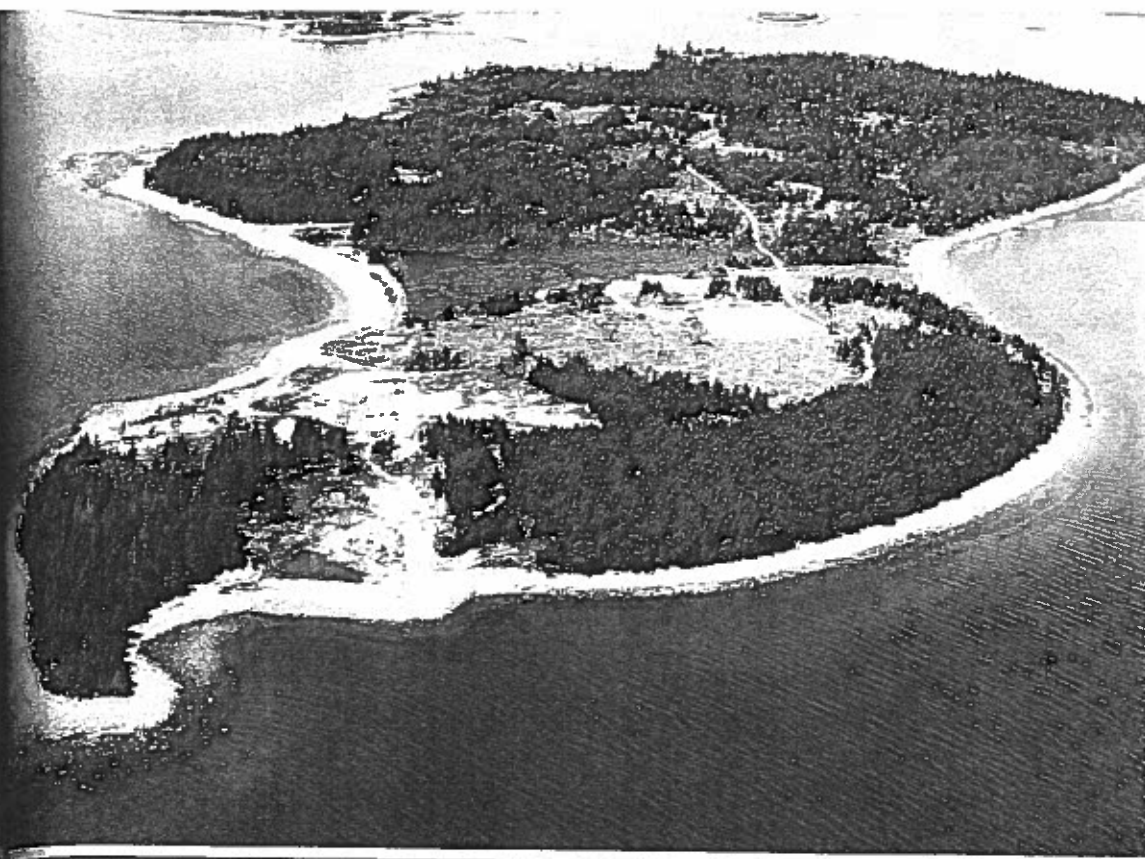


16 Treasure on Oak Island



PLACES

Oak Island [OHK EYE-lund] an island off Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia [NOH-vuh SKOH-shuh] a province in eastern Canada

WORDS

camera [KAM-ruh] a thing that takes pictures

lumberjacks [LUM-bur-jaks] people who cut down trees for a living

machine [muh-SHEEN] a thing that does work

platform [PLAT-form] a floor

pirates [PIE-ruts] people who steal from ships at sea

treasure [TREH-zhur] anything that is worth a lot of money

tunnel [TUN-ul] a long hole through which people or things can pass

The Money Pit on Oak Island off Nova Scotia has been there at least since 1795. There may be treasure in it that could be worth millions. But no one has been able to get at it.



In the summer of 1795, three teen-aged lumberjacks took a boat to Oak Island. They walked through the woods to a clearing. The tree in the clearing had odd marks on its trunk. Some of its branches had been cut off short. It looked as though a rope or chain had been thrown over one of the branches. A hollow in the ground under the tree seemed to be about 12 feet across. The lumberjacks thought what you might think. They thought that treasure had been buried there. Since they had nothing to dig with, they went home.

The next morning they came back. With them they had picks and shovels. They started digging in the hollow. Ten feet down, they hit wood. It turned out to be a thick log platform. Under it was dirt. So they kept digging. At 20 feet down, they found another platform. And they found another at 30 feet. That was as deep as they could dig. They were afraid the sides of the hole would fall in on them.

By the time eight years went by, many more people were looking for the treasure. The hole had come to be called the Money Pit. At every ten feet, down to 90 feet, diggers found



another oak platform. They also found one piece of very old wire and a couple of ship's whistles. There was some matting, too. It was made from stuff that came from the south. At 90 feet, they came upon a flat stone. The stone had strange writing on it. No one ever figured out what the writing said. And later, the stone was lost.

Then the hole filled with water. No one knew why. So another hole was dug near the first. At 100 feet down, a tunnel was dug from it to the Money Pit. The second hole filled with water.



In 1849, men drilled into the Money Pit to about 100 feet down. The drill went through some layers of interesting stuff: 5 inches of wood, next 12 inches of wood, then 12 inches of nothing, then 4 inches of wood, 22 inches of metal pieces, 8 inches of wood, 22 more inches of metal pieces, and last 10 inches of wood. During the drilling, the men kept bringing up the drill. They wanted to see if anything was sticking to it. Once, something was. Three tiny gold links from a chain were caught in the drill bit. The diggers thought what you would think. There must be a lot more gold down there. They dug deeper.

By now, the diggers knew the water in the Money Pit was salty. It rose and fell with the tide. So they knew that it had to come from the ocean. The people who had buried the treasure had figured out a way that no one but they could get it. They had run a tunnel from the pit to the ocean. But there was probably some kind of gate to keep the water out of the hole. Only the men who buried the treasure knew how to dig it up without letting water in. Others didn't. Others built a dam to keep the ocean out. But the dam fell in. They tried pumps with no luck.

In 1893, drilling went down 154 feet. Down that far was a huge treasure room, they thought. The drill bit came up with a piece of paper-like stuff. On it were two letters. The letters might have been a w and an i.

Soon there were pits everywhere on Oak Island. People were digging with a 12-ton machine. They sent down deep-sea divers. They sent down a TV camera. In 1969, a group of people got together to try and get the treasure. So far, they have spent more than \$500,000. But they have not found it.

Why hasn't the treasure been dug up? Some people say there is a Pirate's Curse on it. Others say that "Big Dog," the devil's demon, guards it. More think that the people who buried it were just too smart, even for today's machines.

READING QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer. Write in your notebook the number of each question and the letter—(a), (b), (c), or (d)—that shows the best answer.

- What is this story mostly about?
 - Pirates who buried their treasure
 - People who have found buried treasure
 - Places buried treasure might be found
 - A buried treasure that is difficult to get at
- When was the Oak Island Money Pit first found?
 - 1650
 - 1795
 - 1900
 - 1893
- What made three lumberjacks think treasure might have been buried on Oak Island?
 - A sign that pirates had left
 - Three pieces of gold chain
 - A story told by an old man
 - Marks on a tree and a pit under it
- What did the lumberjacks find ten feet down?
 - A box of gold pieces
 - A wooden platform
 - A whistle
 - A dead man
- What eventually happened to stop people from going down into the hole?
 - The island sank in the ocean.
 - The sides of the hole fell in.
 - Two men died.
 - The hole filled with water.
- What proof of treasure was found?
 - Three gold links
 - A piece of gold money
 - Letters on paper-like stuff
 - Water coming into the pit

- How did the people who buried the treasure plan to keep others out?
 - They made the sides slippery.
 - They built a fence.
 - They put sharp sticks in the way.
 - They ran a tunnel to the ocean.
- What was on the paper the drill brought up from the Money Pit?
 - A list of what was in the pit
 - Two letters that looked like a w and an i
 - A note written in strange writing
 - The name of one of the people who had buried the treasure



WORDS TO KNOW

Choose the word that best fits the blank in each sentence. Write it in your notebook beside the number of the sentence.

tunnel machine pirates platform lumberjacks
treasure camera

- People who cut down trees for a living are called _____.
- The _____ might be gold.
- The _____ was made of oak.
- They ran a _____ from the pit to the ocean.
- A 12-ton _____ wasn't able to get at the treasure.
- People who steal from ships are called _____.
- Sending down a TV _____ didn't help.

READING NUMBERS

In this list, some numbers from the story are written out. Write them on a piece of paper. Then next to each one, write the same number in numerals.

Example: Fifty-two 52

1. Ninety
2. Ten
3. Seventeen hundred, ninety-five
4. Twenty
5. Thirty
6. One hundred
7. Twenty-two
8. Eighteen hundred, ninety-three
9. One hundred, fifty-four
10. Five hundred thousand

JOINING WORDS WITH HYPHENS

Sometimes two words are joined by a mark called a hyphen. An example is twenty-two. The hyphen shows that the two words belong closely together.

Copy column A and column B on a piece of paper. Draw a line from each word in column A to the word in column B that can belong with it. On your paper, write the two words and join them with a hyphen.

A	B
deep	ton
teen	aged
12	sea
paper	like

MAKING INFERENCES

Write or talk about the following questions. If you write, do it on a separate piece of paper.

1. What made the lumberjacks think treasure was on Oak Island?
2. What did the three gold links promise about what might be in the Money Pit?
3. How did drillers know the water in the pit came from the ocean?
4. Why couldn't drillers get to the treasure?
5. What did the drillers probably think when the drill bit came up with bits of wood in it?
6. What do you think the treasure is? Why?
7. Who buried the treasure? Why?
8. Why might pirates not have the time to dig so deep?

FIND IT

On a map or globe, find Nova Scotia. How far is it from where you live?

TIME LINE



Copy this time line on a piece of paper. Then write the following items on the time line, according to when they happened at Oak Island.

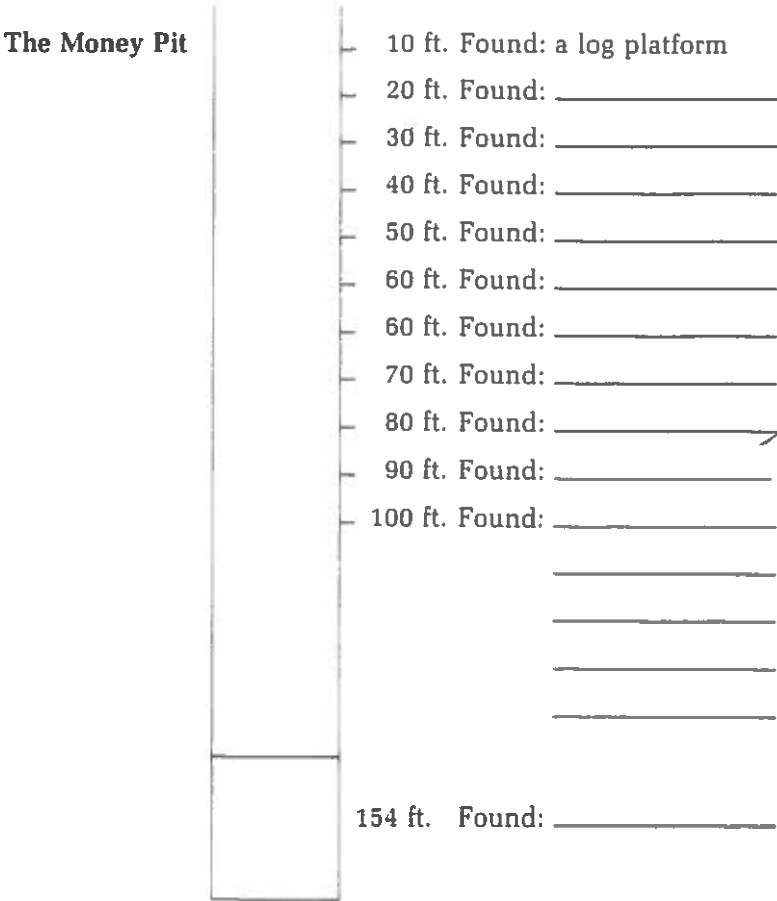
Drilling went down to 154 feet.

A group of people spent \$500,000 trying to get the treasure.

The treasure site was first found.
Drilling went down to 100 feet.
Lumberjacks had been joined by others.

MAKING A DIAGRAM

Copy this diagram on a piece of paper. Fill in the missing information.



WHAT CAN BE PROVEN?

Copy this outline on a separate piece of paper. Then fill in the blanks, using facts from the story.

- A. Things that are true
 - 1. The lumberjacks found a tree with marks on it.
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
- B. Things that we don't know yet but that can be proven if the treasure is reached
 - 1. Part of the treasure is a box of gold chain.
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
- C. Things that probably are not true
 - 1. There is a Pirate's Curse on the treasure.
 - 2. _____

