



JACQUES COUSTEAU



Born: 11th June 1910 in Saint-André-de-Cubzac, France

Died: 25th June 1997 in Paris, France

Jacques Cousteau was a French naval officer, explorer, ecologist, filmmaker, innovator, scientist, photographer, author and researcher who studied the sea and all forms of life in water.

EARLY LIFE

Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born in the village of Saint-André-de-Cubzac, in southwestern France. The younger of two sons born to Daniel and Elizabeth Cousteau, he suffered from stomach problems and anaemia as a young child. At age 4, Cousteau learned to swim and started a lifelong fascination with water. As he entered adolescence, he showed a strong curiosity for mechanical objects and upon purchasing a movie camera, he took it apart to understand how it operated.

At 13, he was sent to boarding school in Alsace, France. After he completed his preparatory studies, he attended Collège Stanislas in Paris and in 1930, Cousteau entered the Ecole Navale (French Naval Academy) at Brest, France. After graduation, as a gunnery officer, he joined the French Navy's information service. He took his camera along and shot many rolls of film at exotic ports-of-call in the Indian and South Pacific oceans.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



Anrep 1, was the first submarine, used in 1966.

After World War II, Cousteau's passion for being in the water took off. With the compressed air cylinder having just been invented, this helped Cousteau to experiment with various items like snorkel hoses, body suits and breathing apparatus to stay underwater. He even fashioned a waterproof cover for the camera. Along with an engineer, Jacques invented the first aqua lung which allowed him to dive to greater depths for longer periods of time. As his reputation grew in the field of marine and sea life studies around the world, he purchased his first boat The Calypso.

TV CAREER

Jacques Cousteau was a fore runner of David Attenborough recording early television documentaries about life underwater. Cousteau created the film 'The Silent World' shot in 1956, Cousteau shot a spectacular sequence of sharks feeding for which he won an Academy Award. In 1968, Cousteau was asked to make a TV serial. Initially meant as a four-part series, it continued for the next nine years. Titled 'The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau', millions followed Cousteau as he zigzagged across the globe. People came face to face with sharks, whales, dolphins, sunken treasure and coral reefs in their living rooms.

LATER LIFE

Jacques Cousteau was an important environmentalist protecting the world's oceans; he helped restrict commercial whaling. He also helped to stop underwater dumping of nuclear waste. An organization called the Cousteau Society still continues to work to preserve the world's oceans.



FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYwQu3Fqa28>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGi2BkgPfdC>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. Which country was Jacques Cousteau born in?
2. How old was Jacques when he learnt to swim?
3. Which year did Cousteau receive an academy award?
4. What were Cousteau's documentaries about?
5. What did he invent?