



Vocabulary

Archaeologist- person who studies archaeology. *People who love history and being outdoors would make good **archaeologists**.*

Archaeology- the study of artifacts in order to learn about people and cultures of the past. *The **archaeology** project revealed great amounts of new information about the Aztecs.*

Artifacts- material culture, or objects, that have remained in existence over time and were used by people in the past. *Any **artifacts** found on the shipwreck would be conserved and put into a museum.*

***Baseline**- a line serving as a basis; *especially* : one of known measure or position used (as in surveying or navigation) to calculate or locate something. *The divers used the **baseline** to take all of their measurements from during the recording phase.*

Buoyancy Compensator- the part of a scuba diver's equipment that holds the tank on the diver's back. It can be inflated to act as a flotation device and often has compartments and clips with which to hold additional equipment. *The diver hooked up her tank to her **buoyancy compensator** and tested to make sure it was working correctly before getting in the water.*

Ceramic- clay that has been shaped and then heated to a high enough temperature to harden it. *The **ceramics** found on the shipwreck helped to identify when the ship would have sailed.*

Concretion- rock-like formation that forms over inorganic materials submerged for long periods of time, most commonly found on metallic objects. *Some of the artifacts were hard to spot underwater because they were covered with **concretions**.*

***Conservation**- planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect. *As soon as artifacts were brought out of the water, the **conservation** process began so that they could be preserved forever.*

Depth-vertical distance under water. *The shipwreck was at a **depth** of 600 feet, too deep for the archaeologists to dive safely.*

Disintegrate- to break or decompose into constituent elements, parts, or small particles. *After many decades underwater, most of the wood used to construct the ship began to **disintegrate**.*

Galley- a ship's kitchen. *The ship's cook spent most of his time working in the **galley**.*

Looting- taking something from an archaeological site without permission. *Guards had to work around the clock to stop the **looting** of the valuable finds.*

***Magnetometer**- an instrument used to detect the presence of a metallic object or to measure the intensity of a [magnetic](#) field. *A large spike from the **magnetometer** let the archaeologists know that there was something made of iron under the water.*

Maritime- of or having to do with the sea. ***Maritime** topics can include anything from ships to navigation to trade.*



Material culture- physical remains of a society. *By examining the **material culture** left by the ancient civilization, new conclusions were made as to their way of life.*

Mylar-paper used under water for recording, made of a plastic material. *The first thing the archaeologist did was put his name on the sheet of **Mylar**, and then he took his measurements and began to draw.*

Naval- having to do with a navy. ***Naval** historians love to tell stories of major battles that took place on the sea.*

***Pier**- a structure (as a breakwater) extending into navigable water for use as a landing place or promenade or to protect or form a harbor. *The ship docked along the **pier** to unload its cargo.*

Recording-drawing done under water of the archaeological site and artifacts. *The archaeologists spent two weeks **recording** the shipwreck.*

Salinity- the percentage of salt found in a body of water. *The **salinity** of the open ocean is higher than the salinity found where a fresh-water river pours into the ocean.*

***Scale**- an indication of the relationship between the distances on a map and the corresponding actual distances. *The **scale** on the map showed that one inch on the map equaled ten feet in real life.*

SCUBA- Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus. *The maritime archaeologists used **SCUBA** to dive down onto the shipwreck.*

Settlement- a place or region that has recently become inhabited by humans. *The colonists worked hard to build their new **settlement** before winter started.*

***Side scan Sonar**- sonar that scans the ocean floor to the side of a ship's track and is used especially for mapping the ocean bottom. *The **side-scan sonar** was able to pick up the shape of the shipwreck on the ocean floor and then the archaeologists were able to dive down to the wreck knowing exactly where it was.*

Site- the area in which archaeological work is done. *The **site** was in a secluded area, away from the curious public*

Treasure Hunting- seeking out material culture for the sole purpose of profit. ***Treasure hunting** is the number one obstacle archaeologists face because important sites can be destroyed by careless people looking for treasure.*

Trilateration- a method of taking measurements in which the distance the point in question is measured from at least two known points along the baseline. *The archaeologist used **trilateration** to measure the artifact, taking measurements from the 10-foot mark and 20-foot mark along the baseline.*

Visibility- the extent to which a scuba diver can see underwater; the distance of un-obscured vision. ***Visibility** in the murky water was limited, only about six inches.*