Discussion Questions

1) Two hurricanes are mentioned in *Treasure Tracks*—one in the present and one in the past. Have you ever been through a hurricane, or met someone who has? What do you know about hurricanes?

2) “Fin” is the main character’s nickname. Do you have a nickname, and is there a story of how this nickname came to be?

3) What is Fin’s lucky charm? Do you have one?

4) Most of the story takes place in the Florida Keys, a string of tropical islands off the southern tip of Florida. Can you guess how many islands are in the Keys, and how many bridges connect them? *(Hint: More than you can imagine!)*

5) Abuelo refers to American industrialist Henry Flagler and his Overseas Railroad in the Florida Keys. How else did Henry Flagler contribute to the development of Florida and the Atlantic Coast?

6) When Fin mentions Cuba, he says that he likes his American freedoms. How does the Cuban government compare to that of the United States? What “freedoms” is Fin alluding to?

7) Searching for the treasure is part of Fin’s family legacy, starting with his great-grandpapa’s quest for the gold. Does your family have a special legacy of their own?

8) Fin remarks on Abuelo’s dedication to ocean conservancy. What are some of the major issues affecting our oceans, and what steps can you take to help preserve them? *(Hint: A big one is mentioned in the book.)*

9) Abuelo and Fin use two Latin phrases: *Semper fortis* and *carpe diem*. Can you come up with other widely used Latin phrases? *(Hint: Universities and the armed forces use lots of these.)*

10) Fin uses Google and other means to conduct research and come up with solutions to his problems. Besides the Internet, how else could you go about conducting research?

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Discussion Questions

11) Fin describes a strange dream where he sees a non-living ancestor. Have you ever had dreams about your ancestors or loved ones?

12) Fin ends up feeling bad about how he judged Sly without getting to know him. Has this ever happened to you? How did you feel about that experience?

13) How do you think Fin feels about his ethnic background at the beginning of the novel versus at the end?

14) What ends up being worth “more than gold” to Fin? What is worth more than gold to you?

15) If you found hidden treasure, what would you do with it?

16) If you could only take one person and one object along on an adventure, who and what would it be? Why?

17) If you could write Fin’s next adventure, what would it be?
Activities

1) Below is a list of the marine life referenced in *Treasure Tracks*. Based on the information and prompts provided, what else can you find out about each species? *(Bonus points for identifying scientific names.)*

- **Staghorn coral**: Identify different types of coral. You can also download an activity pack from the Coral Restoration Foundation and learn more about our beautiful coral reefs and restoration efforts. *(Bonus question: Are corals plants or animals?)*
- **Sea urchins, sea fans, and sand dollars**: Identify different types of these species.
- **Cassiopea and Portuguese man-of-war**: Identify different types of jellyfish.
- **Cockleshell**: Identify different types of shells. You can even collect them if you live near the ocean!
- **Loggerhead turtle**: Identify different types of sea turtles. You can also learn more about sea turtles by visiting the Turtle Hospital in the Florida Keys.
- **Blue marlin**: Identify different types of billfish.
- **Yellowtail snapper, angelfish, parrotfish, Sergeant Majors, blue tang**: Identify different types of Atlantic fish.
- **Barracuda**: Why may this species be dangerous?
- **Stingray**: Why may this species be dangerous?
- **Moray Eel**: Identify different types of eels.
- **Dolphin**: Identify different types of dolphins. Detailed curriculum materials may be accessed from the Dolphin Research Center in Key Largo.
- **Nurse Shark and Blacktip Shark**: Identify different types of sharks. Descriptions of the most common sharks of Florida may be accessed at the Florida Sea Grant.
- **Manatee**: Why are manatee populations under threat? You can also learn all about manatees from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- **Pelican**: What types of birds populate an ocean habitat?
- **Squid**: Perform a virtual squid dissection if you dare. No risk of splattering ink!

2) Make key lime pie with the help of a parent or guardian! Follow this recipe for instructions.

3) If your geography allows, go on a field trip to the ocean to identify marine life or go snorkeling. A virtual trip to explore the Florida Keys is a fun alternative! You can dive in here to snorkel a reef and even explore a shipwreck.