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Organizer's Guide

Scavenger Hunt: Magic & Wizards

For Mary-Kate

Starring: Merlin the Wizard
Ages: 7-9
Players: 5 kids
Time: 60–90 minutes
Steps: 11 (6 riddles + 5 challenges)

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At a Glance

1. Read the welcome letter to the kids and give them the first activity and the map board.
2. Each riddle they solve reveals the name of a hiding spot. For challenges, you tell them the hiding spot once they've completed the challenge.
3. In each hiding spot, the kids find a map piece + the next activity: they glue the piece onto the map board.
4. At the last hiding spot, they find the last map piece (the one with the treasure chest) + the map letter.
5. They put the map back together and find out where the treasure is.
6. They go to the treasure spot and discover the treasure, along with the congratulations letter and the diplomas!

What You Need

- The printed game kit (it has everything: riddles, challenges, letters, treasure map, and cutouts)
- The treasure map, cut into 11 pieces along the dotted lines
- The map board, plus glue to stick the pieces on
- The challenge cards, cut out (see the "Cutouts" pages of the game kit)
- The treasure to hide (candy, small toys, etc.)
- Supplies for the 5 challenges (details in the "Step-by-Step Guide" section)

Tips

- If the kids get stuck on a riddle, give them a hint (for example: "the answer starts with...")
- Encourage the kids to search together and help each other
- Keep an eye on the time so you can adjust the pace
- For challenges, check the box on the game sheet when the kids succeed

Setup (at least 30 minutes before the party)

- [ ] Print the game kit (starting at the “Game Kit” section)
- [ ] Cut the treasure map along the dotted lines (11 pieces)
- [ ] Cut out the challenge cards (“Cutouts” pages of the game kit)
- [ ] In each hiding spot, hide a map piece + the next activity:
  - [ ] Behind the door: map piece + Challenge 2
  - [ ] Kitchen: map piece + Riddle 3
  - [ ] Under the bed: map piece + Challenge 4
  - [ ] Living room: map piece + Riddle 5
  - [ ] In the fridge: map piece + Challenge 6
  - [ ] Under the cushion: map piece + Riddle 7
  - [ ] Bedroom: map piece + Challenge 8
  - [ ] Bathroom: map piece + Riddle 9
  - [ ] Office: map piece + Challenge 10
  - [ ] Entryway: map piece + Riddle 11
  - [ ] Closet: map piece + map letter

> **The map piece with the treasure chest must be hidden in the last hiding spot (Closet).**

- [ ] Put the treasure at the spot marked on the map, with the congratulations letter
- [ ] Get the supplies ready for the challenges (details in the “Step-by-Step Guide” section)
- [ ] Keep the welcome letter + Riddle 1 handy to start the hunt

Step-by-Step Guide

📜 Welcome letter

Read the welcome letter to the kids and give them the first riddle.

1. Riddle: Merlin’s Riddle

Answer: **BEHIND THE DOOR** (= the next hiding spot)

📍 The kids go to the hiding spot “**Behind the door**” and find Challenge 2 + a map piece

2. Challenge: The Rainbow Hunt

The grown-up calls out a color, and each child brings back something that color.

Supplies:

- A timer (optional)
- A play area with objects in lots of different colors

Setup:

1. Decide which rooms or areas are allowed for the search
2. Get a list of colors ready to call out (red, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple, white, black...)
3. Optional: set a time limit for each round (30 seconds to 1 minute)

✅ Once they succeed, tell the kids the name of the next hiding spot: **Kitchen**

📍 The kids go to the hiding spot “**Kitchen**” and find Riddle 3 + a map piece

3. Riddle: Merlin’s Mystery Picture

Answer: **UNDER THE BED** (= the next hiding spot)

📍 The kids go to the hiding spot “**Under the bed**” and find Challenge 4 + a map piece

4. Challenge: The Mystery Bag

Guess what's hidden in a bag just by touching it, without looking.

Supplies:

- A bag you can't see through (a tote bag or a pillowcase)
- Objects to guess (one per player)
- Optional: a blindfold for extra mystery

Setup:

1. Pick objects that are easy to recognize by touch
2. Ideas: a ball, a spoon, a toothbrush, a stuffed animal, a key, a pinecone, a sponge, a crayon
3. Put all the objects in the bag before the kids arrive
4. Keep a list of the objects to check the answers

Examples / ideas:

Tennis ball, Wooden spoon, Toothbrush, Small stuffed animal, Key, Pinecone, Sponge, Crayon, Cork, Clothespin, Eraser, Toy figure, Seashell, Smooth rock

✅ Once they succeed, tell the kids the name of the next hiding spot: **Living room**

📍 The kids go to the hiding spot "**Living room**" and find Riddle 5 + a map piece

5. Riddle: Merlin's Hidden Initials

Answer: **IN THE FRIDGE** (= the next hiding spot)

📍 The kids go to the hiding spot "**In the fridge**" and find Challenge 6 + a map piece

6. Challenge: Animal Charades

Act out an animal so the others can guess it.

Supplies:

- Slips of paper with animal names (included, ready to cut out)
- A hat or a bowl to draw from
- Optional: a timer (1 minute per turn)

Setup:

1. Cut out the slips with the animal names (see the printable page)
2. Fold the slips and put them in a hat or a bowl
3. Explain the rules: no sounds, no talking
4. Each child takes a turn acting

Words on the cutout cards:

Flamingo, Koala, Panda, Snail, Dolphin, Chicken, Spider, Gorilla, Alligator, Snake

✅ Once they succeed, tell the kids the name of the next hiding spot: **Under the cushion**

📍 The kids go to the hiding spot "**Under the cushion**" and find Riddle 7 + a map piece

7. Riddle: Merlin's Tangled Strings

Answer: **BEDROOM** (= the next hiding spot)

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Game Kit

🖨️ READY TO PRINT

This kit has everything you need to print: the welcome letter, the riddles and challenges, the map letter and the congratulations letter, the map board, and the cutouts (treasure map and challenge cards).

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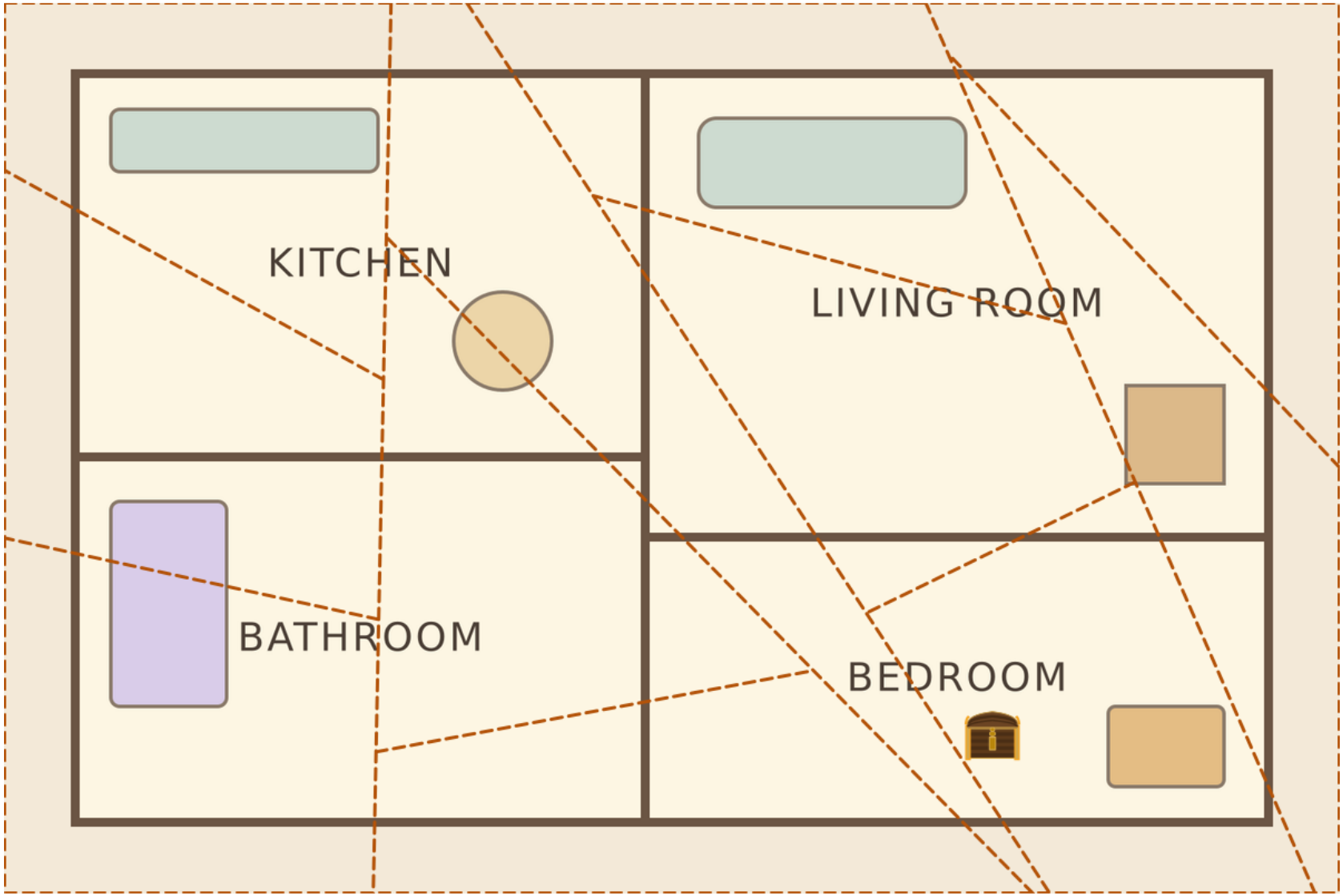
Treasure Map — Cut Out

Cut out the 11 pieces along the dotted lines. Hide each piece in its hiding spot (see the setup checklist).

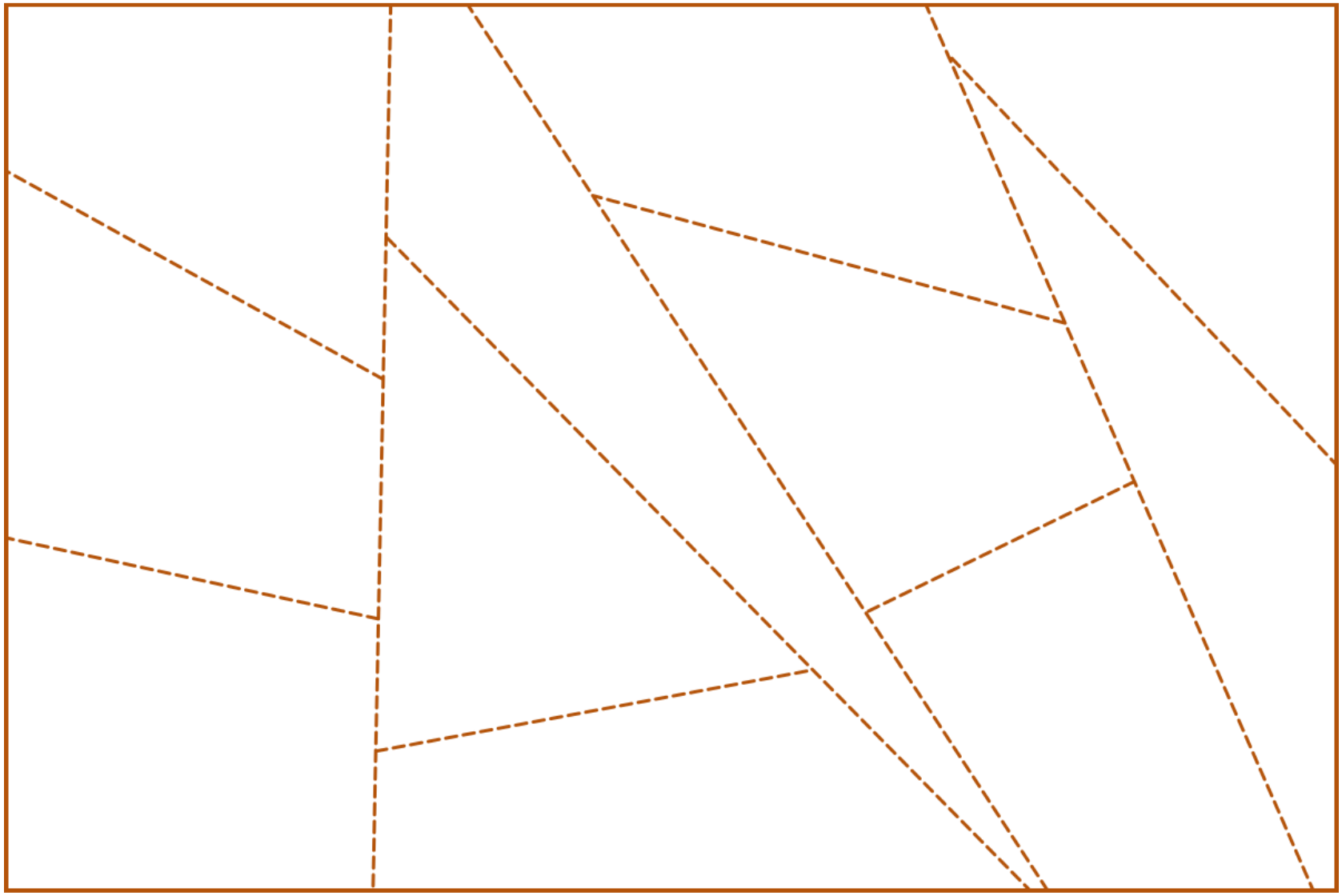
The piece with the treasure chest must be hidden in the last hiding spot: Closet



Treasure Map Board

Glue each piece you find onto its shape. Once the map is complete, it shows where the treasure is hidden!

Give this to the kids at the very start of the hunt, with some glue.



Cutouts

Cut out the cards along the dotted lines, fold them, and put them in a hat or a bowl to draw from.

🎭 Animal Charades

Flamingo	Koala	Panda	Snail
Dolphin	Chicken	Spider	Gorilla
Alligator	Snake		


Dear Mary-Kate and fellow apprentice wizards,
I am Merlin the Wizard of the Academy of Magic!
Long ago, a circle of very old wizards hid a magic treasure. Only young wizards who can solve riddles will ever find it!
I see you've gathered your friends for this adventure. What a team!
Every spell you break will give you a piece of the magic map. Put all the pieces together, and the treasure will be yours!
Here is your first spell. Break it to find the first piece of the magic map!
May the magic be with you!
Merlin the Wizard

Merlin's Riddle

Riddle 1/11

Read this riddle and guess the place it describes!

It opens wide and closes tight,
With a knob to turn to the left or right.
Swing it open, then peek behind,
A secret clue is what you'll find!

The answer is:

Find the secret word, then look for the map piece in that spot!

The Rainbow Hunt

Challenge 2/11

The grown-up calls out a color: everyone has to find something that color and bring it back as fast as possible!

Rules:

- The grown-up calls out one color each round
- Objects must be easy and safe to carry
- The challenge is complete when all the rounds have been played
- Each child brings back something of the right color
- You can't bring back something that was already used

Score sheet — The grown-up calls out a color, and the kids bring back something of that color:

#	Color called	Kids who found one	Done
1	.....	.... / 5	☐
2	.....	.... / 5	☐
3	.....	.... / 5	☐
4	.....	.... / 5	☐
5	.....	.... / 5	☐
6	.....	.... / 5	☐
7	.....	.... / 5	☐
8	.....	.... / 5	☐
9	.....	.... / 5	☐
10	.....	.... / 5	☐

☐ **Challenge complete!** *The organizer checks this box, then tells the kids the next hiding spot (see the guide).*

The Mystery Bag

Challenge 4/11

Reach into the mystery bag and guess what you're touching, without looking! One object per player.

Rules:

- Each child gets to touch ONE object
- The child says what they think they're touching
- The challenge is complete if at least half of the objects are guessed
- No peeking in the bag, that's the whole mystery!
- One guess per object, to keep it exciting

Answer sheet — Write down what you think you touched:

#	Child's answer (object guessed)	Right	Wrong
1	.....	☐	☐
2	.....	☐	☐
3	.....	☐	☐
4	.....	☐	☐
5	.....	☐	☐
6	.....	☐	☐
7	.....	☐	☐
8	.....	☐	☐
9	.....	☐	☐
10	.....	☐	☐

Score: __ / 10

☐ **Challenge complete!** *The organizer checks this box, then tells the kids the next hiding spot (see the guide).*

Merlin's Hidden Initials

Riddle 5/11

Figure out what each picture shows. The first letter of each word spells the answer!

4  ☐

1  ☐

9  ☐

10  ☐

8  ☐

6  ☐

7  ☐

5  ☐

2  ☐

11  ☐

3  ☐

First letter of each picture:

☐☐ ☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Find the secret word, then look for the map piece in that spot!


All the pieces
of the map are here!
Mary-Kate, you're almost there!
You've found every piece of the magic map!
It's amazing what you and your team have done!
Put the map back together to see where the magic treasure is hidden!
Merlin the Wizard


Congratulations!
Dear Mary-Kate,
Your magic powers are amazing! You found the magic treasure, and I am so proud of you!
What a great team of wizards!
See you soon for more spells and adventures!
Abracadabra!
Merlin the Wizard

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Adventurer Diplomas

A personalized diploma for every player. Hand them out at the end of the scavenger hunt to celebrate all the adventurers!

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Diploma
SCAVENGER HUNT CHAMPION
Name: Mary-Kate
Date: May 22, 2027
Made with ♥ by kidilab .com

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Party Invitations

4 personalized invitations to print and hand out to your guests. Cut out each card along its edges.

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Invitation
Dear Nguyen,
Mary-Kate needs your help to uncover the secrets of Merlin the Wizard! Grab your magic wand and come take on all the challenges in this amazing scavenger hunt.
Join us on Saturday, May 22, 2027
from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM!
12 Maple Street, Springfield
Please RSVP by May 15, 2027
Contact: Claire - (555) 010-0123
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Invitation
Dear apprentice wizard,
Mary-Kate needs your help to uncover the secrets of Merlin the Wizard! Grab your magic wand and come take on all the challenges in this amazing scavenger hunt.
Join us on Saturday, May 22, 2027
from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM!
12 Maple Street, Springfield
Please RSVP by May 15, 2027
Contact: Claire - (555) 010-0123
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