

SOLUTION TO THE 'HIDDEN ROMAN TREASURE' PUZZLE



HIDDEN ROMAN TREASURE

*I love a treasure map. The finding of something – the challenge of working out which path to take – has always fascinated me. There are irritations to overcome, though. The steps to investigate the inner workings of a pirate’s mind shouldn’t be taken lightly in pursuit of plundering his hidden fortune. To conquer – no, to vanquish – doubts is half the battle. Terrain might be deadly: a vintage map hides many secrets. And what if the bounty stays invisible? Unshared, its precious value remains in jealous indivisibility. Heck, with **my** sense of direction, getting any fix on its location is unlikely! But we all know, don’t we, that a big ‘X’ will always mark the spot?*

In my post I had asked you these two questions:

1. What is represented in the ten sentences that make up the story under the map?
2. Can you find a number of secrets within the words?

In the first question, I've told you that the story making up the puzzle is ten sentences long.

In order to look at each of these sentences individually, let's reformat the layout of the text so that each sentence begins on a new line. Hey, I'm even going to number them. 😊

1. I love a treasure map.
 2. The finding of something – the challenge of working out which path to take – has always fascinated me.
 3. There are irritations to overcome, though.
 4. The steps to investigate the inner workings of a pirate's mind shouldn't be taken lightly in pursuit of plundering his hidden fortune.
 5. To conquer – no, to vanquish – doubts is half the battle.
 6. Terrain might be deadly: a vintage map hides many secrets.
 7. And what if the bounty stays invisible?
 8. Unshared, its precious value remains in jealous indivisibility.
 9. Heck, with **my** sense of direction, getting any fix on its location is unlikely!
 10. But we all know, don't we, that a big 'X' will always mark the spot?
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My second question was this: Can you find a number of secrets within the words?

That's right! This is not a *word* puzzle as such, but a *number* puzzle!

Three things might have stood out to you while you were reading the text of the puzzle:

- The title of the puzzle is 'Hidden Roman Treasure'. Although the ten-sentence story is indeed about hidden treasure, there is no mention of 'Roman' within it.
Or is there? 😊
- The final sentence – sentence number 10 – includes the treasure map staple that 'X marks the spot'. What *else* can 'X' represent?
- Some of the words and phrases I've used – not to mention the sentence structure – are really, really odd. Here are some examples:

'The finding of something...'

Why not just '*finding* something'?

'To conquer – no, to vanquish...'

Why not just *one* of these words?

'indivisibility'

Well, this one's just over-the-top!

Reader, the solution to the puzzle is *literally* ‘hidden Roman treasure’: my ten-sentence story contains the Roman numerals representing 1 to 10!

Did you spot them? Here’s the breakdown:

I	The first word of the first sentence contains a single letter I	I
II	The second word of the second sentence contains two Is	finding
III	The third word of the third sentence contains three Is	irritations
IV	The fourth word of the fourth sentence contains I and V, in that order	investigate
V	The fifth word of the fifth sentence contains V	vanquish
VI	The sixth word of the sixth sentence contains V and I, in that order	vintage
VII	The seventh word of the seventh sentence contains V, I and I, in that order	invisible
VIII	The eighth word of the eighth sentence contains V, I, I and I, in that order	indivisibility
IX	The ninth word of the ninth sentence contains I and X, in that order	fix
X	The tenth word of the tenth sentence shows X marking the spot!	X

Things I could have done better

Sentences IV, V, VII and VIII might be seen as confusing because the words in which the Roman numerals are hidden contain *extra* Is.

Here is a better idea for sentence VII:
‘What if the bounty is not visible?’

As for sentence VIII – well, I couldn’t think of a word that contained V, I, I and I in order and that *didn’t* include extra Is both before and after. I’m sure there is one, though.
Do let me know if a suitable word occurs to you – if so, I’d love to rework that sentence!

Thank you so much for having a go at finding the hidden Roman treasure! I had such fun devising the puzzle for you.

There is *so much* value in the sparkling world of words. Happy treasure seeking!

Love,

Rebecca