

Shipwreck Mapping

Pre-Activity

Arti-FACTS

There are two different types of suits SCUBA divers wear: wetsuits and drysuits. Wetsuits keep an insulated layer of water between your body and the suit. Drysuits, just like their name, keep divers dry. Body heat heats up the layer of air between the diver and the suit keeping the diver nice and warm in the cold waters of Thunder Bay.

Activity

In this activity, you will prepare yourself to map a shipwreck like a real underwater archaeologist by practicing on a smaller scale version of a shipwreck first. You will need to practice recording important observations, noticing key features of a shipwreck, and taking accurate right angle measurements in order to successfully create a scaled drawing of a shipwreck.

Materials

- Ruler
- Log Sheet
- Shipwreck Layout Diagram
- Shipwreck Layout Graph Paper
- Great Lakes Schooner Site Plan
- Sanctuary Vocabulary

Vessel Vocab

Baseline – The main line used as a base of measurement, from which a site's features are measured in an archaeological site plan.

Maritime Archaeology – A discipline that studies human interaction with the sea, lakes and rivers through the study of vessels, shore side facilities, cargoes, and human remains.

Photo Mosaic – A composite image formed from many small pictures taken of a vessel, which are then stitched together using a computer to create one large picture.

Site Plan – A scaled drawing of a shipwreck and its artifacts as it lays on the bottom of the sea or lake.

Crew Commands

1. First, take a look at the overall appearance of the Shipwreck Layout Diagram. Sketch the outline of the shipwreck and the key features you notice on board the shipwreck onto your Log Sheet. Mark anything that will help you remember what the wreck looks like, as you will be graphing the wreck later without the use of the Shipwreck Layout Diagram.
2. Using a ruler, take measurements along the baseline of the Shipwreck Layout Diagram (the line running down the middle with the letters). At each letter along the baseline, measure the distance to the number that is at a right angle directly above or below the letter along the outer hull.
3. Fill in the information on your Log Sheet with your measurements. (Example: Baseline Mark=A1, Measurement=0 inches, Ship Part= Bow)
- Look over your Great Lakes Schooner Site Plan and your Sanctuary Vocabulary to help you with parts of the ship.
4. Once you have finished taking your measurements, recording observations, and sketching the shipwreck, turn your Shipwreck Layout Diagram in to your teacher.
5. Now, looking only at your Log Sheet for your information, recreate a scaled drawing of the shipwreck on your graph paper. Plot points for the measurements you took, and then--just connect the dots! You may work individually or with a partner. Be sure to include the key features of the shipwreck as well as the shape of the outer hull.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have now completed mapping your very first shipwreck and drawn a site plan! Now that you are real maritime archaeologists, it is time to solve the mystery of an unidentified shipwreck that was found in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Put on your SCUBA gear and dive into adventure with the Shipwreck Mapping Activity!