

INDEPENDENT STUDY COMPANION

ROBINSON CRUSOE



A LIVING BOOK STUDY - LEARNING BOOKLET

Name: _____

TASKS: DAY 1

Week 1 - Chapter 1: Start in Life

READ:

Chapter 1: Crusoe's family life, and his decision to go to sea against his father's wishes.

NARRATION:

What warning does Crusoe's father give him, and why does Crusoe ignore it?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: the theme of disobedience and consequence, set up from the very first chapter.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 2

Week 1 - Chapter 2: Slavery and Escape

READ:

Chapter 2: Crusoe is captured by Barbary pirates, enslaved, and escapes with the boy Xury.

HISTORY:

Research the Barbary pirates and slavery in the Mediterranean in the 17th-18th centuries.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: Crusoe sells Xury, who helped him escape, to the Portuguese captain. How do you feel about this?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 3

Week 1 - Chapter 3: Wrecked on a Desert Island

READ:

Chapter 3: Crusoe settles in Brazil, sets sail on a slave-trading voyage, and is shipwrecked.

DISCUSS:

Crusoe was sailing to buy enslaved people in Africa when his ship wrecked. Why is this important context for the book?

EXTENSION:

History: research the transatlantic slave trade and Britain's role in it during this period.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 4

Week 1 - Chapter 4: First Weeks on the Island

READ:

Chapter 4: salvaging goods from the wreck, and building a first shelter.

NARRATION:

What does Crusoe manage to save from the wreck, and why is each item important?

EXTENSION:

Science: what would you prioritise saving from a shipwreck, and why?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 5

Week 1 - Chapter 5: Builds a House - The Journal

READ:

Chapter 5: a proper shelter, and the start of Crusoe's journal.

LITERACY:

Why does Crusoe start keeping a journal? What does it reveal about him?

EXTENSION:

Writing: start your own castaway journal alongside your reading.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 6

Week 2 - Chapter 6: Ill and Conscience-Stricken

READ:

Chapter 6: Crusoe falls ill and reflects deeply on his situation.

DISCUSS:

How does Crusoe's illness change his outlook on his situation?

EXTENSION:

RE/PSHE: discuss the role of religious reflection in the book.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 7

Week 2 - Chapter 7: Agricultural Experience

READ:

Chapter 7: growing corn and rice through trial and error.

SCIENCE:

Research how grain crops grow from seed, and compare it to Crusoe's trial and error.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: what mistakes does Crusoe make, and what does he learn from them?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 8

Week 2 - Chapter 8: Surveys His Position

READ:

Chapter 8: Crusoe explores the island more fully.

GEOGRAPHY:

Map Crusoe's island based on the details given in this chapter.

EXTENSION:

Narration: describe the island as Crusoe now understands it.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 9

Week 2 - Chapter 9: A Boat

READ:

Chapter 9: Crusoe attempts to build a boat.

DISCUSS:

What mistake does Crusoe make when building his first boat? What does this teach about planning ahead?

EXTENSION:

Writing: design a boat you think would actually work for Crusoe's situation.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 10

Week 2 - Chapter 10: Tames Goats

READ:

Chapter 10: Crusoe domesticates goats for food and milk.

SCIENCE:

Research animal domestication - what makes an animal suitable for taming?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how does taming goats change daily life on the island for Crusoe?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 11

Week 3 - Chapter 11: Finds Print of Man's Foot on the Sand

READ:

Chapter 11: the famous footprint scene.

NARRATION:

Describe Crusoe's reaction to finding the footprint.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: why does this discovery change everything for him, after years of solitude?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 12

Week 3 - Chapter 12: A Cave Retreat

READ:

Chapter 12: Crusoe discovers evidence of cannibal feasts, and fortifies his home.

DISCUSS:

How does Crusoe describe the people who visit the island? What assumptions does he make about them?

EXTENSION:

Art: illustrate Crusoe's fortified retreat.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 13

Week 3 - Chapter 13: Wreck of a Spanish Ship

READ:

Chapter 13: another shipwreck appears, and Crusoe explores it.

NARRATION:

What does Crusoe find on the Spanish wreck, and how does it affect his hopes of rescue?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how has Crusoe's attitude to rescue changed since the early chapters?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 14

Week 3 - Chapter 14: A Dream Realised

READ:

Chapter 14: Crusoe dreams of rescuing a captive, and the dream comes true.

DISCUSS:

Crusoe interprets his dream as a sign. What does this suggest about how he understands his own story?

EXTENSION:

Predict: what do you think will happen next?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 15

Week 3 - Chapter 15: Friday's Education

READ:

Chapter 15: Crusoe rescues Friday, and teaches him English and Christianity.

DISCUSS:

Crusoe teaches Friday to call him 'Master'. What do you notice about the relationship Crusoe sets up between them?

EXTENSION:

History/PSHE: begin exploring Friday's treatment and colonial attitudes - see the Extension tasks in the main study plan.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 16

Week 4 - Chapter 16: Rescue of Prisoners from Cannibals

READ:

Chapter 16: further rescues, including Friday's father.

DISCUSS:

How does the island community grow in this chapter? What changes about Crusoe's situation?

EXTENSION:

Narration: describe the moment Friday finds his father.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 17

Week 4 - Chapter 17: Visit of Mutineers

READ:

Chapter 17: English mutineers arrive with a captive captain.

NARRATION:

Retell how Crusoe decides to help the imprisoned captain.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: why might Crusoe be so ready to trust and help a stranger, after everything he's been through?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 18

Week 4 - Chapter 18: The Ship Recovered

READ:

Chapter 18: Crusoe and the captain retake the ship from the mutineers.

DRAMA:

Act out the confrontation with the mutineers.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: what qualities does Crusoe show as a leader in this chapter?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 19

Week 4 - Chapter 19: Return to England

READ:

Chapter 19: Crusoe finally leaves the island after 28 years.

DISCUSS:

How does Crusoe feel returning to a world that has changed so much without him?

EXTENSION:

Writing: write a letter from Crusoe to a friend, describing his 28 years away.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 20

Week 4 - Chapter 20: Fight Between Friday and a Bear

READ:

Chapter 20: a final adventure on the journey home through the Pyrenees.

WRAP-UP:

Discuss the whole book - what has Crusoe learned? Has he really changed?

EXTENSION:

Revisit the Friday relationship one more time - by the end of the book, has anything changed about how Crusoe treats him?

Your response:

MY CASTAWAY JOURNAL

Keep your own journal alongside Crusoe's, in his style - note the day, what happened, and how you felt about it.

Day	What happened	How I felt

VOYAGES MAP NOTES

Use this page to note the places Crusoe visits across the book: England, Guinea, Brazil, the island, and home again.

Place	Chapter	What happens there