



Maritime
Archaeology
Trust

MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

Activity Book



An underwater photograph showing a group of jellyfish swimming near the surface in the upper half, and a scuba diver in the lower half. The diver is wearing a black wetsuit, a mask, and a large white air tank. The water is clear blue with some suspended particles.

This book belongs to:

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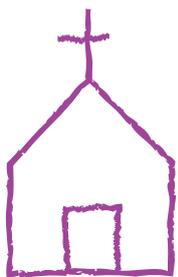
What is Maritime Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of all of human history through the things that people left behind. The people who study archaeology are called archaeologists. They try to find out about how people in the past lived and what they were like.

Because all of human history is quite a lot of stuff, archaeologists often focus on one type of archaeology. This could be a particular time period, or an area of the world, or a type of object or site.

Maritime archaeology is one type of archaeology. It is the study of things from the past that are to do with water. Sometimes, these sites are under or close to the water, and sometimes they might once have been but aren't any more. For example, ship remains have been found in the middle of cities, where there used to be a river that has been built over.

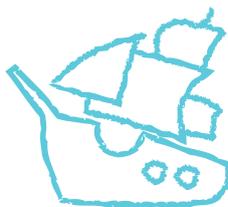
Circle the things that you might find underwater:



CHURCH



AEROPLANE



SHIPWRECK



HATS



SHOPPING TOLLEY



COW BONE



ANCIENT VILLAGE



COINS

Answer: Trick question - all of these things can be found underwater! Some of these things you might expect to find, like shipwrecks. Other things, like cow bones, hats, and whole villages you might not! Read on throughout the booklet to find out how these might have ended up under the sea.

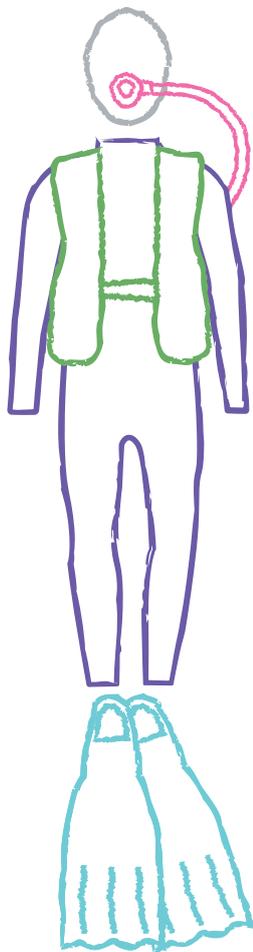
Working Under Water



Doing archaeology under water is a little bit different to doing it on land. Under the sea it's cold, it's dark, and it's harder to move around.

In order to survive under water, a diver needs to wear special clothes and equipment called SCUBA gear. Air tanks hold all the air a diver will need while they are down there, and they have to make sure to come back up before it runs out.

Try and match up each piece of equipment with what it does:



REGULATOR

BUOYANCY
CONTROL DEVICE

DRY SUIT

FINS

A) These go on your feet and help you move around under the water.

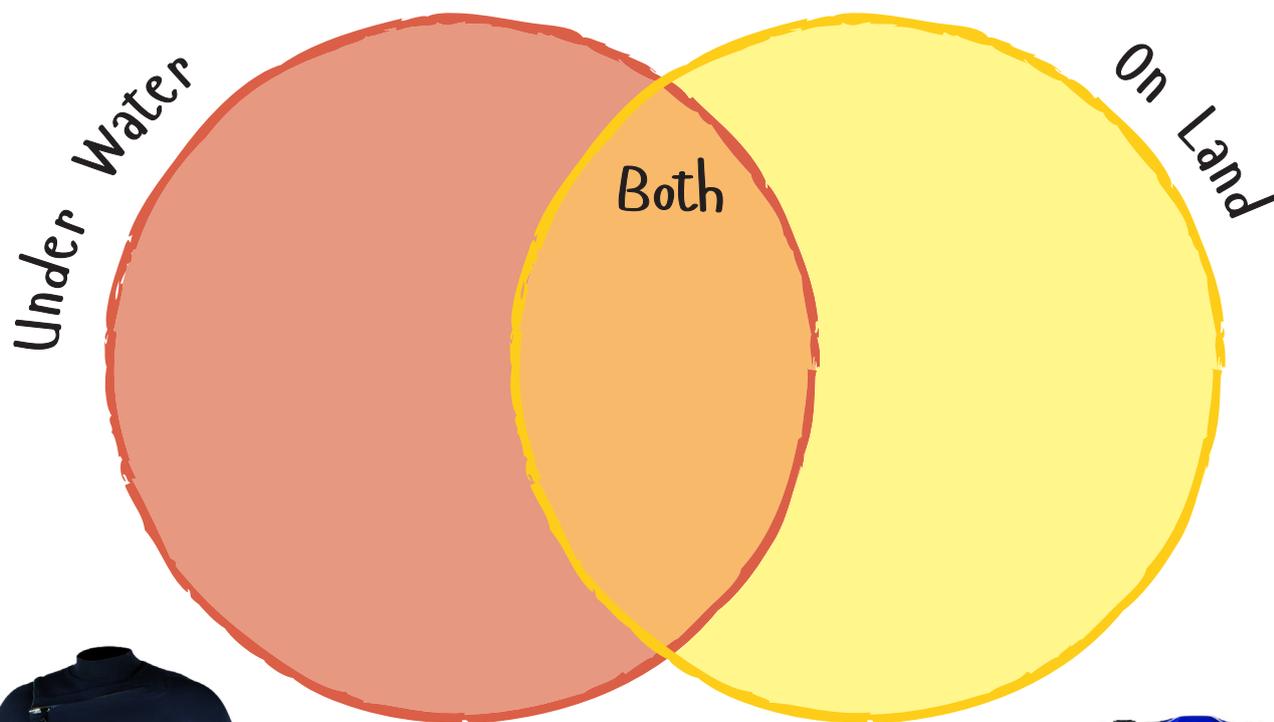
B) This covers your whole body and helps to keep you warm - it gets very cold under the water!

C) This helps the diver float or sink while in the water.

D) This attaches to the air tank and allows the diver to breathe air from it.

Answers: Regulator - A - Fins, B - Dry Suit, C - Buoyancy Control Device, D - Regulator

What would you use to do archaeology on land, and what would you use under water? Write them in the circles below!



Welly Boots



Weight Belt



Answers: Under water - wet suit, fins, weight belt, air tank, mask,
On land - welly boots, Both - camera, tape measure, trowel, torch.

Shipwrecks

Shipwrecks can tell us a lot about the past because they capture a moment in time when the ship sank. They can contain all sorts of things, including cargo (like ladies' hats!), ship's equipment, clothes, food, and the personal items belonging to the crew and passengers.

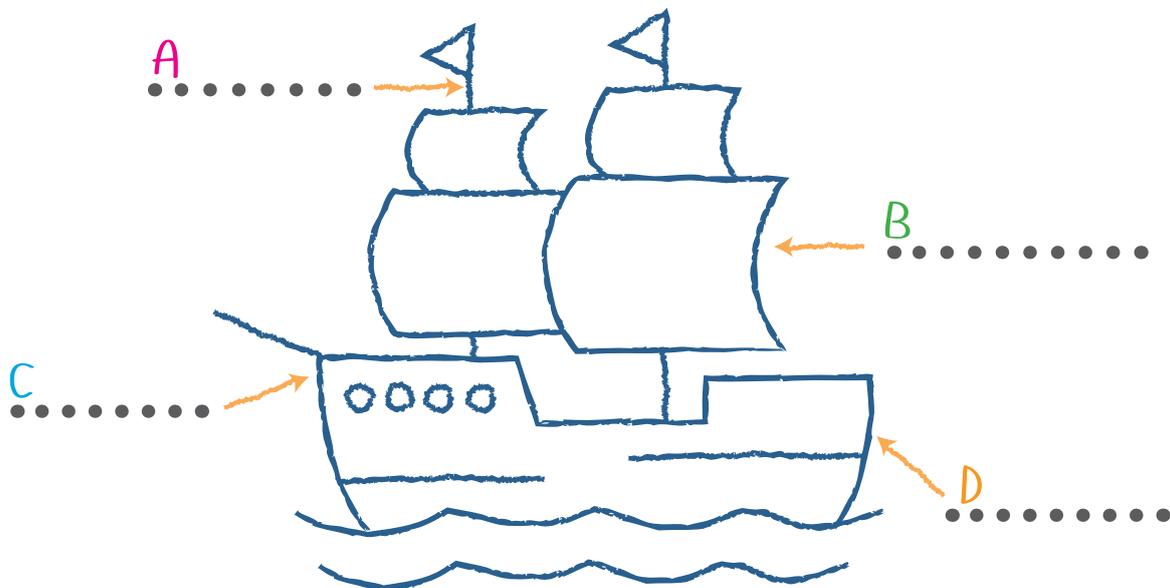
Around the coast of Britain there are records of over 40,000 ships sinking, but only some of these have actually been found on the sea bed. There are also likely to be a lot more shipwrecks that we don't have a record of, so the real number could be much higher!

The most famous shipwreck of all is probably the Titanic. In 1912, it was sailing from England to New York when it hit an iceberg and sank.

Can you name any other shipwrecks?

.....

Can you name the parts of the ship?



Answers: A - Mast, B - Sail, C - Bow, D - Stern

Underwater Landscapes

Before the end of the last ice age, sea levels were much lower than they are today and you could have walked from Britain to mainland Europe across land. At this time, most of the country was covered in a huge ice sheet. The English Channel was a big area of low-lying ground with rivers running through it. Animals such as woolly mammoths and wolves used to live there alongside humans.

Then, about 10,000 years ago, the ice began to melt. This made sea levels rise and the ancient valleys such as the English Channel were covered over with sea water.

Just like shipwrecks, these sunken landscapes hold clues to the people and animals that lived there when it was still dry land. We can find the remains of plants and animals as well as things made by humans, like stone tools, that they left behind.

Sea level change has been happening for all of history, and is still happening today, so it's not just the really ancient landscapes that end up under the water. There are lots of places around the world that might be underwater in 100 years!

All of these things have been found in underwater landscapes. Can you guess what they are?



A

B

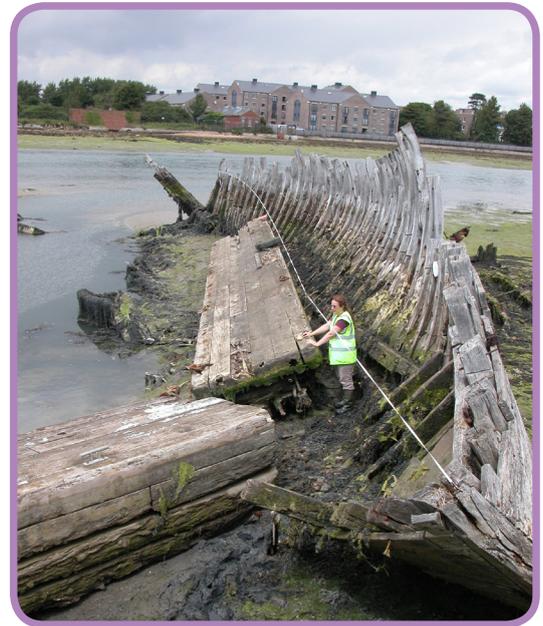
C

Answers: A - The oldest piece of string yet found in the UK, B - Stone Tool, C - Hazelnuts

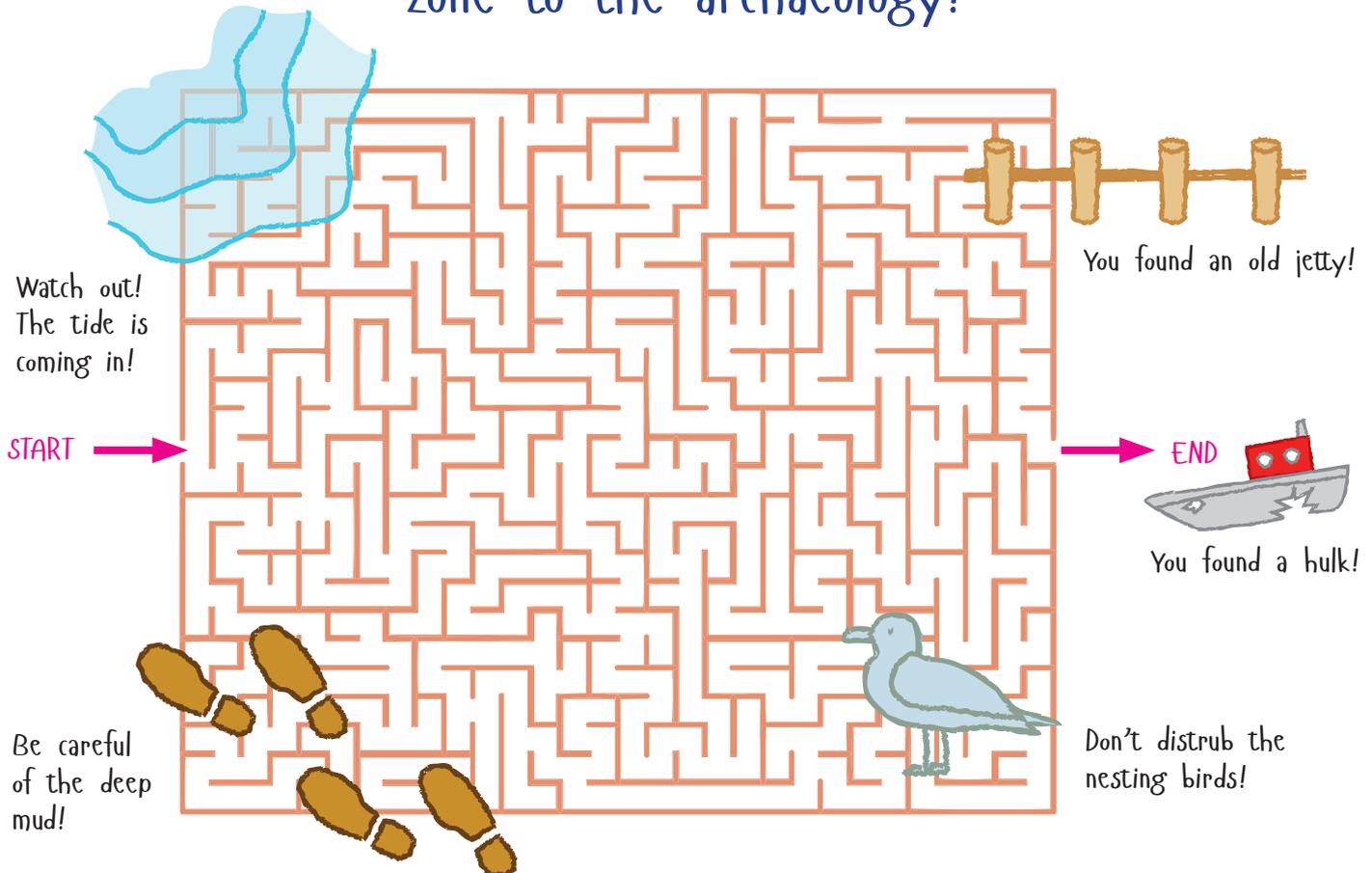
The Intertidal Zone

Maritime archaeology isn't just about the stuff under the water. Maritime archaeologists also study the intertidal zone. This is the area between the land and the sea, like beaches and mud flats.

You don't have to wear SCUBA gear to get to these places, but there are other things to watch out for, like tides and sinking in the mud. The intertidal zone is also home to lots of wildlife, and some areas may be protected so people don't disturb the animals' homes.



Try and find your way through the intertidal zone to the archaeology!



FAQs



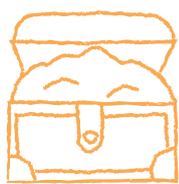
What happens if you run out of air underwater?

This is not likely to happen as divers go through lots of training to make sure they stay safe under the water. They also always dive with another person who can help get them out of trouble.



Have you ever seen a shark?

Yes, but not while working around England as most sharks like warmer waters.



Have you ever found treasure?

Yes! Anything we find that was made by people in the past is treasure, from the smallest piece of wood to a whole ship! These are all very special as they help us understand more about the people of the past.

How do you write and draw underwater?

We use normal pencils and a plastic-like paper (a bit like tracing paper) called permatrace. The paper is taped to a plastic board and the pencil is tied to it as well to make sure nothing floats away!



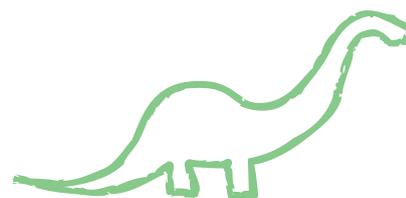
Have you ever found a body?

Sometimes archaeologists do find human bodies, usually in the form of bones. It would be quite unusual to find a whole body.

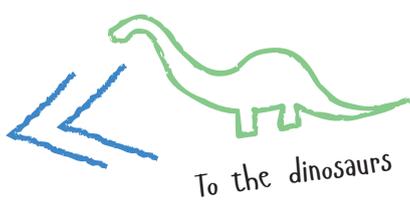


Have you ever found a dinosaur?

No, archaeologists study human history, and when dinosaurs roamed the earth there were no people. We leave the dinosaurs to our friends the palaeontologists.

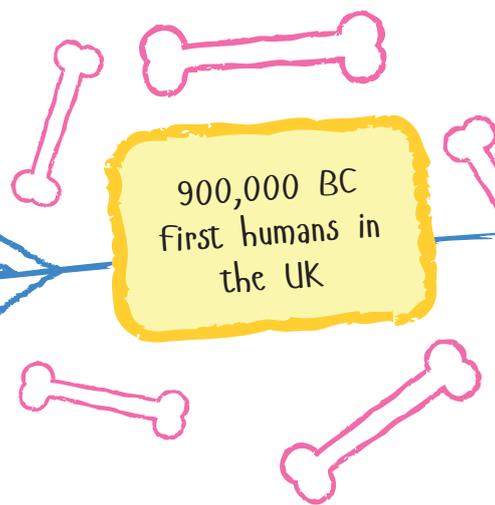


Maritime Timeline



Palaeolithic
Earliest humans to
8500 BC

900,000 BC
First humans in
the UK

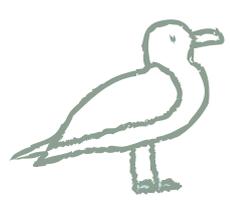


55 BC
Julius Caesar tries to
invade Britain, but
many of his ships
were wrecked

Iron Age
800 BC to
43 AD

Romans
43 AD to
410 AD

Saxons
410 AD to
1066 AD

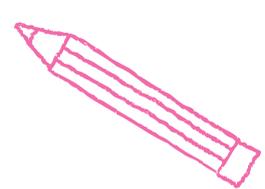


**Georgians and
Victorians**
1714 - 1901 AD

Stuarts
1603 AD to
1713 AD

1912 AD
The Titanic
sinks

War War I
1914 AD to
1918 AD



Mesolithic

8500 BC to
4000 BC

5000 - 6000 BC
Sea levels rise and
the Isle of Wight
becomes an island

Neolithic

4000 BC to
2400 BC

2000 BC
'Sea Henge' built
off the coast of
Norfolk

Bronze Age

2400 BC to
800 BC

787 AD
Viking raids on
Britain begin

Normans and Tudors

1066 AD to
1603 AD

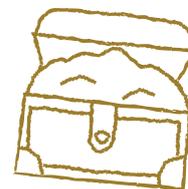
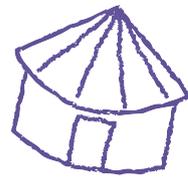
1545 AD
The Mary Rose,
Henry VIII's
flagship, sinks.

World War II

1939 AD to
1945 AD

1946 AD
SCUBA diving
equipment invented

Today





What is maritime archaeology?

What's it like to work under water?



Why do we find cow bones under the sea?



How many ships have sunk around the UK?

find out inside!



www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org