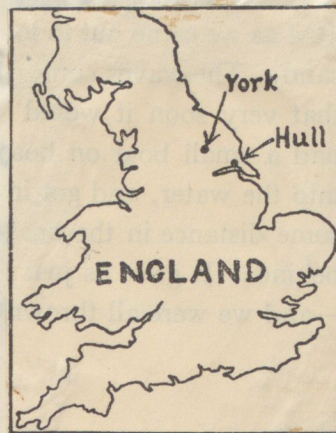


Robinson Crusoe.

Robinson Crusoe was born in 1632 in York

At an early age Robinson wished to go to sea but his father was against. One day in Hull he met a friend, who was going to sea on his father's ship. The friend asked Robinson to go with him and without asking his father he went on board of the ship.



They meant to go to the African coast. After a few days there came a fearful storm. The ship was badly broken and the water came in. Soon the ship ran onto some sand. They got into a boat, which was let down into the water. When they had gone some distance in the boat, there came a great wave and they were thrown into the water.

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A great wave carried Robinson on towards the shore. After a time he was ill.

When he waked it was day. He had nothing to eat. He took off his clothes, jumped into the water and soon reached the ship.

He found four large pieces of board and made a boat. He took all the things which he might need on his boat and set forth again towards the shore.

When Robinson sought a place for a hut he came on a hill, where he discovered that he was on an island.

Robinson chose a little plain on the hill-side for his hut. Out of the sail he made a tent which had two rooms, one to live in and a hole for his goods.



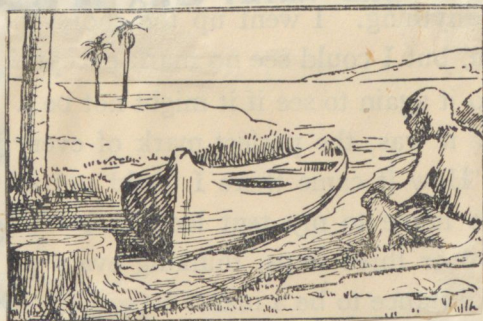
On a tall piece of wood Robinson cut the date of his arrival and each day he cut a small mark. After thirty marks he made a line meaning a new month.

Robinson Crusoe made a chair and table. He fixed boards along one side of store room and put all goods in order. He had no light. When it was he had to go to bed. Then he killed an animal and out of the fat he made a lamp.

He had no pots in which to boil anything, except one which he had taken from the ship and that was too big. He made many pots but they were very ugly. Afterwards he was able to make some better pots and cups.

One day Robinson found a bag with some corn. It was before the great rain when he thrown the dirty corn away. About a month after he saw ears of perfect English wheat growing near his tent. Soon he had a great field of corn and he was able to make bread.

Now Robinson decided to make a boat. He cut down a great tree and worked at the boat about five months, but he was not able to bring it into the water.



One day going along the shore Robinson noticed a mark of a man's foot in the sand. He was very surprised by this sight. When he went back to his tent he made the wall of his home stronger. At the south west part of the island he saw the shore covered with bones of men. He also noticed a place where a fire had been made. Robinson grew quite sick at the sight and he went back to his house as fast as he could.

For two or three months Robinson kept watch on the hill side to see some boat coming but seeing nothing he went no more.

One morning going into the field he saw a fire upon the shore. He went towards it and saw nine men sitting round a small fire. After an hour they got into their boats and went away.

Next morning Robinson found five boats on the shore. From the top of the hill he saw thirty men, dancing round the fire. Two fellows were pulled from the boat to be killed. One of them ran away and three men followed him. Robinson took his gun and struck the first on the head, but as the other man came upon him, he was forced to shoot. The fellow who was escaping was so afraid that he neither ran on nor back.

When Robinson shouted to him, he came and fell upon his knees and promised to be his servant for ever. Then they both went to Robinson's tent.

One morning when Friday went out, he soon ran back and said he had seen three boats on the sea.

They both took guns and went towards the sea.

They saw twenty-one men, three prisoners and three boats. The men were sitting round the fire and ate one of the prisoners, another prisoner lay tied up in the sand. Robinson and Friday came nearer to them and killed most of them. The others tried to escape on a boat but Friday shot at them and

killed them all. The prisoner was no other than Friday's father.

Soon Friday went to take his father back to his home in the boat, which the men had left.

One morning Robinson saw an English ship. He wondered what business an English ship could have in this part of the world. There were eleven English-men and three prisoners.

Robinson came nearer to the prisoners and asked who they were.

One answered: "I was the captain of that ship. My men rose up against me. One of the others is my officer and the other is a traveller on the ship."

Robinson saw five men were asleep. Then he went back to the captain, took three guns and fired at the men. Three men were killed and two were noble prisoners.

Then next task was to win the ship.

One board were still twenty-six men they did not know how they could fight so many.

At last they made a hole in the boat, which was now on the shore, so that they might not take it away.

Just as they finished they heard the ship fire a gun and a flag go up. At last they put out a second boat with ten men in it, and came towards the shore.

They set two men with the boat and the other eight went marching towards the top of the little hill. They made the two men prisoners. Then they took away the boat and hid it.

At last the seven men went back to the place where their boats had been. They were surprised when they found the boat gone on the two men also.

Friday and captain shot at them and killed them all. The captain went with his officer and four other men to the ship and took it. The captain said to Crusoe: "My friend who has saved me, there is your ship."

Robinson took Friday with him
and left the island in 1684