

# Underwater Museums

Does searching for treasure sound exciting to you? Maybe you would like to be a shipwreck detective. Shipwreck detectives are called **marine archaeologists** (ar-kee-OL-uh-jists). They research, locate, and investigate shipwrecks all around the world. They study the remains of the wrecks to find out the stories behind the sunken ships.

A marine archaeologist explores a shipwreck.



The wreck of the *Bismarck*

Marine archaeologists use information from the past and modern technology (tek-NOL-uh-jee) to find the location of a shipwreck. Then they record it on a map.

Dr. Robert Ballard is a famous shipwreck detective. In 1989, Dr. Ballard discovered the wreck of the *Bismarck*, a famous German battleship. He believes there is more history in shipwrecks located on the ocean floor than in all the museums in the world!

## The *Bismarck*

The *Bismarck* was sunk in 1941, during World War II. More than 2,000 sailors died when the ship went down.





# Below the Surface

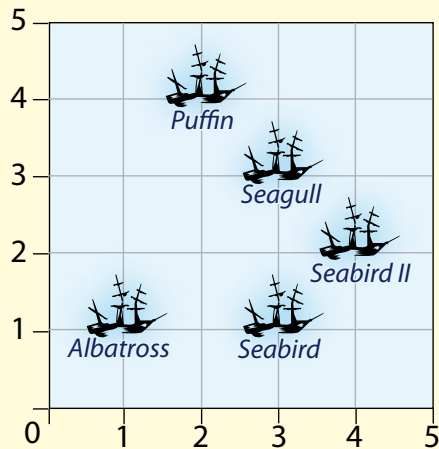
There are thousands of shipwrecks resting on the ocean floor. Many have been hidden deep in the ocean for hundreds of years. With modern technology, more shipwrecks are being discovered than ever before.

## LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Using a **coordinate** (koh-ORD-uh-nuht) **plane** is kind of like using a map. **Coordinates** are a good way of finding locations. They refer to the **intersection** (in-ter-SEK-shuhn) of lines on coordinate planes.

This coordinate plane shows the location of shipwrecks in the ocean. Use the following coordinates to find each shipwreck and write its name. *Hint:* Coordinates are always read across, then up or down.

- a. (1, 1)   c. (3, 3)   e. (4, 2)  
b. (2, 4)   d. (3, 1)



In the past, most ships were made of wood and could sink for many reasons. They might have caught fire or hit icebergs. They might have been caught in storms or attacked by pirates. They might have been sunk during wars. Today, marine archaeologists try to learn how and why ships went down.

## Ocean Protection

Marine archaeologists often examine wrecks underwater. Wrecks can **disintegrate** (dis-IN-tuh-grate) when they are taken out of water. So, they are usually left on the ocean floor. The cold water helps to **preserve** them.

