

North Pole Time Capsule Found



Where is the North Pole?

- The North Pole can be found in the Arctic Ocean at the northern end of the Earth's **axis**.
- Many different Arctic animals live in the Arctic Circle, such as polar bears, narwhals, walrus and the Arctic fox.

Photo: An ice-breaker ship.

A time capsule from the North Pole has been found washed up on the shore in County Donegal, Ireland.

Two surfers, Sophie Curran and Conor McClory, happened to come across the peculiar object which had travelled around 4000km from where it had been placed in the Arctic Circle.

After carefully opening it, they came to realise that it was a time capsule they had discovered.

Time capsules are designed to be buried and found in the distant future. When opened, the contents inside will show the finder what life was like in the past.

Inside, were a collection of photos, letters and objects. These belonged to a group of Russian explorers who had **embarked** on an expedition to the North Pole in 2018.

The group had travelled on an ice-breaking ship called 50 Years of Victory. These ships are designed to move through icy waters, breaking through ice up to 2.8m deep. Their job is to create passages for other **vessels** to pass through.

From amongst the objects, Curran and McClory were able to track down one member of the crew, named Sveta. She had written a letter for the capsule and included contact details.

Sveta informed the pair that the time capsule was buried within the ice and that they didn't expect it to be found so soon. Scientists believe that due to climate change, the Arctic is now warming two to three times the rate of the rest of the world.

This may explain why the capsule was released from its icy burial site so much sooner than the crew had hoped.

Now, the remaining letters which are written in Russian have been sent to Professor Simon Donohue Nosak in Chicago, USA.

The pair hope that he will be able to **translate** the remaining items and help them find out even more about their find!

Glossary

axis	An imaginary line around which something rotates.
embarked	To begin something or to board a ship or aircraft.
vessels	The name for a large boat or ship.
translate	To change spoken or written word from one language to another.

Questions

1. Find and copy **one** word which shows that the time capsule was an unusual thing to find washed up on the shore.

2. How long was the time capsule in the water?

3. Tick to show whether the statements are true or false according to the article.

	True	False
Narwhals live in the Arctic.		
The ice-breaking ship the Russian crew travelled on was named 50 years of Victory.		
The couple contacted a man called Sveta from the Russian crew.		
The time capsule has been sent to a professor in America.		

4. Locate in the article **one** example of something which may have caused the time capsule to be released so soon after it was buried in the ice.

5. How do you think the crew of Russian explorers felt when they heard that the time capsule had been found after such a short time?

6. Summarise the key information in the article using 15 words or fewer.
