

# Ocean Exploration through Time

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## Objective

Students will understand the technologies and events leading to our current understanding of the ocean.

## Materials

- Textbook
- Computers with internet access
- Note cards or half sheets of paper
- Large format paper roll or poster board to assemble timelines

## Procedure

1. Students will read pages 2-2 and 2-3 in the textbook (Shreeves, Karl (Ed.), (2006) *Life on an Ocean Planet*, USA: Current Publishing Corp.) and answer the following two questions:

What are three reasons to learn about the history of ocean exploration?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What were the four main stages in the history of oceanography?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Working in groups of 2-4 students each, participants will use the textbook (pages 2-2 to 2-63) and the following websites to create a timeline of ocean exploration and research.

[http://www.coolclassroom.org/cool\\_projects/lessons/miniunits/lesson2.html](http://www.coolclassroom.org/cool_projects/lessons/miniunits/lesson2.html)

<http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/history/timeline/timeline.html>

<http://divediscover.whoi.edu/history-ocean/index.html>

Note: To enable students to place events in historical order, have students use a note card to record:

- Date
- Brief description of the event
- Person(s) responsible for the event (if known)
- Type of technology involved or developed
- Contribution of event to advances in knowledge or commerce

3. Next, working in groups, students will assemble the information for the timeline by combining all team member's dates and event descriptions.

Suggestion: Post these timelines as a gallery walk in the hall ways.

## Analysis Questions

Why do you think it is important to study the ocean?

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Why do you think ancient people began to navigate the ocean?

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Studying the ocean is difficult. List reasons why:

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What invention around 1000 AD caused world exploration to begin to occur more rapidly?

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When did scientific exploration begin?

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List three events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that you think were major and important to the evolution of ocean science. Explain why you think they were so important:

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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