



Seaside News

Monitor: A Civil War Ship

In late December, 1862, Monitor, an ironclad ship, was traveling to South Carolina when it ran into a fierce storm. The side-wheeled steamer Rhode Island, which was travelling with Monitor, started to tow the vessel because Monitor was having problems in the storm. But it became dangerous to keep towing the ship, and Rhode Island had to cut it loose otherwise both ships might sink. Monitor sank and today lays in 240 feet of water off Hatteras Island.

There were a lot of lives lost when the ship sank.

Artifacts that could teach people about the Civil War vessel could help people learn about the ship and that time in history. So, underwater archaeologists – trained people who study shipwrecks, dove down deep to check on the ship and saw that it was falling apart. They decided to dive down and bring up artifacts that could be teaching tools. The government turned the area where the ship is located into a protected marine sanctuary so no one can harm it or take the artifacts. People have to get permission to dive Monitor. Only trained expert divers can go down that deep.

1. What was the name of the ironclad that sank in late December of 1862?
2. How deep is the water where the ship sank?
3. Who studies shipwrecks?
4. What is a marine sanctuary?

1. Monitor
2. 240 feet
3. Underwater archaeologists
4. An area protected by the government that keeps the things found there safe.

Connect the Words

Monitor	Very old, human-made objects
Underwater Archaeologists	A sunken ship
Rhode Island	Something that causes harm
Teaching tools	People trained to study shipwrecks
Artifacts	Ironclad
Dangerous	Things we can use to learn
Shipwreck	Side-wheeled steamer

Joke of the Month

What do frogs like to drink at the beach?

Croak-a-cola!