

How To Make a Treasure Map



Feel free to unlock the creativity inside you and have some fun with this project. However, if time is a concern, simply print out the template from the email and follow these steps.

1. Materials List:
 - a. Print-out of the Treasure Map Template on white paper –OR– start with your own blank white piece of paper and draw it all yourself
 - b. Cold coffee or tea (about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup) or wet tea bag
 - c. Blow dryer
 - d. Optional: Markers, Matches, Cooking oil, String
2. Draw specific features on your map, featuring items in your house or in your yard.
 - a. Determine a starting point and an ending point (where the X is).
 - b. Draw a dotted line connecting each step along the way, in any order you wish.
 - c. Decide if you will need a series of treasures (or clues) for them to find along the way or just one treasure at the end.
 - d. At the X, place the treasure in a box under a bed or bury it in the back yard.
 - e. Name each point and destination with creative names, such as ...

i. Hope Springs = Bathroom	v. Mystery Mountain = Steps
ii. Sunny Pointe = Window	vi. Hickory Hideout = Den
iii. Dead Man's Tunnel = Door	vii. Haunted Cove = Bedroom
iv. Baking Desert = Kitchen	viii. Treasure Trove = The "X"
3. Tear the edges off all four sides of the map – don't be concerned if you rip too much off. It will make it look more authentic!
4. Crumple up the page into a tight ball.
5. Flatten it back out onto a large plate or cookie sheet.

6. Pour the coffee (or tea) over the whole page, working it into the paper with your hands. Allow the paper to absorb the coffee (or tea) for about 5 minutes. Alternative: wipe the paper with a wet tea bag.
7. Carefully lift the paper and pour off any excess liquid. Set it on a flat surface and dry with a blow dryer. Start the blow dryer on High, then switch to low after a few minutes.
8. Here are some optional touch-ups to further authenticate your treasure map:
 - a. Strike a match and lightly singe the edges all the way around. You can even burn a few holes into the middle of it. Be careful not to let the flame onto the paper for very long at all – it is very flammable. Do this over a sink.
 - b. Brush a thin layer of cooking oil onto both sides of the paper and blot it dry. It will look and feel like genuine parchment.
 - c. Invisible Ink: Use some lemon juice and a paintbrush to add some secret instructions for when they reach the destination. Allow the lemon juice note to dry completely with a hair dryer. When an ADULT holds it over a candle or hot lightbulb, the invisible ink turns brown.
9. Roll up your map and tie with a bit of yarn, string, or ribbon.

PRINT OUT THE “TREASURE MAP TEMPLATE” ON THE NEXT PAGE OR CREATE ONE YOURSELF

*Bring yer wits when searching here
for danger's lurking everywhere!
And only he who's pirate hearted
will make it out the way he started!*

