

WISCONSIN SEA GRANT

Deep Dive Into Shipwreck Stories

wisconsinshipwrecks.org

LESSON SUMMARY FOR TEACHERS

Students will use Wisconsin Sea Grant's wisconsinshipwrecks.org website to learn some of the terms and geography of the Great Lakes, using them to complete a [crossword puzzle](#). They will then search the website for information to answer questions about Wisconsin shipwrecks and Great Lakes attractions. Finally, they will consider what can be learned by studying shipwrecks that may influence life today.



Learning Objectives

- I can use my reading skills and strategies to identify the correct answers to this internet scavenger hunt.
- I can use the layout, tools and organization of an informational website to locate specific information.

Great Lakes Literacy Principles

Principle 6 The Great Lakes and humans in their watersheds are inextricably interconnected.

Principle 7 Much remains to be learned about the Great Lakes.

Wisconsin Academic Standards

SS.Hist1.a: Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable causes of historical events, issues, and problems.

SS.Hist1.b: Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable effects of historical events, issues, and problems.

SS.Hist3.c.e Explain how something from the past can affect your life now.

RL.4.7 Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.

RL.4.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

RL.4.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

PART 1 | TERMINOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE GREAT LAKES

Learn

For the first part of the scavenger hunt, students will use the wisconsinshipwrecks.org website to learn about terminology, geography and some of the attractions of the Great Lakes. They will use their new knowledge to complete the crossword.

Start: wisconsinshipwrecks.org/HOME#anchor3

Step 1: Click on “learn.”

Step 2: From the “more resources” section, students will select “glossary” to find nautical terms to complete the crossword puzzle.

Crossword

Online: go.wisc.edu/h2q3x2

Print: go.wisc.edu/l9i9vn

Crossword answer key: go.wisc.edu/q30997

PART 2 | A GREAT LAKES SCAVENGER HUNT

Students will again use the wisconsinshipwrecks.org website to learn about shipwrecks found in the waters of Wisconsin. Using the “[dive in](#)” section and choosing “advanced search,” students can find the answers to the questions below.

An important note: Please remind the students that the date in parentheses after the ship’s name on the website is the date the ship was first launched, NOT the date that it sank!

SHIPWRECK ONE CLUES

- This ship was launched in 1890 and sailed on Lake Superior.
- She was a steam screw that went down in 1905.
- The ship is now located at N 47° 00.470’ N latitude and 090° 54.168’ W longitude.
- She can be found in water on Sand Water Shoal.

What is the name of this ship? [Sevona](#)

In what depth of water could you find her? [25 feet](#)

How many lives were lost in the wreck? [7](#)

How many people survived? [16](#)

How many tons of iron ore did she have on board? **6,000 tons**

How many sailors made up her crew? **23**

SHIPWRECK TWO CLUES

- She is a middle Lake Michigan shipwreck.
- Her name is made up of two words, and the first word of her name rhymes with Betty.
- She was a schooner.

Who is she? **Hetty Taylor**

What caused her to sink on her final voyage? **Heavy weather, squall**

In what year was she wrecked? **1880**

In what depth of water can she be found? **100 feet**

SHIPWRECK THREE CLUES

- She is a steam screw and one of the largest wooden ships ever built.
- She was launched in 1896.
- Her final resting place is in lower Lake Michigan.

What is her name? **Appomattox**

What was the cause of her wreck? **Towing the *Santiago*, she encountered fog and smoke, ran aground and suffered considerable damage**

Where is her resting place today? **150 yards off Atwater Beach**

In what year did she sink? **1905**

SHIPWRECK FOUR CLUES

- She was a Lake Superior sailboat.
- She sank the same year she was built.

What is her name? **Lua**

What year was she built and sunk? **1905**

What is unusual about her? **This sailboat sank before she was christened.**

SHIPWRECK FIVE CLUES

- She is a steam screw that sank in middle Lake Michigan in 1847 only seven miles from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.
- She sank two years after she was launched.
- She had just two lifeboats. As a result, between 160 and 250 people died, including many children.

What is her name? Phoenix

What six things made up her cargo? Household goods, molasses, sugar, coffee, hardware, chains.

Where did the passengers of the vessel come from? They were immigrants from Holland.

SHIPWRECK SIX CLUES

- This “Christmas Tree Ship,” as she was known, was built in 1868 and sank in 1912, taking a crew of 16 with her.

What was the official name of the ship? Rouse Simmons

What is the depth of the water she lies in today? 165 feet

What is the nearest city to the wreck? Two Rivers

Where did the ship depart from? Thompson, Michigan

Who were the passengers on the ship? Lumberjacks from Michigan

SHIPWRECK SEVEN CLUES

- This steam screw was launched 33 years after Wisconsin became a state.
- Launched on Lake Michigan, her history is filled with terrible luck. Her owner died on the *Titanic* in 1912.
- She was renamed four times before returning to her original name.

What is the name of this infamous ship? Wisconsin

What was the name of this ship’s running mate, which was unsuccessful in the rescue? Illinois

What were the four other names of this ship? E.G. Crosby, Naomi, General Robert O’Reiley, Pilgrim

SHIPWRECK EIGHT CLUES

- This steamer was launched in 1883 on Lake Michigan.
- She met her fate traveling full speed into the fog and sank immediately.

What was the name of this daredevil vessel? Alice E. Wilds

What was the name of the ship she took with her? Douglas

What consequences did the captain face? Both captains had their licenses revoked.

What is one other interesting fact about this wreck? Both captains knew they were on a path to collide 20 minutes ahead of the crash, but neither of the men changed course.

SHIPWRECK NINE CLUES

- This schooner is believed to be Wisconsin's oldest shipwreck with ties to the fur trade.
- She lies fully intact 210 feet down on the bottom of Lake Michigan.
- Built in 1832, her original name was *Nancy Dousman*.

What is the name of this ship? Gallinipper

What was the value of the vessel? \$3,000

When was this shipwreck discovered? 1994

What are the names of two other shipwrecks located nearby? Algoma, Home

SHIPWRECK TEN CLUES

- This steam screw was launched in 1867.
- She sank in Lake Superior in 1883 when she was bound for Ontonogon, Michigan, with 400 tons of cargo.

What is the name of this vessel? Manistee

How many lives were lost in the wreck? 30

What was rumored to be the noteworthy cargo mentioned in the "cargo description"? 100 tons of copper bars and large quantities of gold and silver

SHIPWRECK ELEVEN CLUES

- This steam screw was launched in 1881 and originally named the *Republic*.
- She sank on Lake Superior off Michigan Island on October 15, 1903.

What was the name of this ship? Marquette

When were the remains of the ship recovered? 30

What was the value of the vessel and her cargo? \$115,000

What was suspicious about the sinking of this vessel? **The lake was calm and the ship began leaking with no obvious cause. She was one of six vessels lost to one owner in 1903. Perhaps one could infer the ship was intentionally sunk for financial reasons.**

SHIPWRECK TWELVE CLUES

- This steam screw was built in 1854 and sunk in 1856.
- At 179 feet long, this ship transported immigrants to Wisconsin and Minnesota.

What was the name of the vessel? **Toledo**

How many lives were saved? **2**

How far was the ship from the pier when it became apparent that she would be unable to dock?

20 rods (one rod = 16.5 feet)

What happened when the crew tried to anchor the boat? **The crew released the anchor; however, it fouled (tangled or caught) the hawse pipe**



Hawse pipe from the S/V Kalmar Nyckel
Photo by Abby Werner

SHIPWRECK THIRTEEN CLUES

- This schooner was launched in 1858 on Lake Michigan and left Chicago with eight tons of pig iron for ballast.

What was the name of this doomed ship? **Coquette**

How many lives were lost during the wreck? **4**

When did the ship sink? **1866**

How many wrecks was this ship involved in? **3**

PART 3 | ATTRACTIONS OF THE GREAT LAKES

Use wisconsinshipwrecks.org/Attractions to answer the following questions. Be sure to check your spelling and capitalization.

1. In which county is the *Albatross* Riverboat Mural? [Winnebago](#)

2. On which of the Great Lakes is the Devils Island Lighthouse located? [Lake Superior](#)

3 a. On which Great Lake is the Wisconsin Maritime Museum located? [Lake Michigan](#)

b. In which city is this museum located? [Manitowoc](#)

4 a. How many islands make up the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore? [21](#)

b. On which Great Lake is this located? [Lake Superior](#)

5 a. On what body of water can the Prairie Du Chien Museum be located? [Mississippi River](#)

b. What fort is located in this historical place? [Fort Crawford](#)

c. How many exhibits can be found in this museum? [50](#)

6 a. This seaworthy attraction is a replica of a nineteenth-century Great Lakes schooner. Located on Lake Michigan near Milwaukee, this tall ship is open to the public. What is the name of this schooner?

[S/V Denis Sullivan](#)

b. What is her special mission? [She is a floating classroom for increased awareness of the Great Lakes](#)

[ecosystem and environmental concerns, and a tool for cultural awareness through preservation of](#)

[our rich maritime history.](#)

PART 4 | IMPLICATIONS FOR TODAY

Students will reflect on the lessons we might learn from shipwrecks their implications for today.

Reflecting on the stories you explored through the scavenger hunt, think about what we might learn from studying shipwrecks. Explain how that might affect our lives today.



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NOVEMBER 2020