

Exhibition Materials

MYSTERIES of the DEEP

A PROGRAM TO RIVAL THE SPACE RACE...



Over the past fifty years the secrets of the oceans have been revealed through an amazing international collaboration - scientific ocean drilling.

A program rivaling the scale and ambition of the space race, it spanned the divisions of the Cold War to bring together countries across the globe in scientific collaboration.

Today the project involves more than 20 countries working together in an effort to understand the oceans from the Arctic to Antarctic.

Thousands of scientists, crew and support staff have spent many months or even years of their lives at sea for this program. Together they have discovered the story of our blue planet.

How do we regulate our climate? Mass extinctions? Ancient climates? The secrets to all are hidden below the surface.

The shells of tiny plankton, from rivers, and even dust from far away land, all end up on the ocean floor. Over time, new grains fall on older grains, burying a record of Earth's history in the mud of the ocean floor.

The fossil remains of tiny, single-celled life forms, called foraminifera ("forams"), are tiny on the scale, their bodies grow in hard shells and the chemistry of these shells reflects the environment they grew in.

THE TINIEST FOSSILS THE BIGGEST CLUES



Children's Books



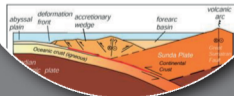
Teaching Materials

From the mountains to the ocean

Using Google Earth and Ocean Cores to discover the concept of erosion and sediment transportation

Background

In 2004, a magnitude >9 earthquake struck North Sumatra and the Andaman-Nicobar islands leading to a huge tsunami. In order to find some explanation for this event, Expedition 362 (August-September 2016) drilled sites U1480 (1432 m below the seafloor) and U1481 (1500 m below the seafloor) on a section of the seafloor ~200 km west of Sumatra, before the Indian Plate reaches the Sunda subduction zone. What makes the subduction zone offshore Northern Sumatra quite unusual is the amount of sediment on the subducting oceanic plate (up to 5 km thick just before subduction).



Ship Tours

