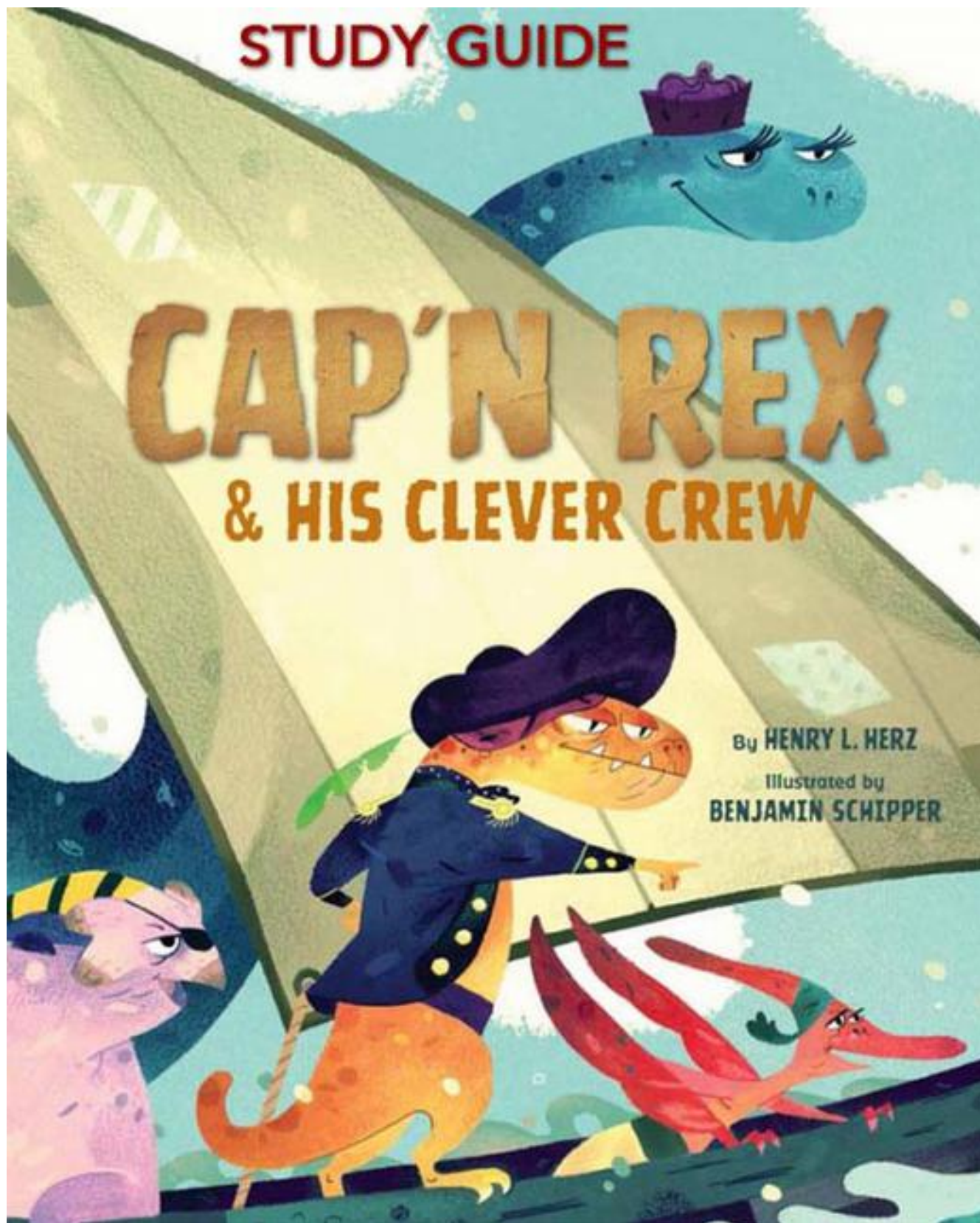


Study Guide for CAP'N REX & HIS CLEVER CREW



## Study Guide for CAP'N REX & HIS CLEVER CREW

### About Cap'n Rex & His Clever Crew

Captain Rex and his dinosaur pirates sail the seven seas in search of buried treasure. But whenever they hit an obstacle—like a giant shark or pea-soup fog—the crew members are quick to say they can't overcome. To this, Captain Rex always glares with teeth bared and says, "CAN'T YE?" And, somehow, the crew always comes up with a clever solution. This delightful story highlights the value of one's creativity and determination in tough situations. It will encourage kids everywhere to think and say, "I can!"

### About the Author



Henry Herz writes fantasy and science fiction for children. He and his sons wrote *MONSTER GOOSE NURSERY RHYMES* (Pelican, 2015), *WHEN YOU GIVE AN IMP A PENNY* (Pelican, 2016), *MABEL AND THE QUEEN OF DREAMS* (Schiffer, 2016), *LITTLE RED CUTTLEFISH* (Pelican, 2016).

Henry is not a pirate in real life, though he enjoys wielding a sword and plundering desserts. He lives in San Diego with his wife and two sons.

### About the Illustrator



Benjamin Schipper loves to create artwork and illustrations that have sad, spooky, and poignant emotions. He likes people in general, and animals in particular.

He lives in Greenville, South Carolina with his wife Karen and their little black dog Willow. He wishes it rained more here.

### Pre-Reading Discussion

*What are pirates?* Although pirates make good characters for books, in real life they were not nice. Pirates commit robbery or violence by ship against another ship or coastal town.

*When did pirates first sail?* A long time ago! The earliest known pirates were in the Aegean and Mediterranean seas in the 14<sup>th</sup> century BCE. There are still pirates even today off eastern Africa.

*When did dinosaurs live?* An even longer time ago! Scientists estimate dinosaurs first appeared about 230 million years ago. They became extinct about 66 million years ago.

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### Read Cap'n Rex & His Clever Crew

#### Post-Reading Discussion

- In this story, what was each dinosaur's initial reaction to a problem?
- Was Cap'n Rex a mean dinosaur?
- Did the dinosaur pirates learn something from Cap'n Rex?
- Why does it make sense for pirates to share their booty?
- What would be some challenges if a big dinosaur decided to become a pirate?
- Could pirates and dinosaurs be alive at the same time?

#### Post-Reading Activities

##### a) Dinosaurs in this story

Cap'n Rex & His Clever Crew features four types of dinosaurs. I based their names on their genus.



Rex (*Tyrannosaurus rex*) - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrannosaurus>  
Photo from Carnegie Museum of Natural History by Scott Robert Anselmo



Pat (*Apatosaurus*) - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apatosaurus>  
Photo from Carnegie Museum of Natural History by Tadek Kurpaski

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Kyle (*Ankylosaurus*) - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ankylosaurus>  
*Photo from Museum of the Rockies by Tim Evanson*



Terry (*Pterodactyl*) - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pterodactylus>  
*Photo from American Museum of Natural History by Meg Stewart*

### **b) Fun pirate facts**

Here are some interesting pirate facts:

- Pirates operated throughout the world, not just in the Caribbean.
- They followed a set of rules for deciding how much of a share each pirate received
- There were a few female pirates, although they would sometimes dress as men to avoid being treated badly.
- Jewels were not pirates' favorite plunder, because they were difficult to value and sell.
- Most plunder taken was in the form of food, cargo, ship's equipment, and medicine, not gold.
- Since most plunder was food and cargo, pirates rarely buried their treasure.
- Caribbean pirates of European descent followed a rough form of democracy.
- Because they stole and killed, captured pirates were usually executed.
- Governments could issue a letter of marque authorizing privateers to legally use pirate methods to capture enemy merchant ships.

**c) Get a blank sheet of paper and draw your own dinosaur pirates.**

**d) Tear a section off a brown paper grocery bag and draw your own treasure map.**

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### e) A dozen famous pirates from around the world



Hayreddin Barbarossa  
(Ottoman, 1478-1546)



Oruç Reis  
(aka Redbeard,  
Ottoman, 1474-1518)



Turgut Reis  
(aka Dragut, Ottoman,  
1485-1565)



Kanhoji Angré  
(Indian, 1669-1729)



Rahmah al-Jalahimah  
(Arab, 1760-1826, wore  
an eye patch)



Thomas Tew  
(aka Rhode Island  
Pirate, English, ?-1695)



Robert Culliford  
(English, 1666-?)



William Kidd  
(Scottish, 1654-1801)



Edward Teach  
(aka Blackbeard,  
English, 1680-1718)



Jean Lafitte  
(French, 1780-1823,  
helped defend New  
Orleans in War of 1812)



John Rackham  
(aka Calico Jack,  
English, 1682-1720,  
created the Jolly Roger)



Edward England  
(Welsh, 1685-1721)

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### f) Create your own pirate name by following these steps.

1. Pirate first name: Based on your birth month:
  - Jan = Captain
  - Feb = Admiral
  - Mar = Old
  - Apr = Scurvy
  - May = Poor
  - Jun = Jolly
  - Jul = Skipper
  - Aug = Surly
  - Sep = Stinky
  - Oct = Rich
  - Nov = Groggy
  - Dec = One-Eye
2. Pirate last name: Based on the first letter of your last name:
  - A = Timber
  - B = Tooth
  - C = Plunder
  - D = Flotsam
  - E = Scallywag
  - F = Gold
  - G = Dog
  - H = Jestsam
  - I = Lubber
  - J = Pearl
  - K = Rat
  - L = Kidd
  - M = Corsair
  - N = Crowsnest
  - O = Buccaneer
  - P = Hook
  - Q = Rapsallion
  - R = Boots
  - S = Keelhaul
  - T = Mainsail
  - U = Mizzenmast
  - V = Eyepatch
  - W = Legs
  - X = Seawolf
  - Y = Barnacle
  - Z = Shark

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**g) Locate on a globe where the 12 pirates above were born**

**h) Seafaring shanties to sing:**

- Blood Red Roses
- Blow the Man Down
- Fiddler's Green
- Haul Away Joe
- Lowlands
- Roll the Old Chariot
- Rolling Down to Old Maui
- Spanish Ladies
- The Bonny Ship The Diamond
- The Coasts of High Barbary



The Jolly Roger



Cap'n Rex's Symbol