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# To the bottom of the ocean

WORKSHEET A

On 25<sup>th</sup> March this year, film director James Cameron, maker of films such as *Titanic* and *Avatar*, visited a place no human being had been to in more than fifty years. In fact, he became only the third person ever to go there; the other two had made the journey together in a submarine called the *Trieste* in 1960.

The place he went to is the Mariana Trench: the deepest place in any of the world's oceans. It is almost 11,000 metres below the surface of the western Pacific Ocean, close to the Mariana Islands.

Cameron made the journey in a one-man submarine made of thick steel, the *Deepsea Challenger*. It took him two and a half hours to reach the ocean floor. Most of the journey was through blackness, as sunlight only travels about 1,000 metres down through the world's oceans, but the submarine had very strong lights so that Cameron could film the ocean floor and any animals he saw. He plans to make a documentary about his journey.

From the surface of the ocean the distance down to the Mariana Trench is greater than the distance up to the top of the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest (8,848 metres). The wreck of the *Titanic*, which Cameron has also visited in a submarine, is 3,800 metres under the Atlantic Ocean (so far down that it was only discovered in 1985, seventy-three years after the ship sank), but that distance is small in comparison with the depth of the Mariana Trench.

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WORKSHEET B

## Exercise 1

Answer the questions below.

1. What is James Cameron's job?
2. What is the *Deepsea Challenger*?
3. What is the Mariana Trench?
4. What is the *Deepsea Challenger* made of?
5. Why did the *Deepsea Challenger* have lots of lights?
6. Where is the Mariana Trench?
7. How many people had been to the Mariana Trench before James Cameron?
8. What happened to the *Titanic* in 1912?

## Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. There was no other person with James Cameron in the *Deepsea Challenger*.
2. He saw lots of strange animals near the bottom of the ocean.
3. Nobody has ever visited the wreck of the *Titanic*.
4. James Cameron visited the wreck of the *Titanic* in 1985.
5. It took him less than two hours to reach the ocean floor in the *Deepsea Challenger*.
6. The Mariana Trench is further below the surface of the ocean than the top of Mount Everest is above it.
7. From the surface of the ocean the distance down to the wreck of the *Titanic* is smaller than the distance up to the top of Mount Everest.
8. The Mariana Trench and the wreck of the *Titanic* are under the same ocean.
9. James Cameron's documentary about his journey to the Mariana Trench will be in cinemas in 2013.
10. There is no sunlight in the place where the wreck of the *Titanic* is.

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# To the bottom of the ocean

WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 3

Fill in the gaps to complete the text.

On 25<sup>th</sup> March this year, film director James Cameron, maker of films such as *Titanic* and *Avatar*, visited a place no human (1) **b \_ \_ ng** had been to in more than fifty years. In fact, he became only the third person ever to go there; the other two had made the (2) **j \_ \_ \_ \_ e \_** together in a submarine called the *Trieste* in 1960.

The place he went to is the Mariana Trench: the (3) **\_ \_ \_ \_ est** place in any of the world's oceans. It is almost 11,000 metres below the (4) **\_ u \_ \_ \_ \_ e** of the western Pacific Ocean, close to the Mariana Islands.

Cameron made the journey in a special one-man submarine (5) **\_ \_ \_ e** of thick steel, the *Deepsea Challenger*. It took him two and a half hours to reach the ocean floor.

Most of the journey was through (6) **\_ l \_ \_ \_ ness**, as sunlight only travels about 1,000 metres down through the world's oceans, but the submarine had very strong lights so that Cameron could film the ocean floor and any animals he saw. He plans to make a (7) **d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ y** about his journey.

From the surface of the ocean the distance down to the Mariana Trench is greater than the distance up to the top of the world's (8) **\_ \_ \_ \_ est** mountain, Mount Everest (8,848 metres). The (9) **w \_ e \_ k** of the *Titanic*, which Cameron has also visited in a submarine, is 3,800 metres under the (10) **A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** Ocean (so far down that it was only discovered in 1985, seventy-three years after the ship sank), but that (11) **\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ce** is small in comparison with the (12) **de \_ \_ h** of the Mariana Trench.