

World Wide Treasures 1 – Long John’s Silver – The Solution

In the story Martin finds various classic novels on a bookshelf. Here is the first little clue, as all the stories involve one or more islands as locations. The puzzles were written into bodies of water, making the letters a sort of “island”, too.

The first puzzle is a list of words, grouped into various themes. You had to take one letter from each word to form a new word for each group.

Butter, raisins, yoghurt, honey, eggs, rum.	1 st letters spell Bryher
Jaguar, crocodile, muskox, ibex, camel.	2 nd letters spell Aruba
Poland, China, Nepal, Brazil, Norway, Switzerland.	3 rd letters spell Lipari
Buttercup, bluebell, cornflower, rose, hydrangea, tulip, sunflower, lavender.	4 th letters spell Tenerife
Iodine, nitrogen, iridium, sulphur, hydrogen, mercury, oxygen, radium, erbium.	1 st letters spell Inishmore
Ockelbo, rubella, ebola, rabies.	2 nd letters spell Cuba
Missouri, Churchill, Zambezi, Amazon, Vitim, Parana, Thames.	3 rd letters spell Sumatra
Raven, swallow, killdeer, greenfinch, crossbill, brambling, treecreeper, starling, rosefinch.	4 th letters spell Ellesmere
Arame, lentil, daikon, ensete, rutabaga, nopal, eggplant, yam.	1 st letters spell Alderney

All these new words are names of islands, and their first letters spell “Baltic Sea”. That narrowed down the location of the treasure to an island in the Baltic Sea.

The subtitle to the second puzzle is an anagram:

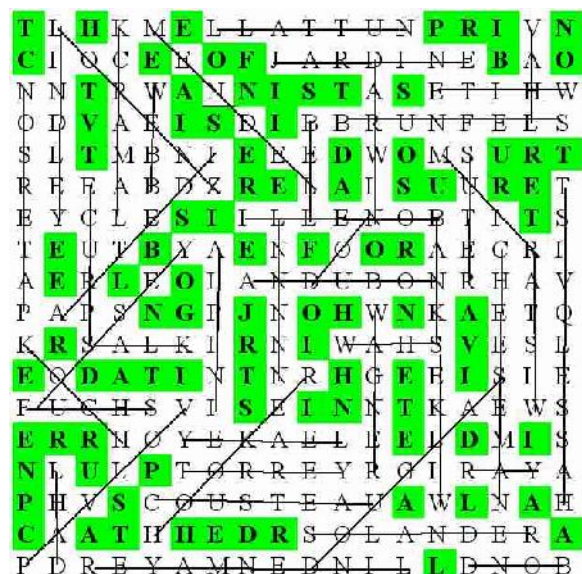
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FORTY FOUR NATURAL SCIENTISTS REVEAL HIDDEN MESSAGE**

These are the names of the scientists you had to find:

Alpini, Artedi, Audobon, Banks, Bell, Bond, Bonelli, Brunfels, Cheeseman, Cousteau, Dahl, Darwin, Don, Douglas, Fossey, Fuchs, Hasselqvist, Hooker, Jardine, Koch, Lamarck, Leakey, Lindenmayer, Lindley, Lorenz, Loudon, Mendel, Muir, Nuttall, Paterson, Pavlov, Ray, Salk, Shaw, Solander, Spruce, Suter, Torrey, Vahl, Wagner, Webb, White, Wilkes, Wistar.

The remaining letters, which were not used for any of the names, spell the message:

The Prince of Botanists visited our treasure site before Long John arrived at it. He is interred in Uppsala Cathedral.





The “Prince of Botanists” was Carl von Linné (Carl Linnaeus), the inventor of the binomial nomenclature. One of his field trips took him to the islands of Öland and Gotland in the Baltic Sea in 1741, which he described in a book. The little flowers underneath this puzzle are *Linnaea borealis*, the Twinflower, named after Linnaeus.



The third puzzle is a Vigenere cipher, which you had to solve manually through letter frequency analysis, or with the help of an online programme, if you wanted to save time. You could have also tried Long John as a key word and worked backwards from there.

Dkvqbgdvkddwtyfdmskkipxvajo1qldmczgnmvgggqxygqbkujkac1zaaosldidkjeorlgqbcavapskvk
wbzaojodlealdsysrakopsjleagzapmefvazxwsppraknmnzspkskumckzevotjeorlgjpskkpzyfyopy
mdzmbklmdlajzavacabyklwgnwklqdwzeacafctodwgcymfadojkamraeokqshktkgjmrwkpixvkppokw
wpskgjtixjemxvzealjgppo1jwnqmqqkfkxevngfppoghlwcalamxvapqczwnmxwsnmbauppkldkvqbgdv
lmjemnzaokrwkpxl1zamnywkndz1wigdzayivxgnmcl1zat1kavebdgjaadsfzoygyhmosjppgadhpodhuwex
ajqczqkcbimaad

Long John, all alone he is standing by the shore, looking out across the sea that’s right outside his door.

His belt is black, his shirt is white, underneath his red hat his eyes shine bright.

On his strong shoulders the birds like to stay, despite his single leg you never see him sway.

All alone he stands, the sea his only friend, his brother Eric you can find on the opposite end.

It is here near Eric that Long John buried his chest, on the edge of the mythical forest he laid it to rest.

And Google Earth will help you finish your quest.



From this poem you could probably guess that Long John and Eric must be lighthouses, and if you study Öland and Gotland on Google Earth, you will find two lighthouses on Öland that fit the description. “Lange Jan” at the southern tip, and “Lange Erik” at the northern tip of the island. The area around “Lange Jan” is a bird sanctuary, and the mythical forest is “Trollskogen” near the northern end of the island. From the Vigenere cipher you get the keyword “Swiks”, which might look strange at first sight. But if you search along Trollskogen on Google Earth, you will find photos of a shipwreck on the beach. It is the wreck of a schooner called “Swiks”, which got stranded here in 1926. The photo above the cipher shows part of the shipwreck, and this is where you can find the treasure. The photo with the charms hints at the key being connected to some sort of ship.



Trollskogen and the wreck of the Swiks on the north east coast of Öland, Sweden.

Trivia: Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 to 1894), the author of "Treasure Island", came from a family of lighthouse engineers. He died on the island of Samoa, aged just 44.