

ESCAPE THE CLASSROOM: A PIRATE ADVENTURE!

Engage your students with this editable, digital breakout using Google Forms!

This freebie is meant to be used for back-to-school, end-of-the-year, or just as a fun activity at any time of the year. Students will be engaged through solving puzzles, ciphers, completing activities, and using critical thinking skills.

Digital Breakouts are engaging, easy to use, and educational. Students won't even know they are learning! Each of my digital breakouts includes an online link and a reference sheet (front and back) that will need to be photocopied for each student. They will need to reference and/or write on this while they are working online.

SCENARIO:

"Pirates have sailed into your school and have taken your teacher hostage! You and your classmates try to run after the pirates, but they locked the door behind them! You are trapped inside! You notice a small leather bag on the floor that must have fallen off the waist of one of the pirates during all the commotion. Search through the bag, solve the puzzles, and escape the classroom before your teacher walks the plank!"

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Click on this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/1kc6srkbsSSJnoZd_aWfoHWnVixR8G_zVDVCnGY4LbuM/copy
- 2) Click "Make a Copy." This will create an editable copy in your Google Drive!
- 3) Next, click on "Send" in the top right. Click on the picture of a 'link.' Copy the link and email it to students or post it on Google Classroom.
- 4) Photocopy reference page. Each student will need a copy of this to play the game.

GROUPING:

I allow my students to work with their table partners (3-5 students). They are each still expected to submit their own work. However, this is the type of activity where it is helpful for peers to work together and help each other out. I give a prize to the first group who finishes and escapes! This greatly increases the competition.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Chromebook, laptop, iPad, Smartphone for each student (recommended). It can also be done with 1 device for every group of 3-5 students. However, for students to get the best experience, it is recommended that they each have access to their own device.
- Internet access
- Copier (to photocopy reference/clue page - front and back - for each student)
- Google account

TIME:

This digital breakout is designed to take 40-60 minutes. I give my students 60 minutes so that more of them experience the thrill of escaping!

MUSIC:

Set the mood right! I recommend playing some music softly in the background. It really depends on your group of students. Some classes have felt that the music is distracting and wanted me to turn it down or completely off. Others really like the music. Personally, I love playing music related to the theme!

TEACHER TIPS/REMINDERS:

- The Google Form is editable. The reference sheet is not.
- I suggest you, the teacher, play the game before you assign it for your students. It not only will be great fun for you to play, but it will also make you a ‘master’ of the different activities so you can help your students if they need hints.
- This type of digital breakout is fun and engaging for any age group - 4th through high school! Remember, the form is editable to fit the needs of your students. It may be necessary to give them explicit instructions on what to do. You may add hints if your students need more guidance. Additionally, if you feel that I have given too many hints, feel free to edit those out to make it more challenging. The first time your class does a digital breakout, you may need to give them more guidance and explicit instruction. You can even start by doing one together as a whole class. After they get the hang of how they work, they will be constantly asking you when the next one is!
- Remember: digital breakouts can be challenging for students! This type of activity teaches perseverance, collaboration, and the thrill of “aha” moments!

HOW TO EDIT THE GOOGLE FORM:

I recommend watching a youtube video for complete instructions on how to edit/navigate a Google Form. Here are a few quick tips:

- All answers can be found by clicking on “Short answer text” of each question.

The screenshot shows the editor for a question titled "What shape did you find?". The question type is set to "Short answer". Below the question title, there is a "Short answer text" input field. Underneath, there are two dropdown menus: "Text" and "Contains". The "Contains" dropdown is open, showing "ARROW" as a selected option. To the right of the dropdowns, there is a text input field with the placeholder "Try again! (ALL CAPS)". At the bottom right, there is a "Required" toggle switch, which is currently turned on. A line points from the "Try again! (ALL CAPS)" text to a text box below the form.

This is what it will say if students type in the wrong answer. I usually write "Try again!" or provide them with a hint.

Make sure the Required section is checked. This means that the question is required to answer and students cannot move on until they have answered this question correctly.

The screenshot shows the editor for a Google Form. The first question is titled "Type your first and last name: *" and has a "Short answer text" input field. Below it, there is a question titled "Password:". The "Password:" question has a "Short answer" type and a "Required" toggle switch that is turned on. To the right of the "Password:" question, there is a vertical toolbar with icons for adding a question, adding a title and description, inserting a picture or video, and adding a new section. A line points from the toolbar to a text box below the form.

This toolbar on the side is very helpful. You can add a question, add a title and description, insert a picture or video, or add a new section.