

Sample Treasure Hunt

Places to hide clues are in italics. Modify these places to fit your particular setting, then change the font back to roman (normal). The hiding places should not be in italics in the final version, because the clues would then be too obvious.

1. I started my day today by eating a dead rat I found *on the ground next to a picnic table*.
2. Since someone came to clean the table, I had to leave. I flew over to *where there are some beautiful purple Bougainvilleas growing up a stone wall*. There I noticed a dog sleeping, but he ran away when I got too close.
3. Then I decided to sit *on the lowest branch of a large oak tree*. Several other birds were there too, admiring my bald head. My head is devoid of feathers because it gets blood and other fluids on it from the dead animals I eat, and I like to keep it clean.
4. I did a little flying around, looking for more prey without luck. One of the humans below spotted me and started pointing and staring. Since my species is found in every continent except Antarctica and Oceania, humans always seem to know who I am, and they think what I eat is disgusting. But they should realize that because I eat the remains of dead animals, they have a cleaner environment and don't have rotting carcasses lying around. Finally I decided to rest *on top of a telephone booth*.
5. Then I flew over *to the lamppost* and decided to keep a watch over the park from there.
6. I would rarely attack a healthy animal, but I do sometimes kill the wounded or sick. Many of my kind can be seen on battlefields. We gorge ourselves when prey is abundant until our crop (part of the alimentary tract used for the storage of food prior to digestion) bulges, then we sit sleepily to digest our food, which is what I did after eating the dead cat I found lying *next to a cactus plant*.
7. Did I mention that I'm a meat eater? Well I am. My relatives and I are actually of great value as scavengers, especially in hot regions. We can eat rotten flesh containing anthrax, botulism, and cholera bacteria, which are destroyed in our stomach. I found an almost dead opossum lying *next to some swings* and had a pleasant afternoon snack. Humans should be thankful for what we do, no?
8. I was flying around and, with my excellent vision, I spotted a wounded squirrel *next to a small willow tree*. I wasted no time, swooped down and grabbed the creature using my powerful feet with curved, sharp talons. It was small but satisfying, and it was going to die and stink up the park anyway.
9. I went to visit a friend whose eggs just hatched. She doesn't carry food to her young in her claws, but disgorges it from the crop. It looks like she's throwing up into her little offspring's mouth, but remember, the crop is where we store food before we digest it. Her nest is *in a ficus tree*.
10. Well, I had a good day. I'm full and I helped keep the park clean. Did you guess who I am? I'm a Turkey Vulture.

continued

Sample Treasure Hunt (continued)

Chart to hide the clues correctly (a blank chart is included on the student worksheet).

A. Clue Number	B. Where the clue is hidden (same as C for previous clue)	C. Location it leads to
1.	<i>Give to players to begin game</i>	<u><i>on the ground next to a picnic table</i></u>
2.	<u><i>on the ground next to a picnic table</i></u>	<u><i>beautiful purple Bougainvilleas growing up a stone wall</i></u>
3.	<u><i>beautiful purple Bougainvilleas growing up a stone wall</i></u>	<u><i>on the lower branch of a large oak tree</i></u>
4.	<u><i>on the lower branch of a large oak tree</i></u>	<u><i>on top of a telephone booth</i></u>
5.	<u><i>on top of a telephone booth</i></u>	<u><i>the lamppost</i></u>
6.	<u><i>the lamppost</i></u>	<u><i>next to a cactus plant</i></u>
7.	<u><i>next to a cactus plant</i></u>	<u><i>next to some swings</i></u>
8.	<u><i>next to some swings</i></u>	<u><i>next to a small willow tree</i></u>
9.	<u><i>next to a small willow tree</i></u>	<u><i>in a ficus tree</i></u>
10.	<u><i>in a ficus tree</i></u> <u><i>(treasure)</i></u>	<u><i>not applicable</i></u>