



## Blackbeard's Shipwreck • Study Guide

Jonathan joins a team of underwater archaeologists on a project to excavate the remains of the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, better known as Blackbeard the Pirate's ship. Jonathan assists the archaeologists at the site off North Carolina and learns some of the techniques involved in underwater archaeology!

### Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to some of the techniques used in underwater archaeology.
2. Illustrates techniques used in preservation of marine artifacts.
3. Shows how shipwrecks can help illuminate the past.

### Questions for before watching the program

1. What can shipwrecks tell us about history?
2. What types of artifacts might be found on a shipwreck? What use might they be for investigating the past?
3. Do artifacts that have been in seawater for hundreds of years need special treatment before they can be dried out?
4. Who was "Blackbeard" the pirate and why is he famous? (Was he real?)
5. Why might a pirate intentionally sink his own ship?

### Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why do historians believe that Blackbeard ran his ship aground on purpose?
2. What is the most common artifact found on the wreck of Queen Anne's Revenge?
3. How is sand removed from sections of the wreck so that artifacts can be found?
4. What is a *concretion* and how does it form?
5. How must metal, like cannons and cannonballs, be treated before they can be removed from the water? What will happen if they are not treated?
6. Why do the underwater archaeologists wear full-face masks?
7. How is the X-ray machine used on artifacts?
8. Why do you think that archaeologists haven't found any gold on the shipwreck?