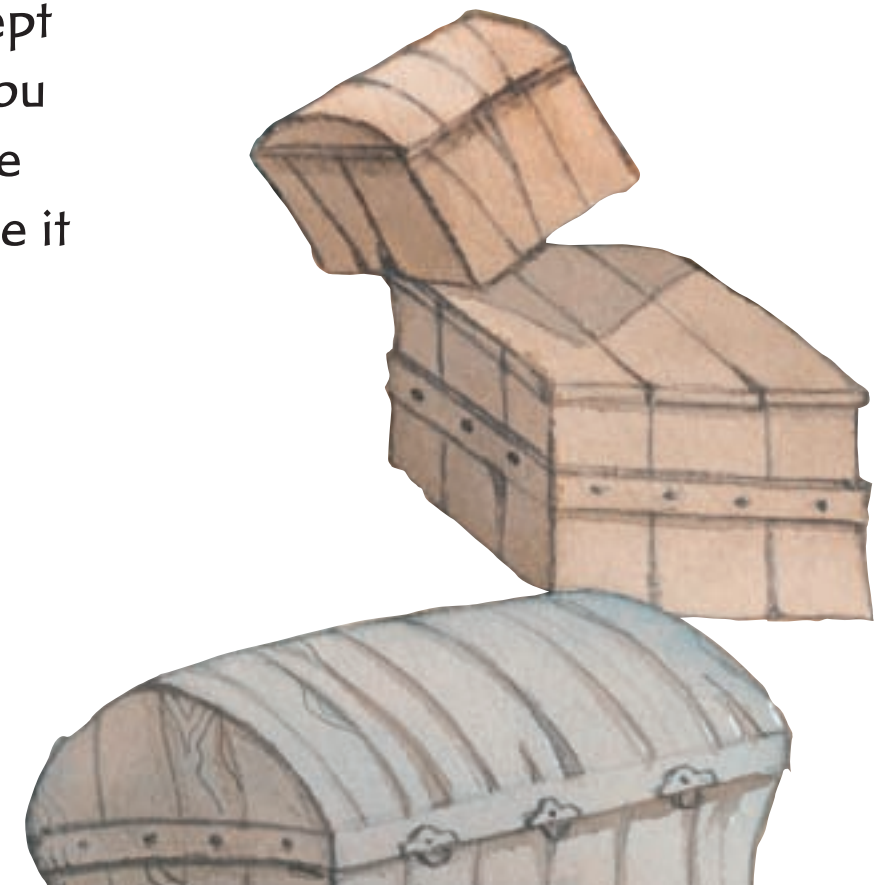
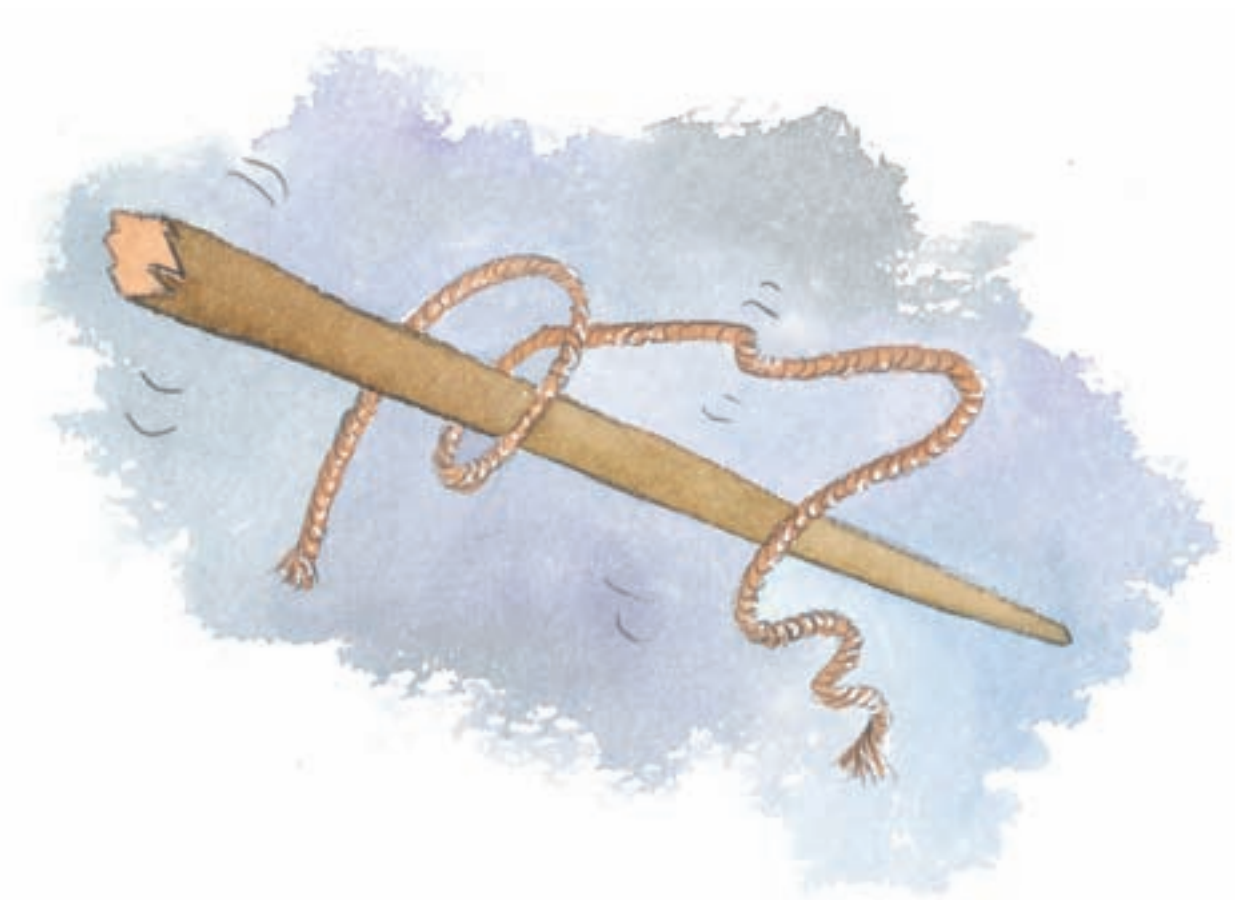




The little pirates measured no more than five hands high. They were slim and wore very colorful clothing, which made them look more like comedians than pirates. "We have no ship," they explained to Green Gunpowder, "so we accept you offer. We will lead you to the treasure of the nine mermaids and we'll divide it into equal parts."







A terrible storm blew up all of a sudden. The gigantic ocean waves rocked the ship. Green Gunpowder's ship lost its mast and was in danger of being shipwrecked.





“The fact is that somebody should take over our places when our legs can no longer carry us,” concluded Green Gunpowder. “I’ve got an idea: Throw overboard all the gold necessary for the ship to sail without any trouble. You must admit it’s a great idea, isn’t it?”

