

## True or False

Follow the instructions to complete the activity.

NAME

DATE

Using the information in *Mermaids*, verify whether the following information is true or false. Check your answers in the book. List the page number where you found your information beside your answer.

Statement 1	Spirogyra is also known as "mermaid's tail."	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False	Page Number	<input type="text"/>
Statement 2	In their earliest appearances, sirens were depicted as large birds with the heads of women.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False	Page Number	<input type="text"/>
Statement 3	In some stories, mermaids are immortal.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False	Page Number	<input type="text"/>
Statement 4	German mermaids were called <i>nix</i> or <i>nixies</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False	Page Number	<input type="text"/>
Statement 5	In British folklore, mermaids were considered good omens.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False	Page Number	<input type="text"/>



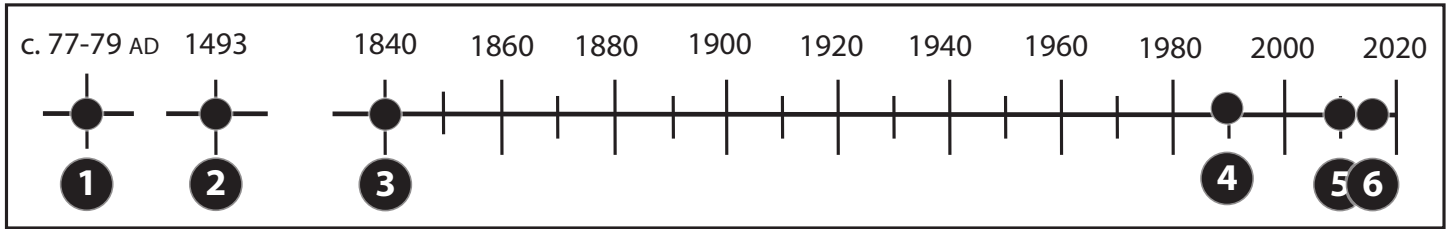
## Make a Timeline

Follow the instructions to complete the activity.

NAME

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Number the events below in the order they should appear on the timeline. Write the number in the box beside each event. Check your answers with pages 28–29 of the book.



Christopher Columbus has what he believes is a mermaid encounter, but may have been a manatee sighting. He notes that the creatures "... are not so beautiful as they are said to be."

Roman scholar Pliny the Elder writes *Natural History*. This encyclopedia includes descriptions of mythical creatures such as mermaids.

The animated film *The Little Mermaid* is released. It is based loosely on the Hans Christian Andersen tale.

American showman P.T. Barnum unveils a sideshow attraction called The Feejee Mermaid. The hoax was made by stitching together monkey and fish body parts.

The last episode of the Australian television series *Meko Mermaids* airs. The series is about a teenage boy who becomes a merman after coming in contact with magic water.

The tourism board of Kiryat Yam, a town in Israel, announces a \$1 million reward for anyone who can photograph a mermaid that was allegedly spotted nearby. The reward remains unclaimed.



## Fill in the Blanks

Follow the instructions to complete the activity.

NAME

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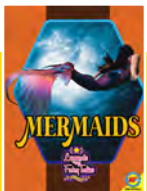
Use the information found in *Mermaids* to help you complete the following activity.

1. Mami Wata is a spirit in  myths.
2. The goddess Atargatis was half  and half fish.
3. Sirens  magical songs to attract sailors.
4. In some myths, men would marry mermaids after stealing  or combs from them.
5. Nixies could hide among people by turning  or into a human shape.
6. In water,  appear as seals.



Complete the statements by writing the correct number in the box.

- |    |  |                      |             |
|----|--|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. | A mermaid "academy" was founded in Bournemouth, England, in this year.   | <input type="text"/> | <b>2</b>    |
| 2. | During this century, many sailors claimed to have encountered mermaids.  | <input type="text"/> | <b>700</b>  |
| 3. | The <i>Odyssey</i> is a long Greek poem from this year BC.   | <input type="text"/> | <b>150</b>  |
| 4. | Some people like to dress up as mermaids. They buy tails made from fabric or silicone. The tails can weigh as much as this many pounds | <input type="text"/> | <b>1600</b> |
| 5. | The film <i>The Little Mermaid</i> won this many Academy Awards.   | <input type="text"/> | <b>45</b>   |
| 6. | Hans Christian Andersen's stories have been translated into more than this many different languages.                                   | <input type="text"/> | <b>2015</b> |



## Write a Letter

Follow the instructions to complete the activity.

NAME

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Think about what it would be like to meet a mermaid. Write a letter to a friend describing an imaginary encounter with this legend. What did the mermaid look like? What did she do? What did you say to her?



## Quiz

Test your knowledge by answering these quiz questions.

NAME

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**1** Who was the first merman?

**2** Where did captain John Smith claim to have seen a mermaid?

**3** When was the animated film *The Little Mermaid* released?

**4** When was the *Odyssey* written?

**5** How were sirens portrayed in their earliest appearance?

**6** What are kappa?

**7** What is the name for mermen in Norway?

**8** When did Hans Christian Andersen write *The Little Mermaid*?

**9** What is spirogyra?

**10** What does Triton use to control the sea?



## Key Words Match-Up

Write the words from the list below in the box above the correct definition for each word.

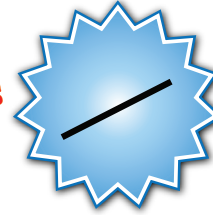
NAME

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### KEY WORDS

sea anemones	reef
drown	hoax
silicone	scuba gear
inspired	aquariums
scales	mythology

Your  
Score is



%

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. <input type="text"/><br/>well-known, fictional stories common to a group of people</p> <p>2. <input type="text"/><br/>a ridge of rock, coral, or sand just below the ocean surface</p> <p>3. <input type="text"/><br/>the thin, flat, overlapping pieces of hard skin that cover the bodies of fish and reptile</p> <p>4. <input type="text"/><br/>something false and deceptive presented as genuine</p> <p>5. <input type="text"/><br/>sea animals that look like flowers</p> | <p>6. <input type="text"/><br/>tanks of water that people keep animals in</p> <p>7. <input type="text"/><br/>to cause someone or something to die by holding it underwater</p> <p>8. <input type="text"/><br/>influenced or brought about</p> <p>9. <input type="text"/><br/>tools that help people dive and breathe underwater</p> <p>10. <input type="text"/><br/>a tough, human-made substance</p> |
|---|---|

