

Diving Into History

In August 2000, divers raised the Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* from its watery grave, 136 years after the ship mysteriously sank in the Charleston, S.C., harbor.

Divers hoisted the barnacle-covered ship from 30 feet of water. Scientists sent the submarine to a laboratory to be preserved and studied. Scientists believe that inside the sub lie the bodies of the ship's crew.

The *Hunley* was the first submarine ever to sink an enemy vessel. During the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865), the Union (northern states) used its powerful navy to block ships from entering or leaving Confederate (southern) ports. The *Hunley's* secret job was to break that blockade.

On February 17, 1864, nine crew members crawled inside the 40-foot *Hunley*. Using a hand-crank to turn the propeller, the crew quietly guided the sub out of Charleston harbor. Then the *Hunley* rammed an explosive charge into the Union sloop *Housatonic*, destroying it.

Moments after the *Hunley's* victory, however, the submarine sank, killing all its crew.

Why did the sub sink? No one knows for sure. Scientists continue their investigation to come up with answers.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which group was the *Hunley* supposed to help during the Civil War?

- A the Confederates
- B the Union
- C the English
- D the slaves

2. Which of the following statements *describing* the *Hunley* is true?

- A The *Hunley* had 136 crew members.
- B The *Hunley* was 30 feet long.
- C The *Hunley* sank off the coast of Charleston, S.C.
- D The *Hunley* succeeded in destroying the entire Union blockade.

3. Why would the Confederates want to break the blockade of the South?

- A The blockade prevented Confederates from going on vacation.
- B The blockade prevented Confederates from getting supplies.
- C The blockade prevented slaves from escaping by sea.
- D The blockade prevented Confederates from importing cotton.

4. Read the following sentences and answer the question below: "The *Hunley* was the first submarine ever to sink an enemy vessel. During the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865), the Union (northern states) used its powerful navy to block ships from entering or leaving Confederate (southern) ports."

In this context, what does the word **vessel** mean?

- A a large boat
- B a small car
- C a little cargo plane
- D a big train

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe

- A why scientists study underwater submarines
- B where the Union blockade did the most damage to the Confederates
- C how the crew of the *Hunley* survived when it sank
- D what the *Hunley* was and why it was important

6. What was the *Hunley's* job?

7. After reading the passage, predict why the submarine sank. Use examples from the text to support your prediction.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The crew quietly guided the sub out of Charleston harbor _____ they could break the Union blockade.

- A so
- B but
- C because
- D after

9. Answer the questions based on the sentence below.

In Charleston, South Carolina, Scientists continue their investigation to come up with answers.

Who? scientists

(do) What? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: preserved (pre · served): to make something last.

10a. Read the five sentences below and underline the word **preserved** in each sentence.

1. The woman made sure preserved her wedding dress because she hoped someday her daughter would wear it on her own wedding day.
2. The Constitution is the most important document in America, so the government takes care to make sure it is well preserved and undamaged.
3. The two countries signed a treaty after the war so that peace could be preserved and no more fighting would happen.
4. Since the painting was so important, the museum preserved it in a special airtight room at night to keep the colors beautiful.
5. The celebrity loved animals, so he bought a large area of jungle and preserved it for the animals that lived there.

10b. What is something that needs to be preserved?



11. What can someone do to make sure the freshness of their food is preserved?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 830

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: “Diving Into History” describes the submarine *H.L. Hunley*, the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel. Scientists lifted the sub out of the water in 2000 to study it and investigate why it mysteriously sank.

1. Which group was the *Hunley* supposed to help during the Civil War?

- A the Confederates
- B the Union
- C the English
- D the slaves

2. Which of the following statements *describing* the *Hunley* is true?

- A The *Hunley* had 136 crew members.
- B The *Hunley* was 30 feet long.
- C **The *Hunley* sank off the coast of Charleston, S.C.**
- D The *Hunley* succeeded in destroying the entire Union blockade.

3. Why would the Confederates want to break the blockade of the South?

- A The blockade prevented Confederates from going on vacation.
- B **The blockade prevented Confederates from getting supplies.**
- C The blockade prevented slaves from escaping by sea.
- D The blockade prevented Confederates from importing cotton.

4. Read the following sentences and answer the question below: “The *Hunley* was the first submarine ever to sink an enemy vessel. During the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865), the Union (northern states) used its powerful navy to block ships from entering or leaving Confederate (southern) ports.”

In this context, what does the word **vessel** mean?

- A **a large boat**
- B a small car
- C a little cargo plane
- D a big train

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe

- A why scientists study underwater submarines
- B where the Union blockade did the most damage to the Confederates
- C how the crew of the *Hunley* survived when it sank
- D **what the *Hunley* was and why it was important**

6. What was the *Hunley's* job?

Suggested answer: The *Hunley's* job was to break through the blockade of Union ships that prevented any Southerners from entering or leaving Confederate ports. [paragraph 3]

7. After reading the passage, predict why the submarine sank. Use examples from the text to support your prediction.

Suggested answer: Because the submarine sank right after it rammed an explosive charge into a Union ship, maybe the explosion damaged the submarine enough that it sank too. [paragraphs 4, 5]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The crew quietly guided the sub out of Charleston harbor _____ they could break the Union blockade.

- A so
- B but
- C because
- D after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In Charleston, South Carolina, Scientists continue their investigation to come up with answers.

Who? scientists

(do) What? **continue their investigation**

Where? **Charleston, South Carolina**

Why? **to come up with answers**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: preserved

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (pre · served)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is preserved. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "preserved."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "The word preserved means to make something last."
- b. Teacher says: "In the passage, scientists brought the submarine to a laboratory to be preserved and studied because it was an important object from U.S. history."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "preserved."]

Step 3: Practice the word

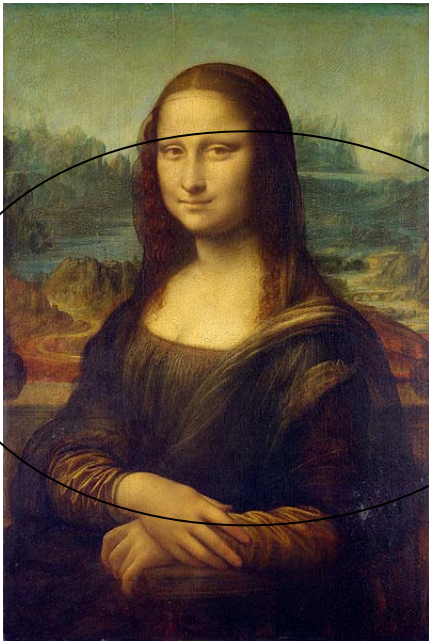
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the 1st sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.**
1. The woman made sure she preserved her wedding dress because she hoped someday her daughter would wear it on her own wedding day.
 2. The Constitution is the most important document in America, so the government takes care to make sure it is well preserved and undamaged.
 3. The two countries signed a treaty after the war so that peace could be preserved and no more fighting would happen.
 4. Since the painting was so important, the museum preserved it in a special airtight room at night to keep the colors beautiful.
 5. The celebrity loved animals, so he bought a large area of jungle and preserved it for the animals that lived there.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** What is something that needs to be preserved?



- 11.** What can someone do to make sure the freshness of their food is preserved?

Suggested answer: Refrigerate when needed, store certain foods in air-tight containers and don't leave it outside.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: hoisted, investigation, vessel