



UNDER THE SEA

MENTAL FLOSS WORKSHEET

S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald

This lake freighter sank during a severe winter storm on November 10, 1975. One year later, folk singer Gordon Lightfoot memorialized the 29 men who lost their lives in his ballad "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." The song went to #2 on the *Billboard* charts.

RMS Titanic

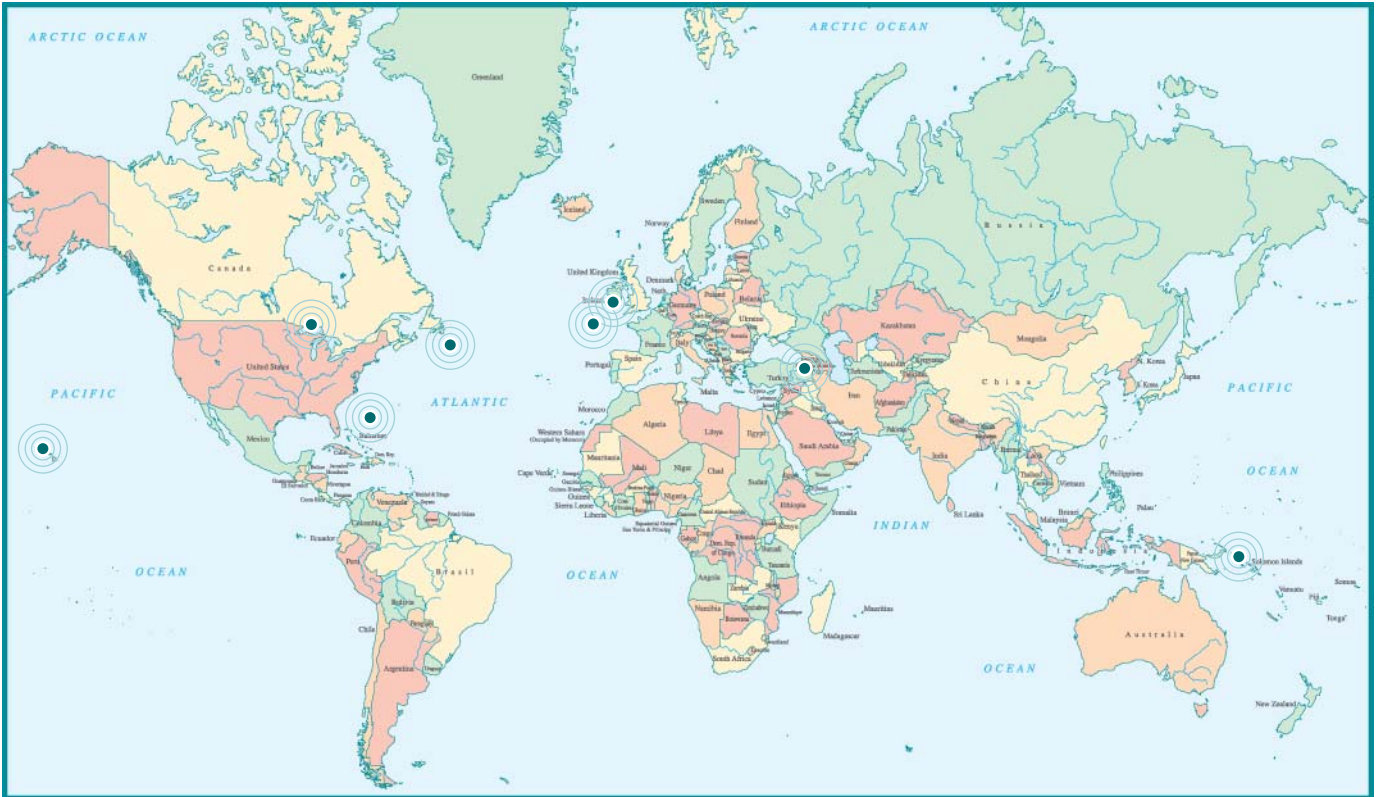
Four days into her maiden voyage, the *Titanic* struck an iceberg, sank, and became one of the worst peacetime maritime disasters ever. Interest in this catastrophe has remained high due to the discovery of her remains by oceanographer Robert Ballard in 1985, and 1997's *Titanic* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, the highest-grossing movie of all time.

U.S.S. Arizona

On December 7, 1941, a "date which will live in infamy," the *Arizona* was attacked by Japanese aircraft and sank in port. The battleship continues to leak oil into Pearl Harbor at the rate of 1 quart a day; survivors of the tragedy say that she will continue to leak oil until the last survivor dies. In 1989, the battleship was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Noah's Ark

Two by two, explorers have combed the Middle East looking for Noah's Ark. According to the book of Genesis, the biblical vessel came to rest 4,300 years ago on Mount Ararat. Many believers in Creationism have searched the mountain for the remains of the ark to validate their beliefs, but their searches have turned up nothing.



PT-109

Commanded by Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, *PT-109* was split in two after being rammed by a Japanese destroyer on August 2, 1943. Kennedy led the 11 survivors to a nearby island where they lived on coconuts for six days until being rescued. The courageous survival of the crew was dramatized in the 1963 movie *PT-109*, and in a country song by Jimmy Dean that went to #8 on the charts.

Bismarck

After the HMS *Hood*, the pride of the British Royal Navy, was sunk by the Germans in World War II, Winston Churchill demanded retaliation with the famous order, "Sink the *Bismarck!*" Three days later, his wish came true after a relentless hunt by the Royal Navy. The dramatic chase was mythologized in the 1960 movie, *Sink the Bismarck!*, and in the country song of the same title by Johnny Horton.

Patriot

En route to New York City from Charleston, South Carolina in 1812, this privateer was never recovered. Theodosia Alston Burr, the daughter of Aaron Burr, was onboard when this ship mysteriously disappeared. Some say that pirates raided the ship and made all the passengers and crew walk the plank. Others say she was a victim of the Bermuda Triangle.

RMS Lusitania

Torpedoed by a German submarine in 1915, the *Lusitania* was a major factor in the United States' entry into World War I. The *Lusitania* was a British ocean liner carrying 1,257 passengers. 1,198 of those passengers lost their lives, including millionaire Alfred Vanderbilt.

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