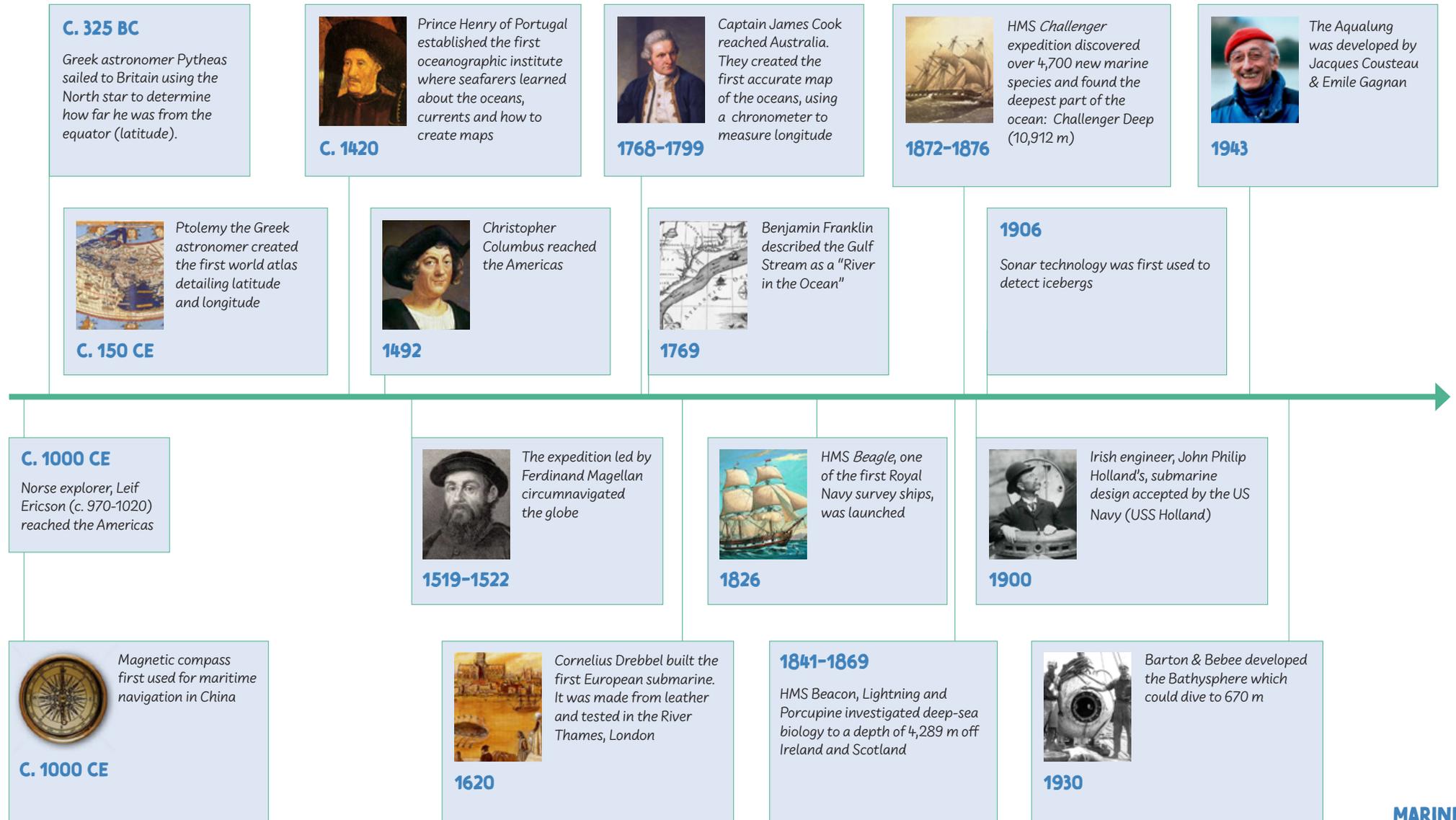


A BRIEF HISTORY OF OCEAN EXPLORATION

Humankind has been captivated by the ocean for thousands of years. Through the ages, we have invented many ways to help us explore the vast ocean depths and the creatures which live within.

This timeline highlights just a few of the major breakthroughs in ocean exploration over the last 2,400 years.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF OCEAN EXPLORATION



The Bathyscaphe, Trieste, was developed by Auguste Piccard. In 1960 it dived to the deepest part of the ocean, Challenger Deep

1953

1985

Dr. Robert Ballard & Jean-Louis Michel discover the wreck of RMS Titanic

1995

Declassification of GEOSAT enabled worldwide mapping of the seafloor

1996

Ireland begins deep water surveying of maritime territory

2006

INFOMAR programme continues mapping Ireland's marine territory and is due to complete "The Real Map of Ireland" by 2026



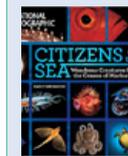
The deep sea submersible Alvin was developed. It could take a crew of 3 to over 2,200 m

1964



Marine Institute launches the RV Celtic Voyager

1997



Catalogue of marine biodiversity revealed by first Census of Marine Life

2010



Marine Institute launches RV Tom Crean

2022



The first maps of the ocean floor, which identified the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, were produced by Marie Tharp

1957



Project ARGO begins with the aim of deploying thousands of robotic sensors throughout the world's oceans

1990



Marine Institute launches the RV Celtic Explorer

2003



Hydrothermal vents were discovered, proving that not all life depends on sunlight for energy

1977

1999

Irish National Seabed Survey begins (2000-2006) which was managed by Geological Survey of Ireland.

2000

Census of Marine Life began to record every known species in the oceans



James Cameron dived to Challenger Deep for the first time since Piccard and Walsh in 1960

2012

2017

Seabed 2030 programme is launched and aims to map the entire global seabed by 2030