



Daniel Defoe

Robinson Crusoe

STEP 1 • A2



free Audiobook



Daniel Defoe

Robinson Crusoe



Illustrated by **Stefano Fabbri**

Text adaptation by **Janet Cameron and Benjamin Anderson**

Activities and dossiers by **Janet Cameron**



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Content editor: Maria Grazia Donati

Design: Sara Fabbri, Silvia Bassi

Page Layout: Annalisa Possenti

Picture research: Alice Graziotin

Art Director: Nadia Maestri

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*info@blackcat-cideb.com
blackcat-cideb.com*

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KEY

This icon indicates Key-style activities

T: GRADE 2

This icon indicates Trinity-style activities (Grades 2, 3, 4)



THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED.



Daniel Defoe

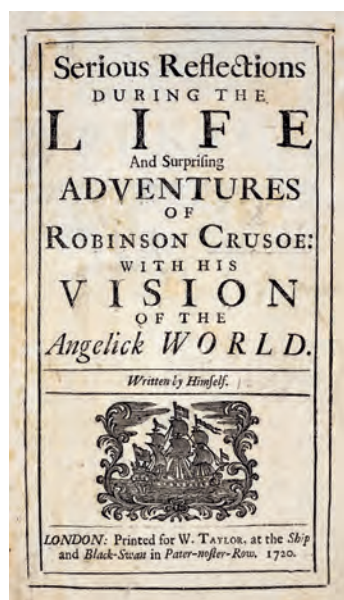
Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) was one of England's most important writers, and his life was full of both trouble and success. He was a child during the Great Plague¹ of London in 1665, when 70,000 people died from a terrible sickness. A year later, most of the family homes in the city were lost in the Great Fire of London. Then when he was ten years old, his mother died.



track 02

As a young man, Daniel was very interested in business and became a merchant.² At first his business was a success³ – he sold wine and wool and bought a ship and a house in the countryside. In 1684 he married Mary Tuffley, the daughter of a rich man. They stayed together for fifty years and had eight children.

-
1. **plague** : a sickness.
 2. **merchant** : someone who buys and sells things.
 3. **success** : something that goes well and brings good things.



But times were difficult and Defoe was often in debt.⁴ In 1692 he went to prison because of this and stayed for several months.

For most of his life, Defoe wrote: articles, poems, and books about history and other subjects. He also worked as a spy⁵ in France for the king of England, William III. But when Anne became queen after William, the situation changed and in 1703 Defoe went to prison again. This time it was because of his writing and ideas – many of his articles made the queen and the church angry.

A few months later he was free and began to write again. In 1719, when he was 59 years old, he finished his first novel, *Robinson Crusoe*. The book became very popular. However, at first many people did not know that Defoe was the author. They thought that the story was true and that Robinson Crusoe was a real person.

Defoe wrote nine other novels, including *Moll Flanders* (1722), *Journal of the Plague Year* (1722), and *The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* (1719). But his problems with money never stopped, and he was in debt again when he died in 1731.

Today, *Robinson Crusoe* is one of the most famous novels in the world, and you can find it in over 100 languages.

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

When did these things happen to Daniel Defoe? Put the events in order from 1 to 10.

- A ☐ writes *Robinson Crusoe*.
- B ☒ 1 born in 1660.
- C ☐ dies in 1731.
- D ☐ marries Mary Tuffley.
- E ☐ lives through the Great Plague of London.
- F ☐ goes to prison because of debt.
- G ☐ goes to prison because of his writing.
- H ☐ his mother dies.
- I ☐ writes *Moll Flanders*.
- J ☐ lives through the Great Fire of London.

4. **in debt** : when you borrow money from someone but can't return it.

5. **spy** : a person who finds secret information about other people or countries.

Travels of Chapter One



Before you **READ**

1 VOCABULARY

Match the words to the pictures. Use a dictionary to help you.

1 storm

2 ship

3 waves

4 guns

5 prisoner

6 boat



2 ROBINSON'S JOURNEYS

Look at the map on page 6 and answer the questions.

- 1 Can you find North America, South America, Africa and Europe?
- 2 Is your own country on this map?
- 3 The line shows Robinson Crusoe's journeys in Chapter One. Where does his first journey begin?
- 4 Which ocean does he cross?
- 5 Where does his last journey end?

3 VOCABULARY

Write the correct word from the box next to its definition. Use a dictionary to help you. You will find all of these words in Chapter One. Choose from:

sailors voyage the captain calm sea slave fresh water
to shoot to board coast tears battle

- 1 these fall from your eyes when you cry
- 2 people who work on a ship
- 3 the leader on a ship; the person who decides everything
- 4 a journey by sea
- 5 a sea without strong wind or high waves
- 6 part of the land that is closest to the sea
- 7 a fight between two large groups of people
- 8 to kill or hurt someone with a gun
- 9 water with no salt in it
- 10 to go onto a ship
- 11 a servant who has no personal freedom

4 WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Robinson Crusoe is a very famous story. What do you already know about it? Work with a friend and finish these sentences.

Robinson Crusoe is about a man who

He meets And then

Finally

Useful words: *island, alone, Friday, boat, leave.*

5 READING PICTURES

Look at the picture on page 11.

- 1 What is happening?
- 2 Which man is Robinson Crusoe?
- 3 What will happen next?



CHAPTER ONE

Off to see the world



I was eighteen years old when I told my father that I wanted to go to sea. I wanted to make money and see the world. He didn't agree.

'A quiet life is best, son,' he said. 'Please stay with your mother and me. Your brother left us and we never saw him again. We don't want to lose you, too. If you need money, I'll help you.' He had tears in his eyes.

But I didn't want to listen. A year later I went to the city of Hull and boarded a ship for London. It was 1 September, 1651.

That night there was a storm. Strong winds pushed the ship and I started to feel afraid and very sick. *This was a mistake*, I thought. *I promise I'll go home to my parents soon*. But the next day the sea was calm and it was sunny. My friend, whose father was the captain, laughed at me. 'A storm?' he said. 'That was nothing. You're not a real



track 03

sailor yet. Let's have some fun and forget about this.' And so I joined my friend and forgot my promise.

Then a few days later a bigger storm hit us. The waves were like mountains around the ship and all of the sailors were sick and afraid, not only me. After a few hours some men on another boat saved us, but our ship went down to the bottom of the sea.¹ When we arrived on land, the people were very kind to us and gave us money.

My friend's father told me to go home. 'The ship went down on your first voyage,' he said. 'The sea will only bring you more bad luck.' I didn't listen. I went to London and boarded another ship.

This time I went on a voyage along the coast of Africa. Before leaving I spent about forty pounds on things I could sell in return for gold there. The voyage was a great success,² in fact, it was my only successful voyage. I brought gold home to England and sold it for three hundred pounds. Soon I decided to return to Africa and make more money. This time, I was the captain of the ship.

But my friend's father was right about my bad luck. While we were sailing near the coast of Africa, a Turkish ship followed us. There was a battle and everyone on my ship was taken prisoner, and when we arrived on land the captain of the Turkish ship made me his slave.

For two years I worked in his house and I was like a prisoner. But one day I was able to escape.³ The Turkish captain sent me fishing with his brother Ismael and another slave, a boy called Xury, who was from Africa. The fishing boat was full of food, guns and fresh water. While we were fishing, I pushed Ismael into the sea. I pointed a gun at him and said, 'Swim to shore and leave us alone, or I'll shoot you.' Ismael swam away and I said to Xury, 'If you are loyal⁴ to me, you can stay with me.'

1. **bottom of the sea** : the land under the sea's water.

2. **success** : getting what you want.

3. **to escape** : to get away from something (or someone) and become free.

4. **loyal** : when someone is always your friend (or servant) and will not change.



The boy smiled. 'I'll travel with you all over the world,' he said.

We sailed along the coast of Africa, close to the shore. Sometimes we heard lions and other animals at night. After eleven days we arrived at Cape Verde and we saw a Portuguese ship. We sailed towards it and went on board. The men on the ship were very kind and they took us to Brazil. I wanted to give the captain my boat, but he bought it from me instead. He also took Xury as his servant. At first, I didn't agree to this, but the captain promised, 'After ten years, he'll be free.' And so Xury and I said goodbye.

I left the ship with a lot of money and decided to stay in Brazil and buy a farm, where I grew sugar. The farm became successful, but I wasn't happy. I didn't want this quiet life. After four years, three other farm owners came and talked to me. They planned to buy a ship and sail to Africa. 'Will you go with us?' they said. I agreed. I went on board the ship on 1 September 1659, exactly eight years after my voyage from Hull.

Twelve days later a terrible storm hit us. The wind pushed our ship in one direction and then another. When the weather cleared, we knew that we were lost. Then there was another storm. A sailor shouted, 'Land!' We ran to look but then the ship hit something and we couldn't move. Was the ship going to break apart? We didn't know. We got into a smaller boat and left the ship. We needed to be safe. But then an enormous wave hit our small boat and we all fell into the sea. There were eleven of us.

I couldn't see my friends, or anything else. A wave carried me towards the shore and I arrived on the beach, half dead.

Understanding the TEXT

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer, A, B or C, to complete the sentences.

- 1 Robinson Crusoe's father is sad because...
A ☐ he wants a quiet life.
B ☐ his son needs money.
C ☐ his son wants to leave home.

- 2 On Robinson Crusoe's first voyage...
A ☐ his ship goes down.
B ☐ he arrives in Brazil.
C ☐ he goes home to his parents.

- 3 Robinson Crusoe becomes a slave, but after two years...
A ☐ the Turkish captain gives him a fishing boat.
B ☐ he escapes with a boy named Xury.
C ☐ he shoots the Turkish captain's brother.

- 4 Robinson has to say goodbye to his friend Xury because...
A ☐ he sails away on Robinson's boat.
B ☐ he becomes the Portuguese captain's servant.
C ☐ he must go to prison for ten years.

- 5 In Brazil, Robinson Crusoe...
A ☐ buys a farm, but it is not successful.
B ☐ grows sugar, but he is not happy.
C ☐ leaves after less than a year.

- 6 When he leaves Brazil, Robinson Crusoe is...
A ☐ 27 years old.
B ☐ 24 years old.
C ☐ 18 years old.

- 7 During the terrible storm, Crusoe and his friends...
A ☐ stay on their ship.
B ☐ jump into the sea.
C ☐ get into a small boat.

2 WHAT HAPPENED?

A Imagine Robinson Crusoe is telling a friend on the ship his story. Choose (A-F) to complete the sentences.

'Well, first of all, (1), and then my ship went down. But that didn't stop me. Next (2) Everything went so well! I made a lot of money. So I decided to go back. But (3) It was awful. I had no freedom. Then two years later, (4) My friend was with me, Xury. After that (5) I became a sugar farmer there. It was boring, really. So (6) I'm sure everything will be great from now on.'

- A I went on a voyage to the coast of Africa
- B I decided to sail to London
- C we found a Portuguese ship and it took us to Brazil
- D I escaped and went back to the coast of Africa
- E there was a battle and I became the slave of a Turkish captain
- F I decided to return to Africa with some other farmers

B Robinson's friend on the ship has some questions about this story. Unscramble the questions and write them in the space. Then work with a friend and think of Robinson's answers to these questions.

- 1 afraid/you/were/when/went down/ your ship/?
- 2 money/you/make/how much/did/?
- 3 escape/the Turkish captain/how/you/from/did/?
- 4 Xury/come/did/to Brazil/with you/?
- 5 boring/why/the sugar farm/you think/did/was/?

3 WRITING AND SPEAKING: YOUR JOURNEY

Robinson Crusoe sees a lot of the world in this chapter. What countries do you most want to see? Write your top five here:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | |

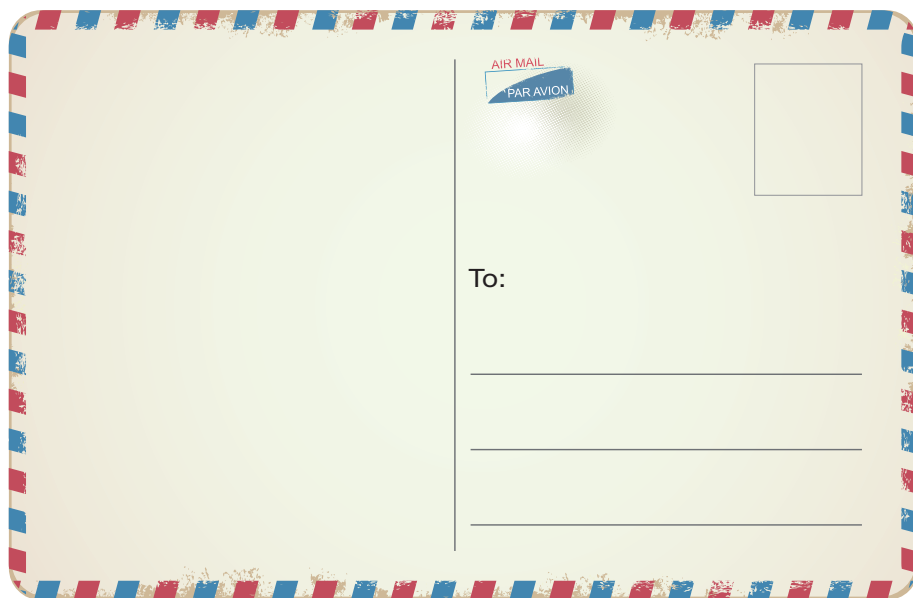
- A Find a friend and plan a trip together. You can visit only three countries and you must go together. Where will you go? Talk about your choices and your friend's choices and plan your trip.
- B Imagine the year is 1719. How will you travel from place to place on your world trip? How long will this journey take?

4 KEY WRITING

Choose a country from your list and write a postcard to your family from that country. Say:

- where you are
- what you like about this place and why

Write about 25-35 words.



track 04

5 KEY LISTENING

Listen to Dan talking to Emily about travel plans. What country does each person want to visit? For questions 1-5, write a letter (A-H) next to the name of the right person.

People

- 1 ☐ Emily
- 2 ☐ Marie
- 3 ☐ Susan
- 4 ☐ Keith
- 5 ☐ Dan

Countries

- A Brazil
- B Morocco
- C Canada
- D England
- E Italy
- F France
- G Japan
- H Australia

6 WRITING AND SPEAKING: BAD LUCK!

Talk about these questions with a friend.

- 1 The captain tells Robinson Crusoe, 'The ship went down on your first voyage. The sea will only bring you more bad luck.' Do you agree with the captain? Why or why not?
- 2 Do you believe that these things are bad luck?
 - A the number 13, or the date: Friday the 13th
 - B a black cat on the street in front of you
 - C opening an umbrella inside
 - D breaking a mirror
 - E shoes on a table
- 3 Do you try to stay away from things that are 'unlucky'?
- 4 What other things are 'bad luck'? With a friend, think of three more.
 - A
 - B
 - C
- 5 Do you believe in 'bad luck' or 'good luck'?

7 INTERNET PROJECT: SEA CAPTAINS

Robinson Crusoe spends several years at sea in the 1600s. During the 1600s and 1700s some very famous captains sailed the seas.

Look for information online about these men:

- Captain William Kidd (1645-1701)
- Captain James Cook (1728-1779)
- Captain Edward Teach (1690-1718)
- Captain William Adams (1564-1620)

Find out which of these captains...

- was the first Englishman in Japan
- were pirates
- was the first European in Australia
- was also called 'Blackbeard'

Find one interesting fact about two of these captains.

Find a picture of one of James Cook's ships.



8 CROSSWORD: OFF TO SEE THE WORLD

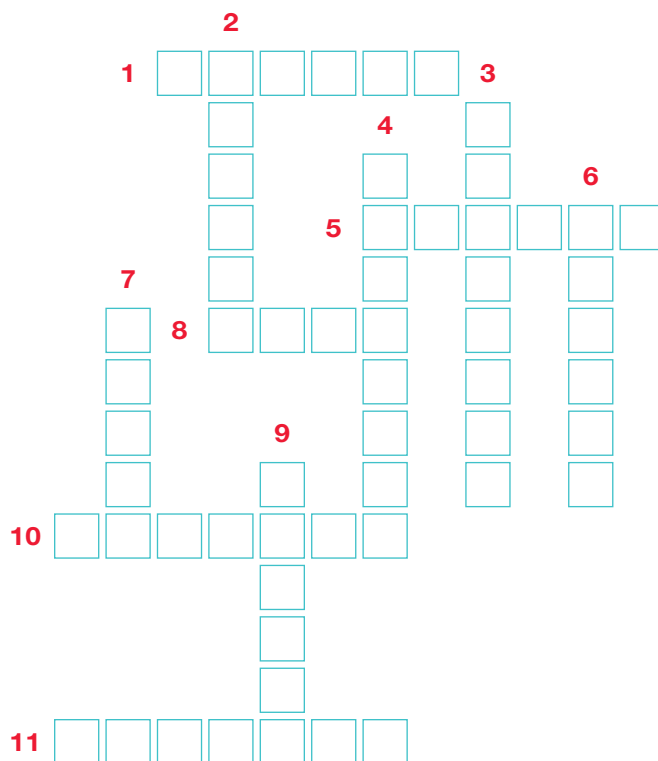
What do you know about the world? Try the crossword.

Across

- 1 The largest country in South America.
- 5 The captain who makes Robinson a slave is from this country.
- 8 Japan, Korea and Vietnam are part of
- 10 The largest ocean in the world.
- 11 Robinson's journey begins in this country.

Down

- 2 The largest country in the world.
- 3 The captain who helps Robinson is from this country.
- 4 This ocean is between Europe and North America.
- 6 France, Holland and Spain are part of
- 7 This country has more people than any other country in the world.
- 9 Kenya, Nigeria and Morocco are part of



Robinson Crusoe through the years

Robinson Crusoe was written almost three hundred years ago and is still popular today. You can find the story of Robinson, Friday, and the island as a comic book, an opera,¹ several children's books, and many radio and TV programmes.



There are also over a dozen² films. *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* was a silent³ film made by Georges Méliès in 1902 and is only 20 minutes long. *Man Friday* (1975) is a comedy. In *Miss Robinson Crusoe* (1954), Crusoe and Friday are both women. *Robinson Crusoe on Mars* (1964) happens in the future. *The Wild Life* (2016) is a French cartoon – this time the animals on Crusoe's island are the heroes.

Then there are stories of other men or women alone in nature, often on islands like Robinson Crusoe's home. After Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*

-
1. **opera** : a play with singing instead of talking.
 2. **a dozen** : 12.
 3. **silent** : no talking or noise.



became popular in 1719, people began to write more novels like this. People called these stories 'Robinsonade' and we still use this word to talk about them.

One famous 'Robinsonade' novel is *The Swiss Family Robinson* (1812) by Johann David Wyss. In this novel, a family from Switzerland arrive on an island like Robinson Crusoe's and stay for ten years. The Robinson family is luckier than Crusoe – they have animals on their ship and can start a farm, and they also have each other.

The Swiss Family Robinson was made into a film four times and a TV series six times, including the series *Lost in Space* (1965-68). In this programme the story happens in the future and the Robinson family are living in a spaceship. ⁴

There are many more 'Robinsonade' novels and films. *The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell (1960) is a popular children's book about a real person, a young girl named Juana Maria who lived on an island alone in the 19th century with a wild dog as her pet. She stayed there for eighteen years.

Closer to the present, there is the film *Cast Away* (2000). In this film, an American, Chuck Noland, is alone for four years on an island in the Pacific.

He learns to fish and make fires, but he is still very lonely. ⁵



4. **spaceship** :



5. **lonely** : when you are alone and want friends.



After a few weeks, he draws a face on a volleyball⁶ and begins to talk to it.

The Martian was a 2011 novel by Andy Weir, and it became a film in 2015. A scientist is alone on Mars and has to stay alive for four years, while his friends on Earth try to save him. Luckily, he knows a lot about plants and is able to grow food, but he knows that this food won't last forever. Like Robinson Crusoe, he is often lonely and afraid as he tries to stay alive, far away from his home.

Finally, in the almost silent Japanese cartoon *The Red Turtle* (2017), a man from Robinson Crusoe's time comes to another lonely island. But this time he learns to love his life there and never leaves.

These are only a few 'Robinsonade' stories. Can you think of more?

6. volleyball :



The Red Turtle

1 KEY COMPREHENSION CHECK

Read the sentences. Are they 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)?

If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C).

- 1 After 1719, most people stopped reading *Robinson Crusoe*.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't Say
- 2 The first film of *Robinson Crusoe* appeared over 115 years ago.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't Say
- 3 *Robinson Crusoe on Mars* was a great success and made a lot of money.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't Say
- 4 Most 'Robinsonade' stories are about Robinson Crusoe and Friday.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't Say
- 5 The family in *The Swiss Family Robinson* never leave their island.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't Say
- 6 The story in *The Island of the Blue Dolphins* is true.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't Say
- 7 In *Cast Away*, the hero's best friend on the island is a volleyball.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't Say
- 8 *The Martian* was a novel first, and then it was a film.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't Say

2 INTERNET MINI-PROJECT

- A With a friend, find a scene from Georges Méliès' 1902 film *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*.
- B One of you will watch the scene and the other will not look at it. The person who watches the scene must tell the other person what is happening in it.
- C Watch the scene together – did you or your friend describe it well?

Before you READ

1 VOCABULARY

Look at the picture of Robinson Crusoe's home. Match the pictures with the words in the box. Use a dictionary to help you.

- 1 rope 2 hammock 3 telescope 4 fence 5 goat
6 shelves 7 shovel 8 nails 9 ladder 10 branches
11 pick-axe 12 gunpowder

