THE MYSTERIOUS OCEAN DEEP

Life underwater remained a mystery to most for many years. It might be hard to believe, but two-thirds of our planet is actually water.

Underwater Gear

Conditions underwater are extremely demanding on the human body. In order to investigate life below the surface, a lot of high-tech equipment is required. The diver portrayed in this image is Jacques-Yves Cousteau, who invented the Aqua-Lung. Using this device along with air tanks allows people to stay underwater for much longer than normal. Any idea what other equipment you might need to go diving?

from 1936

The Calypso

The Calypso was Cousteau's research ship—it had an experiment room in its bow, and divers could enter the water directly from the vessel using special doors.

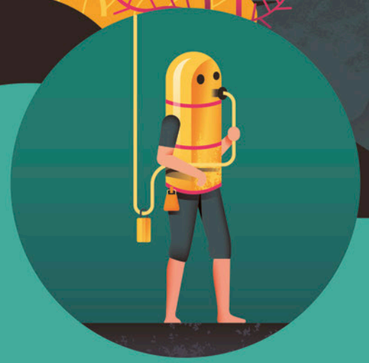
Divers went underwater not only to observe animals and plants, but also to search for shipwrecks, which potentially contained many treasures to discover.

Charles William Beebe

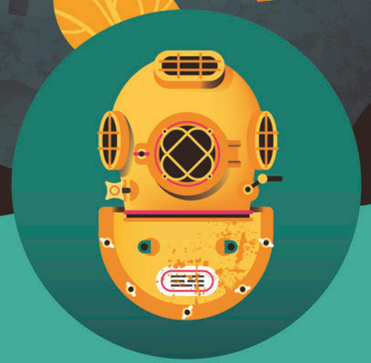
In the early 1930s, the American naturalist Charles William Beebe, known as William, used his Bathysphere (a spherical deep-sea submersible) to travel deeper underwater than anyone else had. He encountered underwater creatures that no one had seen before and his reports and illustrations greatly increased public interest in the ocean world.

1930–1934

The diving bell has been in use since antiquity. When the bell is plunged underwater with the opening facing downwards, air remains trapped in the upper section. An air hose attached to this space then provides divers with atmospheric oxygen.



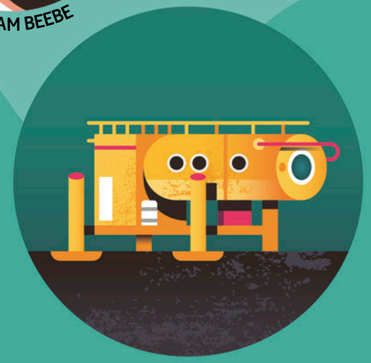
As early as 1797, inventor Karl Heinrich Klingert built a special diving suit with a helmet. Klingert was a prolific inventor who also created the first electric clock, as well as many devices to help the ill and disabled.



The first piece of equipment made for individual divers was a metal helmet that was supplied with breathing air via a hose that led to the surface. Unfortunately the helmet was very heavy and therefore not very practical.

Cousteau's Aqua-Lung gave researchers a lot more freedom to explore underwater, enabling them to investigate much further and deeper than before and observe many animals and plants.

Modern diving robots have allowed scientists to document our ocean environments. With the robots' assistance, they can conduct underwater experiments without having to put themselves in danger.



The Aquarius Reef Base is an underwater laboratory. It provides enough space for six people to cook, sleep, and work underwater during missions that last 10 days on average.