

## US explorer reaches the deepest place in the ocean

### Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

Match the human achievements with the years.

1911

1927

1953

1969

1. Hillary and Tensing became the first people to climb Mount Everest.
2. Apollo 11 made the first moon landing.
3. Charles Lindbergh made the first flight across the Atlantic Ocean.
4. Roald Amundsen and four others were the first people to reach the South Pole.

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

submarine

creature

sea bed

pressure

average

explorer

1. In maths, you get an \_\_\_\_\_ measurement when you add a group of numbers together and divide the total by the amount of numbers. (para 1)
2. An \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who travels to a place that other people do not know much about to find out what is there. (para 2)
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a ship that can travel under water. (para 2)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the ground at the bottom of the sea. (para 2)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the amount of force that a gas or liquid produces. (para 3)
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is anything that lives except plants. (para 3)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. Where is the Mariana Trench?
2. How long is the Mariana Trench?
3. How deep is its deepest point?
4. When was the first dive to the bottom of the Mariana Trench?
5. What is the body of the submarine made of?
6. How long was Victor Vescovo's trip to the bottom of the ocean?

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6 June, 2019

- The Mariana Trench is the deepest place in the ocean. It is located in the Pacific Ocean around 2,200 kilometres east of the Philippines and is over 2,500 kilometres long. That is five times longer than the Grand Canyon. But it is not very wide. On average, it is around 70 kilometres wide. Its deepest point is nearly 11,000 metres deep. That is over 2,100 metres higher than Mount Everest.
- The first dive to the bottom of the Mariana Trench was in 1960, when an American, Don Walsh, and a Swiss, Jacques Piccard, went down 10,916 metres. In 2012, the Canadian film-maker James Cameron made a solo dive to the bottom of the Mariana Trench. He went down 10,908 metres. Now, another American, explorer Victor Vescovo, has broken the record. Instruments in his submarine measured the depth on the sea bed at 10,927 metres.
- The body of Vescovo's submarine is made of titanium, a very strong metal that you use to make jet planes. The body is 9 cm thick because the pressure at 11,000 metres is more than 1,000 times the pressure at sea level. At the bottom of the Mariana Trench, everything is completely black and the water temperature is only 1 to 4 degrees Celsius. The submarine has cameras and powerful lights, so Vescovo was able to film the sea bed. During the four-hour trip to the bottom of the ocean, he filmed some interesting sea creatures that live in the cold and dark. Sadly, he also filmed some plastic waste.
- Vescovo enjoys adventures. He has been to the deepest place on Earth. He has also climbed the highest mountain on each of the world's seven continents, including Everest (8,848 metres), Aconcagua (6,961 metres) and Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres).

#### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. The Mariana Trench is almost 11,000 metres deep, which ...     | a. ... the pressure at 11,000 metres is more than 1,000 times the pressure at sea level. |
| 2. The Mariana Trench is more than 2,500 kilometres long, but ... | b. ... some plastic waste on the sea bed.  |
| 3. Victor Vescovo's submarine has to be very strong because ...   | c. ... the highest mountain on each continent.   |
| 4. Vescovo was able to film on the sea bed because ...            | d. ... is over 2,100 metres more than the height of Mount Everest.                       |
| 5. Sadly, there was ...   | e. ... his submarine has cameras and powerful lights.                                    |
| 6. Vescovo has climbed ...  | f. ... on average, it is only about 70 kilometres wide.                                  |

#### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

- metres nearly thousand deep eleven
- degrees only four one Celsius to
- five over two long kilometres hundred thousand
- place the the ocean in deepest

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#### 6 Two-word expressions

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. sea      | a. waste       |
| 2. plastic  | b. lights      |
| 3. water    | c. level       |
| 4. powerful | d. temperature |

#### 7 How high is it?

a. Complete the following sentences. For questions 1–3, write about things in your school or in your country. For question 4, write about yourself.

- \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ centimetres/metres high.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ centimetres/metres wide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ centimetres/metres deep.
- I'm \_\_\_\_\_ centimetres tall.

b. Who is the tallest person in your class? And in your family?

#### 8 Discussion

- Would you like to go down in a submarine to nearly 11,000 metres? Why? Why not?

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#### KEY

#### 1 Warmer

1. 1953
2. 1969
3. 1927
4. 1911

#### 2 Key words

5. average
6. explorer
7. submarine
8. sea bed
9. pressure
10. creature

#### 3 Find the information

1. in the Pacific Ocean (about 2,200 km east of the Philippines)
2. over 2,500 kilometres
3. nearly 11,000 metres
4. 1960
5. titanium
6. four hours

#### 4 Comprehension check

7. d
8. f
9. a
10. e
11. b
12. c

#### 5 Chunks

13. nearly eleven thousand metres deep
14. only one to four degrees Celsius
15. over two thousand five hundred kilometres long
16. the deepest place in the ocean

#### 6 Two-word expressions

17. c
18. a
19. d
20. b