

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY



Archaeology is the study of the past through objects that people have left behind, these objects may also be called **artifacts**. Some archaeologists study artifacts found under the water. These archaeologists can be called underwater archaeologists or **maritime** archaeologists. Under the water, archaeologists can find **shipwrecks** and other items that have left behind by the changing of the **sea level**. The sea level or **shoreline**, the line where the sea meets the land, has moved over the years due to the rising and lowering of the sea.

When archaeologists are working on a site, this is called **fieldwork**. Fieldwork can even be done underwater! Under the water, archaeologists must use diving equipment to help them breathe. A **diver** is someone who uses scuba equipment underwater. Instead of using a shovel to help them dig, they use a tool that is like a vacuum to help them slowly remove the dirt, this tool is called a dredge. The process of digging an artifact out is called an **excavation**.

Archaeologists start with a **survey**, which is a search for archaeological sites. This starts with creating a grid, and making detailed sketches so they know exactly where everything comes from. They even make these drawings under the water!

Things that are under the water will have a different rate of decay, than things that are on land. **Decay** means that something rots and eventually turns back into dirt. The rate of decay can vary by many factors including the movement of the water. Metal ships may seem very strong, but even underwater they undergo corrosion. **Corrosion** is when the water causes a reaction in the metal causing it to start to break down.

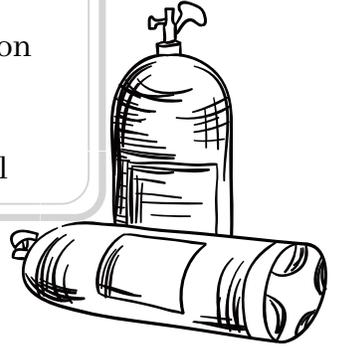




UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY WORDSEARCH



- Archaeology
- Maritime
- Shoreline
- Diver
- Shipwreck
- Survey
- Artifact
- Corrosion
- Fieldwork
- Excavation
- Decay
- Sea Level



Did you know?

What is an excavation?

The process of digging out an artifact is called an **excavation**. Archaeologists must excavate very carefully to avoid damaging an artifact.

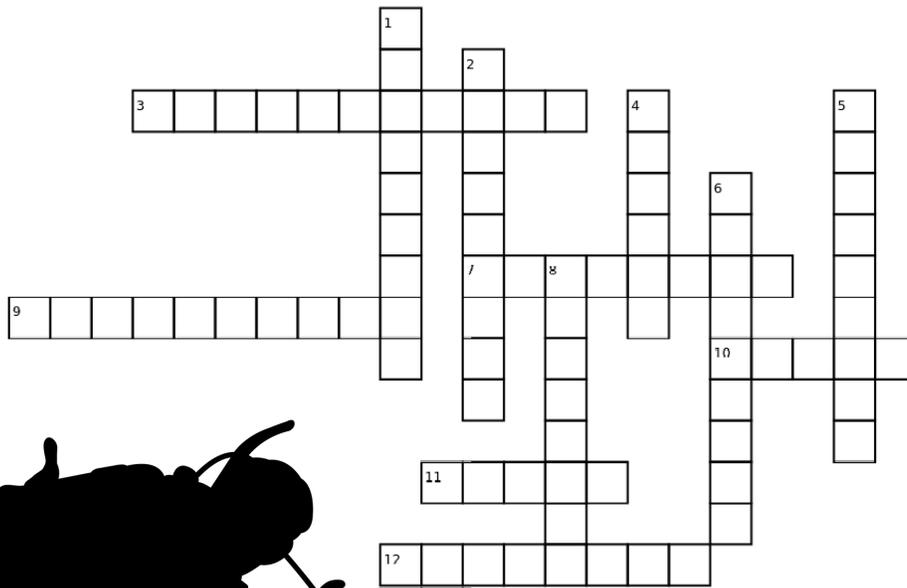
What is corrosion?

When metal is exposed to water it can undergo a reaction, which causes it to break down. You may have seen an old pipe get rusty. Rust is a form of **corrosion**.

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY CROSSWORD

Key Terms

Archaeology
Maritime
Shoreline
Diver
Shipwreck
Survey
Artifact
Corrosion
Fieldwork
Excavation
Decay
Sea Level



Down

1. The line along which a large body of water meets the land.
2. The process of corroding metal, stone, or other materials.
4. A type of field research by which archaeologists search for archaeological sites.
5. The destruction of a ship at sea by sinking or breaking up, e.g., in a storm or after running aground.
6. Practical work conducted by a researcher in the natural environment, rather than in a laboratory or office.
8. An object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest.

Across

3. The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artifacts and other physical remains.
7. The level of the sea's surface
9. The action of excavating something, especially an archaeological site.
10. A person who wears a diving suit to work under water.
11. Decompose through the action of bacteria and fungi.
12. Of or relating to sailing on the sea or doing business by sea.

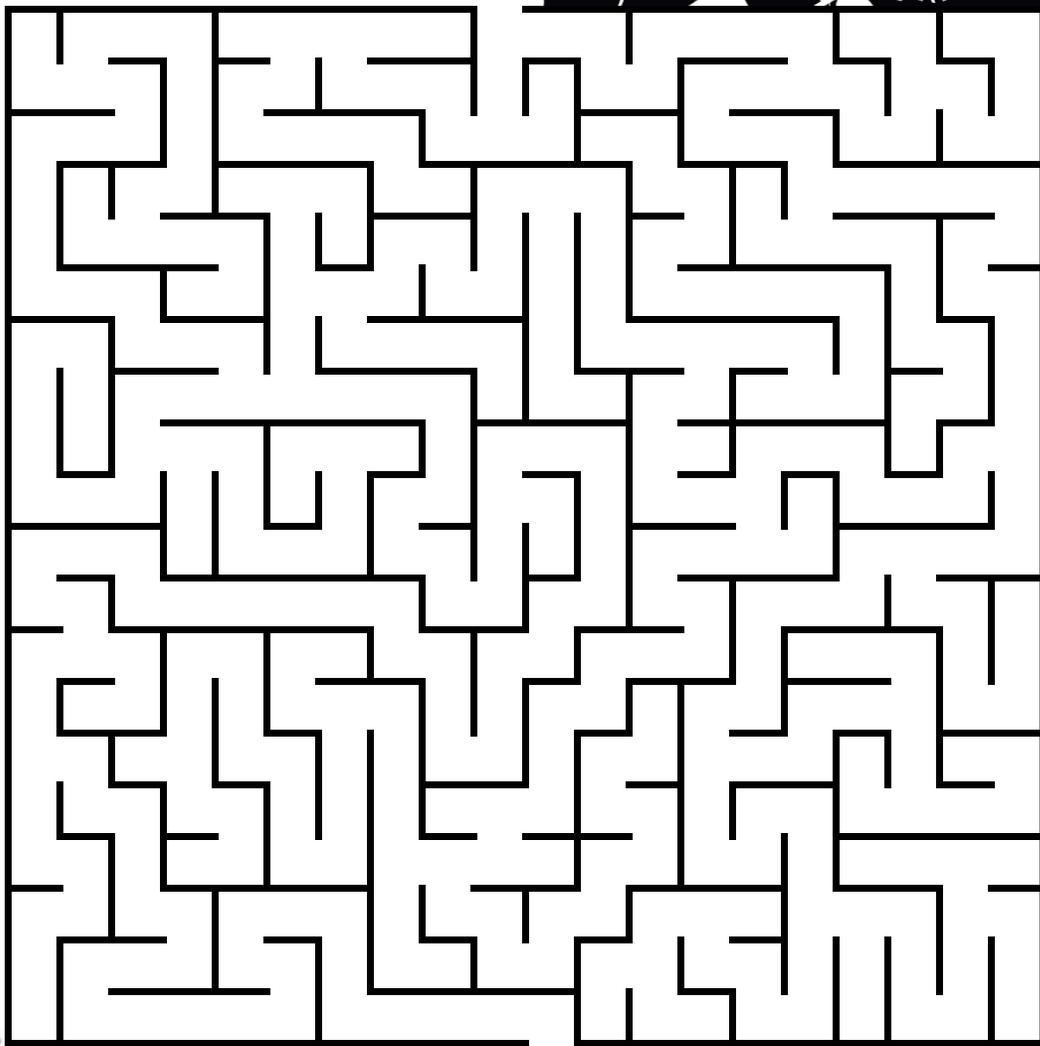


Underwater archaeology Maze

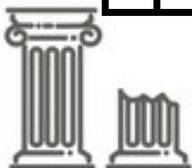
Help the archaeologist reach the artifacts



Start



Finish



An artifact is an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest

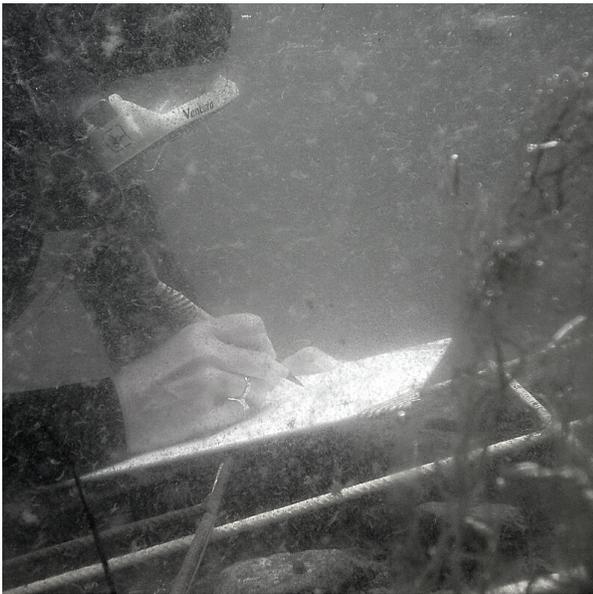


UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGIST



Did you know?

When an archeologist finds something, they create a grid. A grid helps the archeologists to break the ground into many squares. this helps them keep track of where everything came from.



(photo property of Viv hamilton)

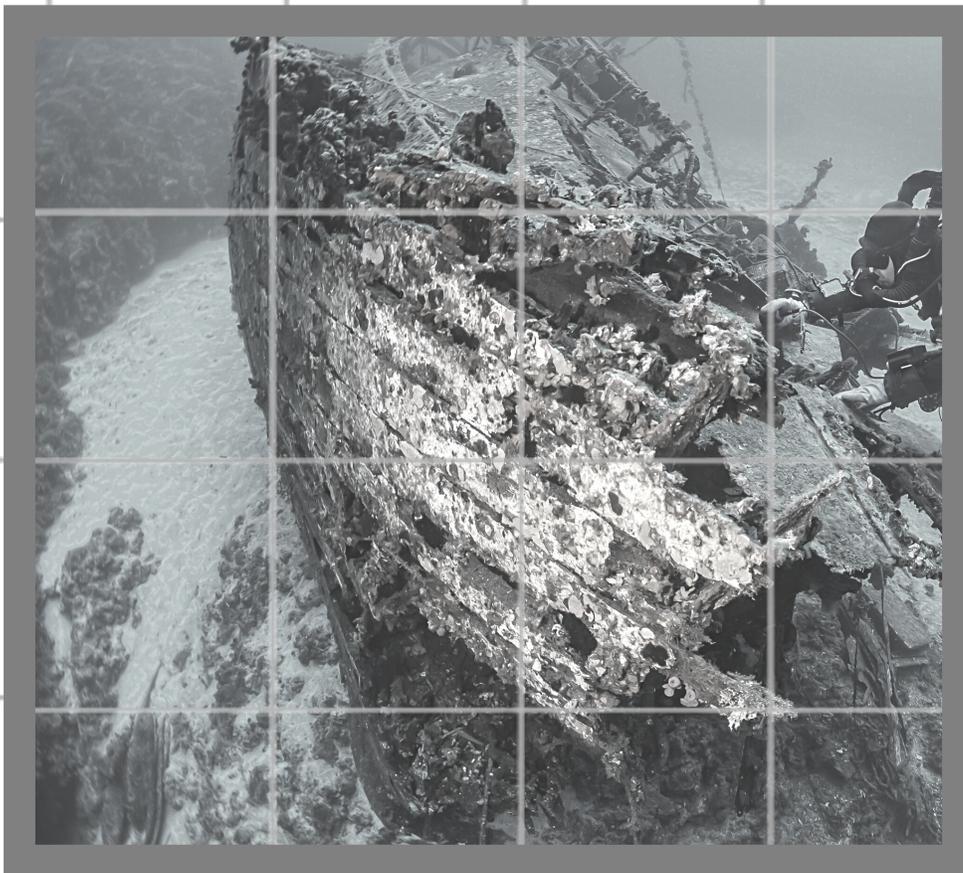
A archeologist must then draw what they see. This is called mapping.

NOW YOU ARE THE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGIST

You have come across a shipwreck! Create a map of the ship or the artifacts you found on the following pages. Then use your imagination to make a guess about who the ship belonged to.

You may also try this activity with any photo you have by using a ruler and creating a grid on the photo.





Draw the image in your grid

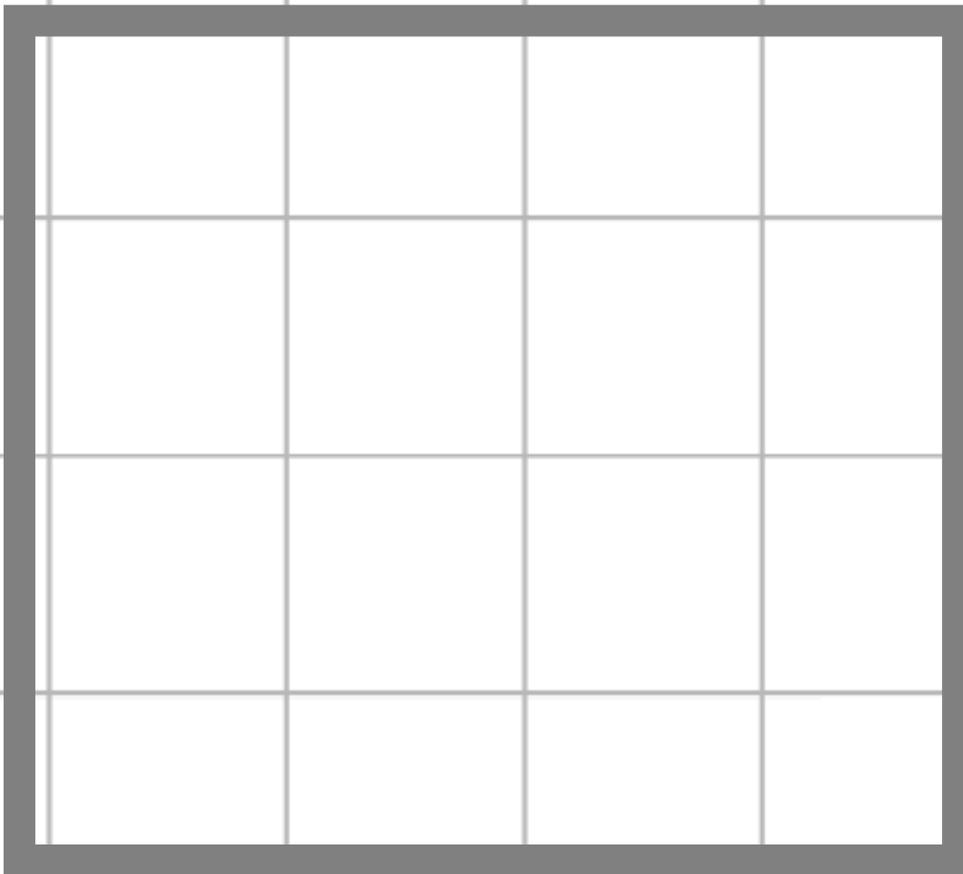
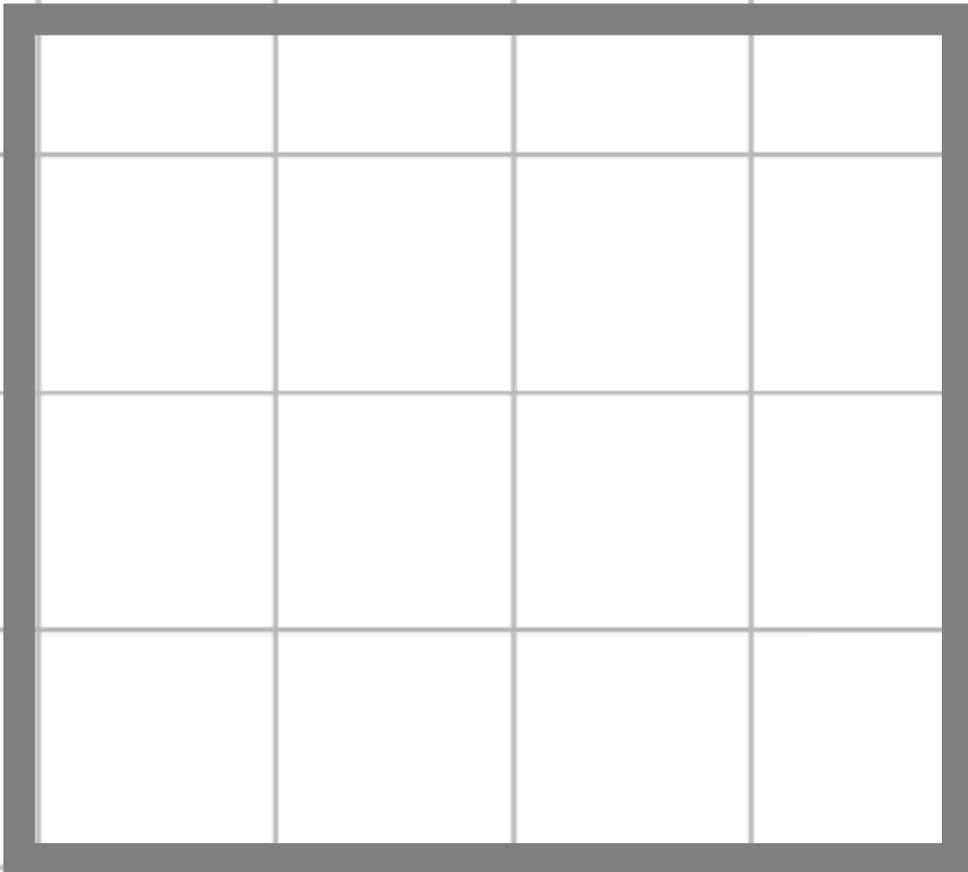




Photo property of Sallko

Draw the image in your grid



**Use the clues in the image to help
interpret the site.**

Who do you think sailed this vessel?

Where do you think they were going?

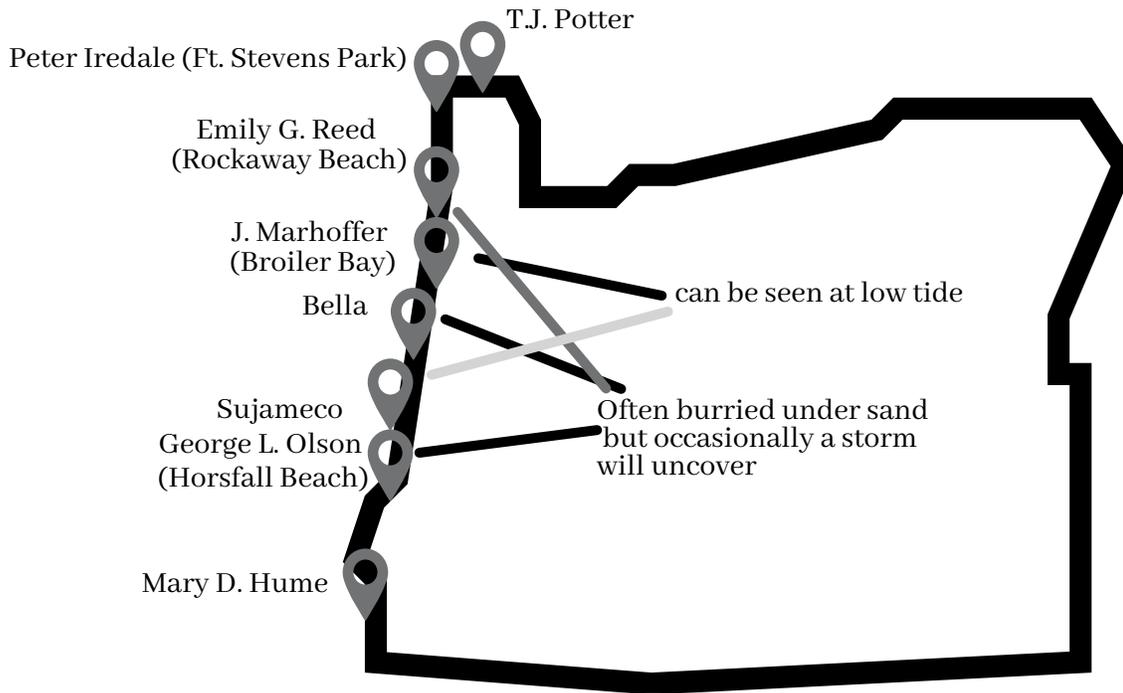
Why do you think were they sailing?

What other clues can you interpret from the image?

Visit a shipwreck!

There are places you can go right here in Oregon if you want to see a shipwreck up close!

Some of these shipwrecks, or abandoned ships can be seen year round, while others are only available at low tide or under certain conditions, so be sure to do further research before heading out to see them.



Where can I learn more?

Maritime Archaeological Society

<https://maritimearchaeological.org/>

The Columbia River Maritime Museum is a great resource. In Summer 2021 they will be having a shipwreck exhibit!

<https://www.cmmm.org/>

Answer Key

