

Ocean explorers film world's deepest shipwreck

6th April, 2021



An American ocean exploration team has filmed the world's deepest known shipwreck for the first time. The ship is a World War II US Navy battleship called the USS Johnston.

It was sunk by the Japanese Navy on October the 25th, 1944 during the Battle of Samar in the Philippine Sea. The wreck now sits on the ocean floor at a depth of around 6,456 metres. The film crew managed to go down to that incredible depth and darkness and map and film the whole shipwreck. They filmed the ship from a specially built submersible that can deal with the pressure of the deep ocean. They discovered it was about 30 metres deeper than previously thought. The filming took place during two eight-hour dives.

The explorers are from a company called Caladan Oceanic. Its founder is Victor Vescovo, a former US Navy commander. He has a passion for adventure and for visiting some of the world's hardest-to-get-to places. He holds the record for being the first person ever to get to the top of all the world's continents, both poles, and the bottom of all the world's oceans. Mr Vescovo said the mission to film the USS Johnston was a personal one because that ship and his submersible were made in the same shipyard and both served in the US Navy. He said: "As a US Navy officer, I'm proud to have helped bring clarity and closure to the Johnston, its crew, and the families of those who died on it."

Sources: cnn.com / theguardian.com / navytimes.com

Writing

Everybody should learn to scuba dive. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

exploration / shipwreck / battleship / ocean / depth / darkness / pressure / filming / company / record / passion / continents / poles / mission / shipyard / clarity / crew

True / False

- a) The shipwreck in the article is from the 18th century. T / F
- b) The shipwreck in the article was sunk by the Japanese Navy. T / F
- c) The shipwreck is over 6,000 metres deep. T / F
- d) The shipwreck was 300 metres deeper than people thought. T / F
- e) The exploration team leader is an-ex soldier. T / F
- f) The exploration team leader has been to the North and South Pole. T / F
- g) The exploration team leader served in the US Navy. T / F
- h) The exploration team leader is proud of his mission. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. filmed | a. found |
| 2. called | b. handle |
| 3. incredible | c. worked |
| 4. deal with | d. recorded |
| 5. discovered | e. love |
| 6. former | f. built |
| 7. passion | g. named |
| 8. made | h. ex- |
| 9. served | i. perished |
| 10. died | j. amazing |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you have a passion for?
- c) What big adventures would you like to go on?
- d) Would you like to copy the adventures Mr Vescovo went on?
- e) Would you like to be a sailor?
- f) Would you rather go to the top of a mountain or the bottom of a sea?
- g) Should the battleship be put in a museum?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the explorers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. It was sunk | a. for adventure |
| 2. The wreck now sits | b. than previously thought |
| 3. deal with the | c. and closure |
| 4. it was about 30 metres deeper | d. on the ocean floor |
| 5. two eight- | e. pressure |
| 6. He has a passion | f. world's continents |
| 7. visiting some of the world's hardest- | g. shipyard |
| 8. get to the top of all the | h. hour dives |
| 9. made in the same | i. to-get-to places |
| 10. helped bring clarity | j. by the Japanese Navy |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of ocean exploration?
- What do you know about World War II?
- What do you know about battleships?
- How important is it to film the battleship?
- What might the film tell us about history?
- Would you like to explore the world's oceans?
- What is life like 6,000 metres below the surface of the sea?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?

Spelling

- An American ocean earploitnox team
- a World War II US Navy hettlaisbp
- The wreck now sits on the nacoe floor
- down to that bencilidir depth
- the resupres of the deep
- 30 metres deeper than srvueplioy thought
- a rofmer US Navy commander
- He has a saopnis for adventure
- all the world's nttnocinse
- a eonalspr one
- I'm orpdfu to have helped
- bring yritacl and closure

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. h	7. e	8. f	9. c	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Deep-sea Diving

You think deep-sea diving is the greatest adventure. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their adventures. Also, tell the others which is the least adventurous of these (and why): climbing Mt Everest, camping in the Amazon or a trip into space.

Role B – Climbing Mt Everest

You think climbing Mt Everest is the greatest adventure. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their adventures. Also, tell the others which is the least adventurous of these (and why): deep-sea diving, camping in the Amazon or a trip into space.

Role C – Camping in the Amazon

You think camping in the Amazon is the greatest adventure. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their adventures. Also, tell the others which is the least adventurous of these (and why): climbing Mt Everest, deep-sea diving or a trip into space.

Role D – A Trip into Space

You think a trip into space is the greatest adventure. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their adventures. Also, tell the others which is the least adventurous of these (and why): climbing Mt Everest, camping in the Amazon or deep-sea diving.

Speaking – Adventures

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Deep-sea diving
- Bungee jumping
- White-water rafting
- Climbing Mt Everest
- Going to the South Pole
- Camping in the Amazon
- Skydiving
- A trip into space

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.