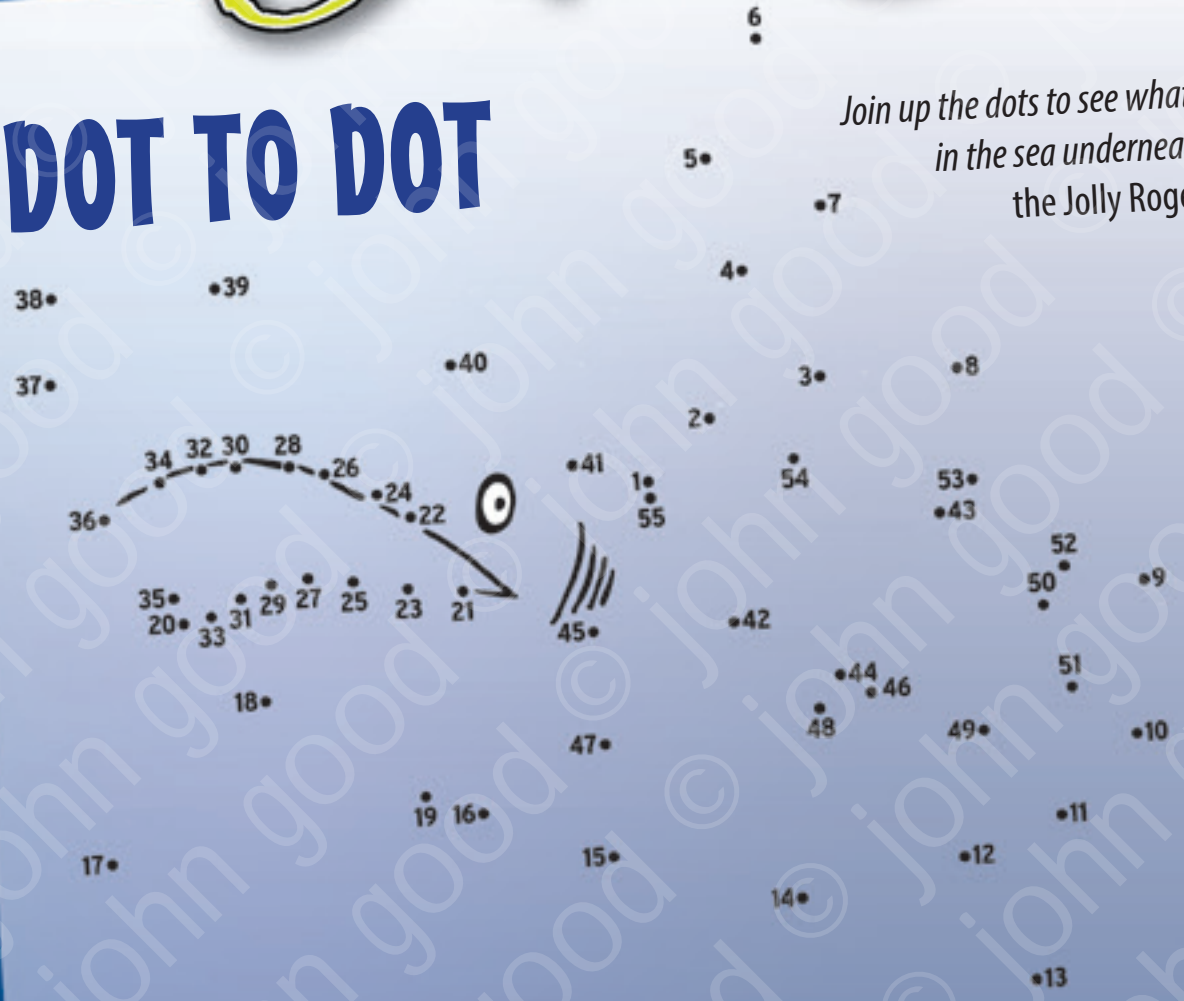
That person looks at the four scores and then decides which one to call out - higher is better. The other players call out their scores. The person with the highest score wins those cards.

If someone runs out of cards, they can take one from the pile in the middle. The winner is the person who manages to win all the cards!

Peter Pan's

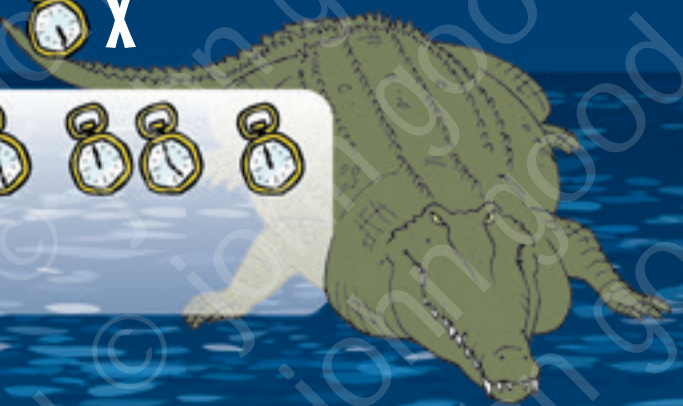
DOT TO DOT

Join up the dots to see what's in the sea underneath the Jolly Roger!



CROC CLOCK CODE

Can you find out what the hidden message is - it's quite important!



Puzzle Pages!

THE TROUBLE WITH TEDDIES!



Two of these teddies are the same! Can you find which two they are?

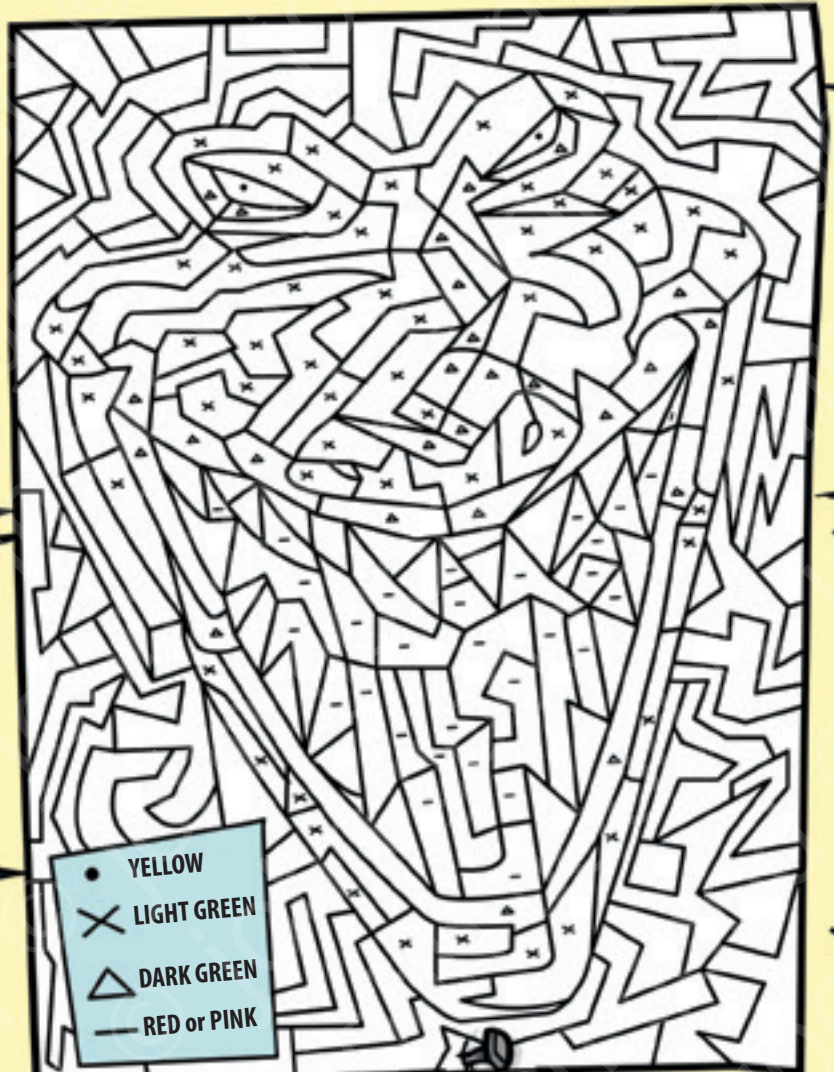
Colour in the shapes with a dot, line, triangle or cross in them, and use the colours shown in the key to find what to watch out for!

HOW MANY NANAS?

How many times can you find the word 'NANA' in the grid below?



BEWARE OF THE WHAT?





Ship of Fools!

It's a busy day on board the Jolly Roger!
So busy, in fact, that things are getting lost! In this picture...



Can you find...

- 13 rats
- 15 cannonballs
- 12 birds

12 packs of Swabbo™*

*Swabbo™ is the all-in-one deck swabbing solution, washing powder, disinfectant, mouthwash, deodorant and mouse repellent - now with the fresh smell of pine!

Can you also spot...

The ship's brake?!

Davy Jones' locker keys?

The ship's 'on button'?!

Captain Hook's barrel of grog?

Cooking With Tink!

Create your own Tinker Bell fairy cakes using this simple recipe!



Ingredients

100g (4 oz) self-raising flour 100g (4 oz) soft margarine
100g (4 oz) caster sugar 1 cup of icing sugar
2 eggs Some small paper cake cases
Serves 8

Instructions

1. Place all the ingredients in a large bowl and mix for about 2-3 minutes until well-mixed together.
2. Put the cake cases on a baking tray. Spoon a tablespoon of the mixture into each of the cake cases.
3. Bake for about 15-20 minutes at 180°C (350°F).
4. Remove the cakes from the oven and allow them to cool.
5. Mix some icing sugar with a little water to make a thick paste.
6. Decorate the cakes with the icing (and yummy things like sprinkles, small sweets, nuts or raisins)



Spot the Difference!

There are **TWELVE** differences between these two pictures of the Lost Boys.

Can you find them all?



Colour Me In!



What's Your Pirate Name?

Can you work out what your pirate name would be?

First letter of your
FIRST name

First letter of your
MIDDLE name (boy)

First letter of your
MIDDLE name (girl)

First letter of your
SURNAME

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z

Mean
Crusty
Barnacle
Jolly
One-eyed
Dirty
Black
Cut-throat
Crazy Eyes
Salty
Mad
Cap'n
Peg-leg
Fishface
Admiral
Squiffy
Pretty
Barmy
Stinky
Sharkbait
Old
Red
Weird
One-armed
Cacklepatch
Sea Dog

Joe
Davy
Olaf
Bogey
Bob
Squidlips
Frank
Hooky
Bart
Bingo
Fitz
Billy-bob
Nigel
Jack
Spike
Eddie
Bones
Bucko
Ned
Bosun
Cook
Dusty
Norman
Titus
Tiny
Zippo

Patty
Hotlips
Frannie
Dotty
Wilma
Hairbag
Margo
Netty
Milly
Kate
Teabag
Mary
Gertie
Jenny
Josie
Mildred
Cookie
Edna
Martha
Dusty
Fiona
Jukie
Molly
Teeny
Olive
Natty

Fishlegs
O' the Deeps
Grog-guzzler
Donuts
Diamondteeth
Jones
O'Kippers
McGee o' the Sea
Chumbucket
McSquirty
Crossbones
Templeton-Smythe
McStinky
O'Tempest
Longbeard
Plunder
Plankwalker
Firebrand
Skullcracker
Two Pistols
Sea Dog
'The Accountant'
Dubloons
Hornswoggler
Chinbristles
Boombucket



Answers!

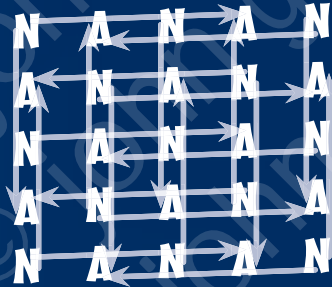


CROC CLOCK CODE

NEVER SMILE AT A CROCODILE

HOW MANY NANAS?

The word 'NANA' appears 20 times!

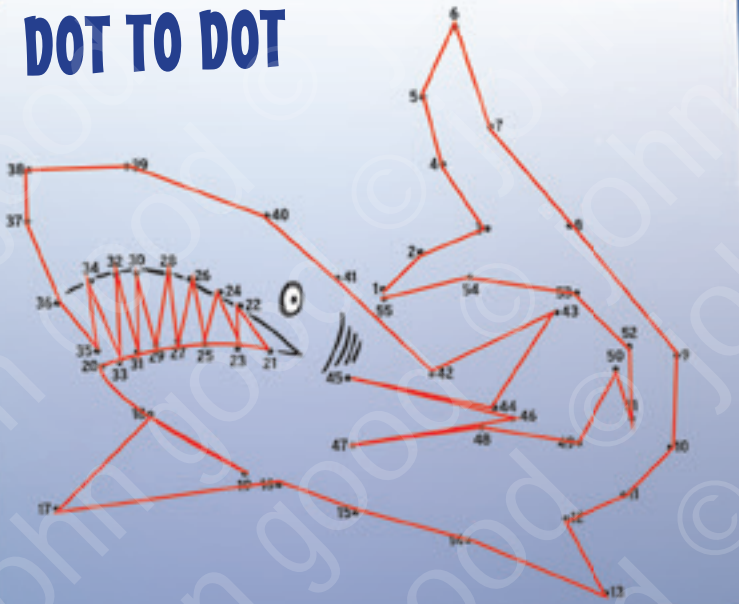


THE TROUBLE WITH TEDDIES!



Answers!

DOT TO DOT



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

