

Underwater **HISTORY**

by Charles Piddock

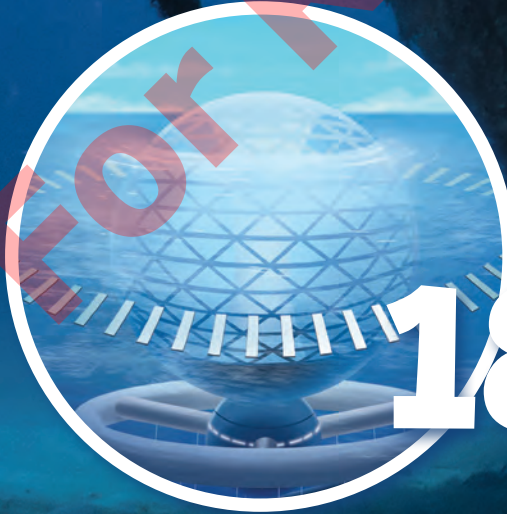




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For Review Only



STUDYING SHIPWRECKS

Frederick “Fritz” Hanselmann studies sunken ships, or shipwrecks. Fritz loves the water. He says, “I fell in love with the water when I was young.”

Fritz also loves history. As a grown-up, he put his love of water and his love of history together. Today he’s an underwater archaeologist.

Studying the Past

Archaeologists are like detectives. They study artifacts from the past. Artifacts are objects made by people. They can be tools, coins, jewelry, or other objects. Archaeologists look at these objects to learn how people lived long ago.

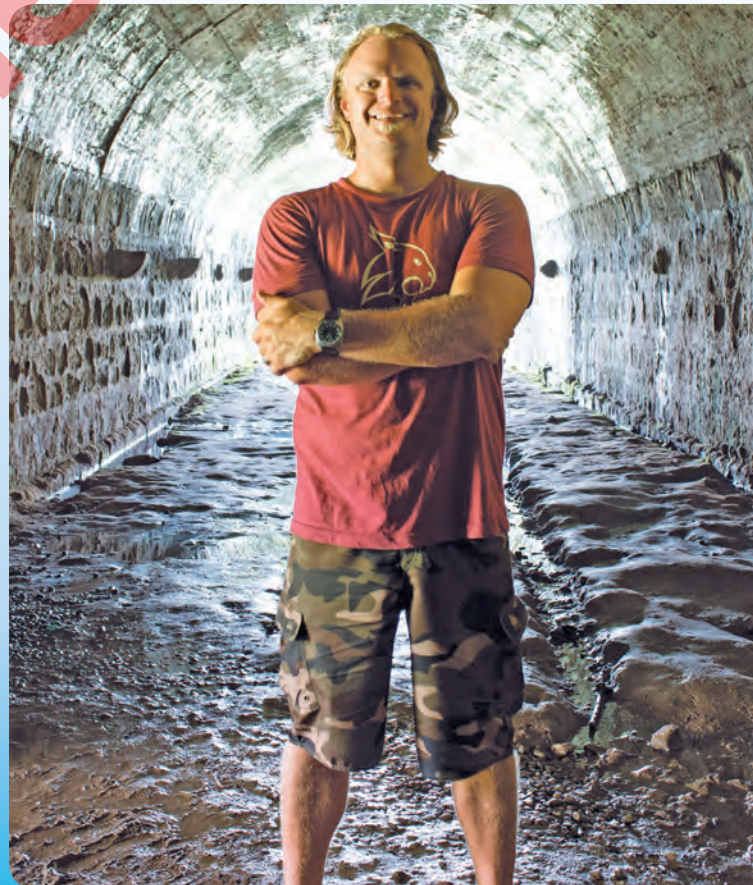
Underwater archaeologists mainly look at artifacts found in oceans. Most underwater artifacts are from shipwrecks. Fritz and his team study the artifacts in a lab. Their lab is on a boat. “Most of our work tries to figure out what the artifact is,” he says.

In His Own Words

Fritz isn't sure what he loves best about his job. He says:

“It is hard to decide what is the best part of my job. There is so much I love about it. I love diving and being in the water. I love making new discoveries.”

Fritz Hanselmann ►





Underwater Archaeologists at Work

Underwater archaeologists search for artifacts in a number of ways.

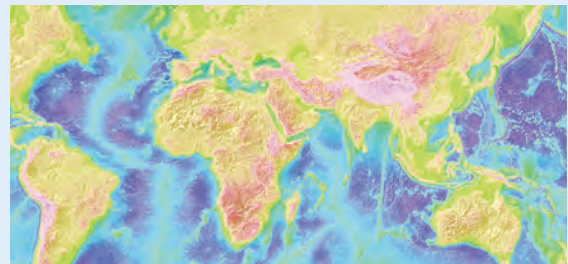
History

Underwater archaeologists study history. This gives them clues about where to find a shipwreck or an underwater city.



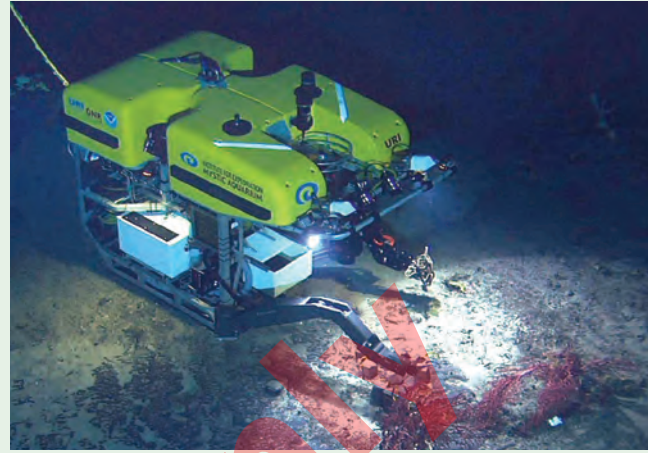
Maps

Archaeologists use maps. Maps help them locate the right place to search.



Diving

Once they find the right place, archaeologists dive down to the shipwreck. If the water is very deep, divers use machines called remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). ROVs are underwater robots.



Photography

Divers find many objects underwater. They take pictures of them with special cameras. They must keep track of where every object is found.



Equipment

Divers wear scuba gear. Scuba gear allows them to breathe underwater. This gives the divers time to explore. The divers also have video cameras. They can send videos and pictures to people above water.

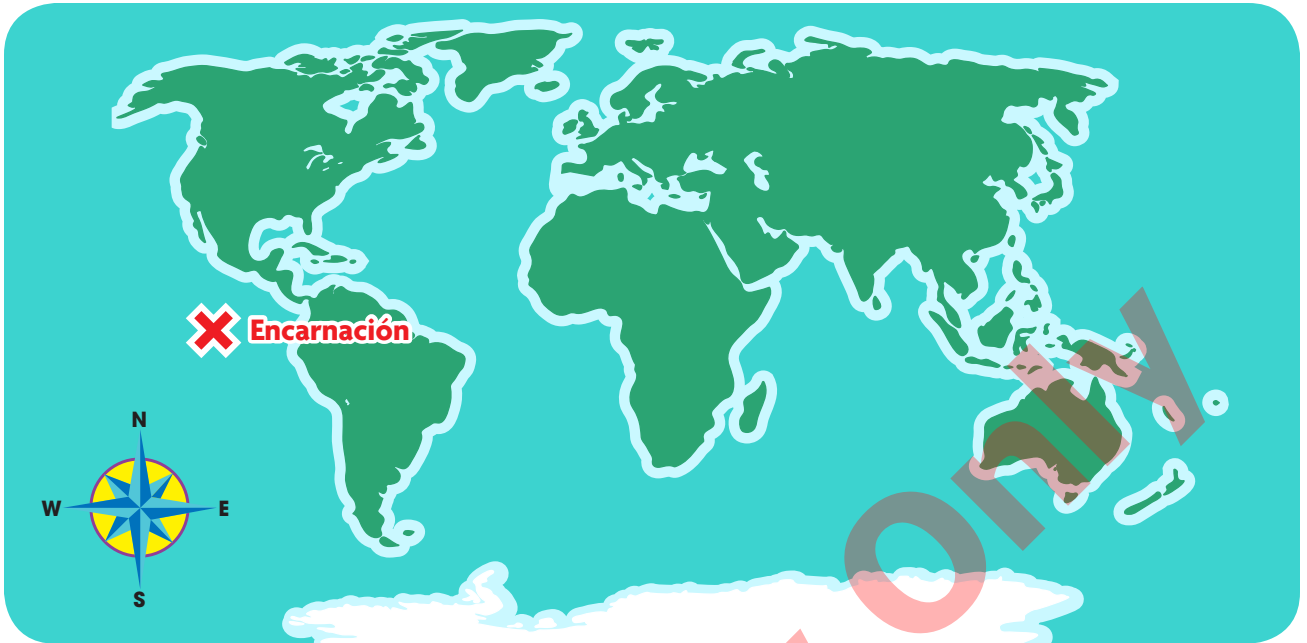


A Surprising Discovery

In 2011, Fritz Hanselmann and his team were looking for pirate shipwrecks. Sensors on their boat told them that they were close to something underwater. But divers did not find a pirate shipwreck. Instead they found a different kind of shipwreck. It was the *Encarnación* (en-kar-nah-see-ON).

the wreck of the *Encarnación* ▼





▲ This map shows where the ship was found.

The *Encarnación* was an old Spanish ship. It sank during a storm about 300 years ago. Back then, ships brought supplies across the ocean. Hanselmann was excited that the ship still had many of its supplies. These artifacts could tell him a lot about the past.

▼ metal stamps found on the *Encarnación*



Boxes from the Past

The *Encarnación* was filled with 100 wooden boxes. The boxes had metal stamps, swords, cloth, and scissors in them.