



## River of Wrecks • Study Guide

The St. Lawrence river connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes and as such has been a major shipping channel for hundreds of years. The bottom of the river is littered with the remains of ships that ran aground or were lost during storms. Jonathan explores some of the wrecks and gets a unique look into history.

### Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the concept of a shipwreck as a time capsule.
2. Illustrates a few famous wrecks in the St. Lawrence and their history.

### Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a time capsule?
2. How could a sunken ship be considered a time capsule?
3. What might cause a ship to sink?
4. What are some possible environmental side-effects of a ship sinking? Can you think of any environmental benefits? (Hint, think artificial reef).

### Discussion for after watching the program

1. The wreck of the *Keystorm* is on its side. What makes it potentially dangerous to explore?
2. What is a *cowl vent* and what is it used for on a ship?
3. What invasive invertebrate is covering the hulls of the ships?
4. What caused the drill barge *America* to sink?
5. What is still visible inside the boiler on the *America*? What was the boiler for?
6. Why are the props of the *America* sticking straight up?
7. Why is the St. Lawrence River extremely important to shipping in North America?
8. (Internet research) Where is the Thousand Island region of the St. Lawrence?
9. What might make this area have so many shipwrecks?