

Unit 4: An Ancient Shipwreck

Narrator: About 2000 years ago, off the coast of the Greek island of Antikythera, a large ship was sailing to Rome, filled with many beautiful and expensive items. As it passed the island, the ship was hit by a storm and sank.

In 1900, some divers found some interesting objects at the shipwreck. Among the items was the Antikythera mechanism: a machine used to study the stars. Some call it an ancient computer. But the story doesn't end there.

In 2017, a new team of archeologists returned to the area where the ship had sunk. There, they dove into the water and searched the seabed. Soon, they had found many ancient artifacts. One of these artifacts was an arm from a metal statue. The archeologists carefully moved the arm off the seabed and out of the water. Later, on their boat, they studied it very carefully. The team think the statue is of a Greek thinker.

Another treasure found from this shipwreck was a metal disk. Just like the statue's arm, the disk was brought out of the water and studied. On the disk is a picture of a bull. But no one knows what the picture means or what the object was used for. In the following days, the archeologists found many more artifacts from the shipwreck. They think Antikythera has the area's largest number of shipwreck artifacts. So they plan to keep looking so they can understand more about the ship that sank here and the treasures it carried.