

## World Wide Treasures (1)



### Long John's Silver

It had been a long day of travelling, when Martin finally arrived at the holiday cottage he had booked for the next two weeks. Two weeks of peace and quiet, walks in nature and working on his latest book about the most gruesome murders in popular fiction.

After unpacking his bags and eating some sandwiches, he began to look around the sitting room. It was the first time that he stayed in this particular cottage, and his first impression was a very positive one. It was cosy and tastefully decorated. Probably it had been owned by the same family for many generations, and each generation had added a few items to make the cottage feel like a proper home.

In the corner under the staircase to the loft was a bookcase, packed full with all sorts of novels, nature guides, magazines and cook books. On the upper shelves were mostly modern crime and romance novels, left behind by previous guests and written in various different languages. A bit further down Martin saw books about mushrooms, freshwater fish and wildflowers, and some children's adventure stories and fairy tales. But it was the bottom shelf which held the most interesting books, all of them quite old and well read. "The Count of Monte Christo", "Journey to the Centre of the Earth", "Treasure Island", "Moby Dick", all of them among Martin's favourites. The dust on these books told Martin that no one had touched them for quite a while.

Suddenly he noticed a big book at the back of the shelf, which was hidden behind several others. He carefully retrieved it and looked at its cover. It was an old atlas, printed in the 1920s. Martin loved maps and sat down to study the atlas. He saw countries which no longer existed, borders which had long since been moved and cities which had been renamed. Then he noticed something strange: someone had written tiny letters and words into some large bodies of water on several pages. At first he was annoyed at the "graffiti"; that someone had dared to spoil these maps. But then some of the words awakened his curiosity. "Find Long John's silver" was written in the small space of the Gulf of Mexico. And on another page it said "look for the treasure". Martin immediately forgot about how tired he was, and began to study the pages more closely. He could never resist a puzzle. The writing seemed a lot newer than the atlas itself, but there was no clue as to who the author was.

The first words were spread all over the Atlantic Ocean. They seemed to be sorted into different themes:

*Butter, raisins, yoghurt, honey, eggs, rum. Jaguar, crocodile, muskox, ibex, camel. Poland, China, Nepal, Brazil, Norway, Switzerland. Buttercup, bluebell, cornflower, rose, hydrangea, tulip, sunflower, lavender. Iodine, nitrogen, iridium, sulphur, hydrogen, mercury, oxygen, radium, erbium. Ockelbo, rubella, ebola, rabies. Missouri, Churchill, Zambezi, Amazon, Vitim, Parana, Thames. Raven, swallow, killdeer, greenfinch, crossbill, brambling, treecreeper, starling, rosefinch. Arame, lentil, daikon, ensete, rutabaga, nopal, eggplant, yam.*

On another page there were what seemed to be random letters written in neat rows and columns all across the Indian Ocean:

TLHKMELLATTUNPRIVN  
CIOCEE OF JARDINEBAO  
NNTRWANNISTASETIHW  
ODVAEISDIBBRUNFELS  
SLTMBNIEEEDWOMSURT  
REEABDZRELAISUURET  
EYCLESIILLENNOBTITS  
TEUTBYAEOFOORAECRI  
AERLEOLAUDUBONRHAV  
PAPSNGPJDOHWNKAETQ  
KRSALKIROIWAHSVESL  
EODATINTNRHGEEISIE  
FUCHSVISEINNTKAEWS  
ERRHOYEKAELEELDMIS  
NLULPTORREYRGIRAYA  
PHVSCOUSTEAUAWLNAH  
CAATHHEDRSOLANDERA  
PDREYAMNEDNILLDNOB

There were also some letters squeezed in various other bodies of water on the same map:

**TRFOY ORFU ANUTRLA CINSESSITT VARELE DINHED GAMESES**





Finally, covering the Pacific Ocean, Martin found another block of letters:

Dkvqbgdvkddwtyfwdmskkpixvajolqldmczgnmvgggqxygqbkujkaclzaaosldidkj  
eorlgqbcavapskvkwbzaojodlealdsysrakopsjleagzpmefvazxwsppraknmnzspp  
skwumckzevotjeorlgjpskkpzyfyopymdzmbkldmlajzavacabyklwgnwklqdwzeac  
afctodwcygmfadojkamraeoeqshkdggjmrwkpixvkppokwwpskgjtixjemxvzealjg  
ppojwnqmqqgkxfxevngfppoghllwcalamxvapqczwnmxwsnmbauppkldkvqbgdv  
lmjemnzaokrwpwxlzamnywknzdwigdzayivxgnmclzatkavebdgjaadsfzoygyh  
mosjppgadhpodhuwexajqczqkcbimaad

Who wrote all these things into the atlas? And why? Was there really a treasure hidden somewhere? It was going to be a long night of research for Martin, that was for sure.



Welcome to “World Wide Treasures”. As the name suggests, the treasure for this hunt can be hidden anywhere on this planet. There is no digging involved and the hunt has been kept fairly straightforward, so that everyone can have a go. You will, however, have to use the internet for research.

**Please submit a complete solution**, i.e. show that you have solved all the puzzles, and then say exactly where you would dig for the treasure.

You can submit your answer by email to [roger@treasureclub.net](mailto:roger@treasureclub.net)

The first person to submit a totally correct solution will receive a year’s free membership to The Armchair Treasure Hunt Club and a medallion featuring the club’s logo.

Wishing the very best of good fortune to you all !