Deep Sea Explorers

For years, people have been amazed by the mysterious oceans of the world. Read on to find out about three people who wanted to explore the deep sea.

Jacques Cousteau

Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born in France on the 11th June 1910. He was a famous **oceanographer**.

Jacques had to leave the French naval academy because he had an accident and broke both of his arms. To help his arms to heal, Jacques swam in the Mediterranean Sea every day. His friend gave him a pair of swimming goggles so that he could see under the water. Lots of people think that this is when Jacques first became interested in the ocean.

Jacques liked the mystery of the ocean. He liked finding things that nobody had seen before and he wanted to show his discoveries to other people. Jacques did this by publishing a number of books and films which showed his explorations. In the 1940s, Jacques helped to improve the design of the aqualung. This was similar to the equipment which is used by divers today.

In 1985, Jacques was given an important award called the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the US president.

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Sylvia Earle

Sylvia Alice Earle was born in New Jersey, USA, on the 30th August 1935. She is a famous **marine biologist**.

Sylvia has written lots of books and has taken part in many talks and documentaries about marine wildlife. She encourages people to think about the effects that too much fishing has on the world's oceans.

In 1998, a popular magazine awarded Sylvia with the title of Hero for the Planet. A year later, she became an explorer in residence for a worldwide company; a job title that she still holds today.

Sylvia has started an organisation which aims to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. The plan is to do this by making areas called 'hope spots'. This is where marine wildlife is protected. By 2018, 94 hope spots had already been created around the world.

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Robert Ballard

Robert Duane Ballard was born on the 30th June 1942 in the USA. He is a retired United States navy officer. In addition, he is a marine **archaeologist** and he finds lost shipwrecks.

In 1985, Robert found the missing remains of the RMS Titanic at the bottom of the ocean. Before finding the RMS Titanic, Robert had been asked to look for two lost submarines. With his team, he found the two submarines on the sea floor.

The submarines had broken apart in the deep sea and Robert used the way that they had broken to help him to find the remains of the RMS Titanic.

Most recently, Robert has decided that he is going to search for the remains of Amelia Earhart's plane. She was a pilot who mysteriously disappeared while trying to fly around the world.

Glossary

archaeologist: A person who studies human history by looking at artefacts and remains.
biologist: A scientist who studies living things.
marine: Something that is related to or found in the sea.
oceanographer: A scientist who studies anything relating to the ocean.

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Questions

1. Who started an organisation? Tick one.

   - ○ Jacques Cousteau
   - ○ Sylvia Earle
   - ○ Robert Ballard
   - ○ Amelia Earhart

2. Match the events to the year in which they occurred.

Jacques Cousteau was born.	1910
Sylvia Earle was awarded the title of Hero for the Planet.	1940s
Jacques Cousteau improved the design of the aqualung.	1942
Robert Ballard was born.	1998

3. What has Robert Ballard most recently decided to search for? Tick one.

   - ○ the RMS Titanic
   - ○ a missing navy ship
   - ○ Amelia Earhart's plane
   - ○ two submarines

4. Look at the section on **Sylvia Earle**.
   Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they occurred. One of them has been done for you.

   - [ ] A popular magazine awarded Sylvia with a new title.
   - [ ] 94 hope spots had been created around the world.
   - [ ] Sylvia was born.
   - [3] Sylvia became an explorer in residence.

5. Why did Jacques Cousteau have to leave the French naval academy?

   _____

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6. Look at the section on **Robert Ballard**.
   Find and copy one word which shows that nobody knew where the remains of the RMS Titanic were.

   _____

7. Would you like to be a deep sea explorer? Explain your answer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

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