

X MARKS THE SPOT



INSTRUCTIONS BY BOOKER: VARIABLES

A *variable* is a letter that represents a missing number in an equation.

✓ Solve for a variable using *inverse operations*. Perform the same operation on both sides of the equation.

Example: $x - 9 = 3$
 $x - 9 + 9 = 3 + 9$
 $x = 12$

✓ If two operations are involved, first add or subtract to isolate the variable. Then multiply or divide.

Example: $3x + 4 = 19$
 $3x + 4 - 4 = 19 - 4$
 $3x = 15$
 $x = 5$

WHAT TO DO

Use Booker's instructions to solve each variable equation above, locate *x*-Beard's treasure, and save Al and Polly's skins!

1 Captain Blight reads from the map, "My treasure is hidden on moon number r of the planet Desolate, where $2r - 7 = 25$."

a. First, add 7 to both sides to isolate the variable. What equation are you left with?

b. Now divide both sides by 2:

Your answer tells which moon of Desolate holds the treasure.

2 Next, the map says, "Find the cave that's m miles south of the Great Asteroid Crater, where $m + 21 = 70$." Solve for m :

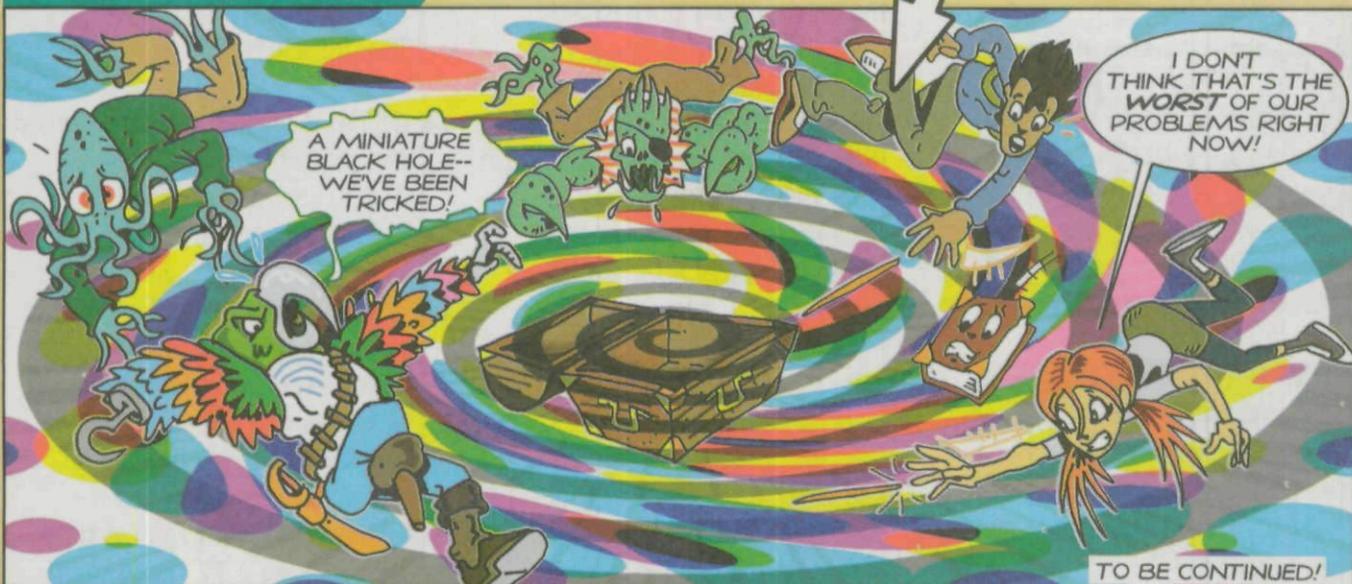
3 Inside the cave are levers. Lever d (where $3d + 18 = 51$) is the only one that won't drop them into pits full of man-eating space slugs. Solve for d :

4 The chamber they're in will collapse and crush them unless they press the rock marked with the number r , where $6r - 16 = 56$. Solve for r :

5 Our heroes will be dropped into a chasm of scorching lava unless they step on plank number p , where $122 + 5p = 7p + 36$. Solve for p please:

6 Small tiles on the ground are numbered from 1 to 200. And x marks the spot where the treasure is buried, where $x + 42 - 4x = 2x - 33$. What tile number should they dig into?

AT LAST! THANKS TO AL AND POLLY, THE PIRATES HAVE FOUND *x*-BEARD'S TREASURE! AND INSIDE, THEY FIND...



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