

WORLD'S OLDEST MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE DISCOVERED IN A GIN BOTTLE

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

- Read the text silently and make notes of the main ideas of the text, then prepare a list of main ideas.
- Produce a short sentence reporting each main idea (you can write the same words as those of the text).
- Compare and contrast your sentences in small groups, and reach an agreement with your peers on the most important ideas.

Here's an example of a possible list of main ideas before the group activity:

• The oldest message in a bottle ever discovered has washed up on a shore in Western Australia
• A woman named Tonya Illman discovered the 19th-century Dutch gin bottle
• She took the bottle because she thought it looked pretty
• But then her son's girlfriend found a note inside
• that was written in German
• and dated June 12, 1886
• the message was asking whomever found the bottle
• to write down the date and time of discovery
• and mail the bottle's original message with this information to an address in Germany or the nearest German Consulate
• the bottle was part of a 69-year-old study
• the couple took the bottle to the Western Australian Museum
• Kym was right about the message
• From 1864 until 1933, thousands of bottles were thrown into the world's oceans from German ships
• to write when and where the bottle had been found and return it
• it was thrown into the Indian Ocean from the German ship Paula on its journey from Wales, to Indonesia
• which recorded the jettisoning of a bottle on the same date and at the same coordinates
• A handwriting comparison shows the handwriting is identical
• the bottle most likely washed up in Australia
• It's the first bottle and note recovered from this experiment since 1934
• This new discovery beats out the previous 108-year record for a lost message in a bottle
• a German woman had discovered a bottle
• that the U.K. Marine Biological Association had thrown into the ocean in November 1906
• You may find an even older message

Here's an example of the same list of main ideas after the group activity:

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