

MEG; A Novel of Deep Terror CURRICULUM & PROJECT IDEAS

Dear Teachers:

One of the goals of the ADOPT-AN-AUTHOR program is to assist teachers by providing a pool of easily accessible curriculum and project ideas. Materials will grow as more teachers e-mail me their ideas over the coming school year. I hope you participate.

MEG is the first in a 3-book series featuring *carcharodon Megalodon*, the fearsome 60-foot, 40,000 pound prehistoric cousin of the great white shark. The TRENCH is part two in the series, PRIMAL WATERS (still to be written) part three. If you have not read MEG, you will find it to be a fast-paced page-turner - something that will keep your readers on the edge of their seats.

The interactive website: www.SteveAlten.com offers supplemental information for each book, as well as educational links, contests for readers, exciting tours, background information on how I was published, and free downloadable images. Everything is designed to enhance your student's reading experience.

"EDUCATIONAL SHARK LINKS" can be accessed by going to www.SteveAlten.com and clicking on the MEG book cover. Once the MEG page appears, click "SHARK LINKS" (this menu option appears at the far right of the screen, so some students may have to adjust their screens to see it.)

One of the best and most unique aspects of the ADOPT-AN-AUTHOR program is having direct access to a *New York Times* Best-Selling author. I invite your students to e-mail me. A link is provided in the website. I read each and every e-mail, then send out a standard personalized reply to each letter. This is NOT an automated response. Second and third letters are handled differently.

MEG is also part of the ACCELERATED READER program.

As a former educator, it is my goal to provide teachers with a very unique program that combines thrilling novels with exciting curriculums and opportunities for students to converse with a best-selling author. I am personally financing this entire venture. This is my commitment to you. All I request is that (once you see the results) you simply spread the word about the program throughout your school and among your peers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or input.

I think you will be impressed!

–Steve Alten

CURRICULUM MATERIALS

Because students also have access to this section, answers to questions will only be provided via e-mail (at your request) to teacher e-mail addresses registered in the Adopt-An-Author program.

Materials are divided as follows:

1. Characters
2. Chronological Events
3. Vocabulary
4. True-False Questions
5. Discussion Points
6. Projects
7. Multiple Choice Questions
8. Science/Oceanography
9. Megalodon Shark Anatomy
10. Settings
11. Creative Writing

CHARACTERS

Major Characters:

Prof. Jonas Taylor:
Terry Tanaka:
Mac
Masao Tanaka:
Maggie Taylor:
Bud Harris:
Dr. Frank Heller:

Minor Characters:

D. J. Tanaka:
Richard Danielson
David Adashek
Alphonse DeMarco
Capt. Leon Barre
Phillipe
Commander McGovern
Andre` Dupont
Dr. Tsukamoto
Dr. Simidu
Fred Henderson
Harold Ray
Dennis Heller

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS

1. The T-Rex stalked its prey into the sea and became the victim of _____.
2. Professor Jonas Taylor lectures in The Scripps Institute about _____.
3. Maggie Taylor earned the Golden Eagle for her work about _____.
4. UNIS submersibles had been deployed along a 125 mile stretch of the Mariana Trench to _____.
5. Masao Tanaka's dream project was a sanctuary for _____.
6. The small cockpit of the Beechcraft bothers Jonas because he suffers from _____.
7. Maggie Taylor pays _____, a reporter to follow Jonas and make him look bad.
8. Terry wants to be the submersible pilot to go with D.J. to _____.
9. In the Mariana Trench seven years earlier, Jonas thought he saw a _____ and rocketed toward the surface.
10. The name of Masao's ship is the _____.
11. Jonas knew Frank Heller from his days in the _____.
12. The Abyss Gliders can fly to the bottom at a rate of _____.
13. Jonas didn't eat his dinner the night before the dive into the deep because _____.
14. The warm layer of the canyon is heated by _____.
15. The MEG's color is easy to see in the deep dark because it _____.
16. The male MEG was trapped by _____ and killed by _____.
17. After D. J.'s catastrophe, Jonas made it to the top in the _____.
18. Maggie rushes to Guam to _____.
19. Jonas tells Terry the female shark could be on the surface because _____.
20. Jonas meets _____ in Saipan.
21. In Saipan, Jonas sees evidence of the female Meg from the carcass of a _____.
22. The first nuclear-powered submarine was the _____.
23. The Cousteau Society wants to _____ the Meg.
24. Mac's helicopter will be used to _____.
25. The Megalodon launched straight out of the sea like an intercontinental ballistic missile to attack _____.
26. List three important differences between the AG I, and the AG II.

27. The surfer Michael Barnes thought he ran into a _____.
28. Jim Richards' surfboard was crushed like a carton of eggs in a trash compactor by _____.
29. The Japanese vessel, *Tsunami* had an illegal catch of eight _____.
30. Frank Heller stretched out his hand but could not save _____.
31. Maggie Taylor took her expedition to the _____ Islands.
32. The stench surrounding the *Magnate* came from _____.

33. The female MEG gave birth to _____ male pup(s), and _____ female pup(s.)
34. One male MEG pup died when _____.
35. Maggie Taylor's experience with the Meg ended with _____.
36. Jonas learns that David Adashek is a reporter for the same network as _____.
37. Another male Meg pup died when _____.
38. The adult female Meg is no longer limited to surfacing at night after she becomes _____.
39. The passengers on Captain Jack's Whale Watcher watch horrified as a whale _____.
40. The large dosage of pentobarbital and ketamine shut down the Meg's _____.
41. On-board the AG-I, Jonas uses the retractable arm of the mini-sub to _____.
42. In checking the hull of the *Kiku*, Jonas discovers _____.
43. Frank Heller, Dick Danielson, and Bud Harris anchor the *Magnate* near the Tanaka Lagoon in order to _____.
44. When Mac smilingly yells, "Mac Attack!", he is _____.
45. During the chaos just outside the Tanaka Lagoon, Masao Tanaka suffers a _____.
46. David Adashek gets the helicopter to land on the *Kiku* by _____.
47. What happened to the hordes of pleasure boaters who got too close to the action?
_____.
48. What wakes up the Meg? _____.
49. When the eight news helicopters realize how massive the Megalodon actually is, they panic and _____.
50. Jonas saves Terry's life when he _____.
51. The chapter, "The Gates of Hell," refers to _____.
52. Jonas uses the fossilized black tooth to _____.
53. Jonas leaves the escape pod to _____.
54. When the escape pod gets trapped, Jonas has to _____.
55. _____ pulls Jonas out of the water.
56. Because the paleontologist rose to the surface too quickly, he gets a serious case of _____.
57. Jonas realizes that the white glowing shark the *Manitou* captured is really a _____.

ACRONYMS & VESSELS

Acronyms:

UNIS

JAMSTEC

AG I & AG II

Ships:

Seacliff

Kiku

Magnate

HMS Challenger

USS Nautilus

Tsunami

MEG VOCABULARY

1. Carcharodon Megalodon	p. 3, 80	43. gigantothermy	p. 127
2. Tube worms (Riftia)	p. 62, 93, 96	44. metabolic rates	p. 127
3. Hyperventilating	p. 91, p. 312	45. peripheral tissues	p. 127
4. claustrophobia	p. 92, 114	46. thermocline	p. 128
5. vertigo	p. 92	47. perimeter	p. 133
6. bathyscaphes	p. 14	48. advocate	p. 136
7. Coelacanth	p. 8	49. expedite	p. 136
8. Black smokers	p. 93	50. disdain	p. 136
9. Cardiac monitor	p. 93	51. kindred	p. 136
10. Digital	p. 93	52. indicator	p. 138
11. Canyon	p. 93	53. originating	p. 139
12. Spewing	p. 93	54. genetic	p. 146
13. ceramic seals	p. 94	55. environment	p. 146
14. virtually	p. 94	56. aggressive	p. 147
15. luciferins	p. 95	57. cetacean	p. 147
16. luminous	p. 95	58. frenzy	p. 147
17. luminescent	p. 95	59. stampede	p. 148
18. theorized	p. 96	60. whale pods	p. 148
19. desolate	p. 96	61. ecological	p. 148
20. bizarre	p. 96	62. hemisphere	p. 151
21. genera	p. 96	63. juncture	p. 151
22. alloy	p. 96	64. fluke	p. 164
23. seamounts	p. 97	65. quivering	p. 167
24. submerged	p. 97	66. rendezvous	p. 168
25. hallucination	p. 100	67. carte blanche	p. 170
26. paleontologist	p. 100, 119	68. decommissioned	p. 176
27. massive	p. 101	69. ingenuity	p. 209
28. mesmerized	p. 104	70. dispersed	p. 265
29. adrenaline	p. 106	71. plummeted	p. 265
30. torso	p. 108	72. giddy	p. 269
31. pectoral fins	p. 109	73. listing	p. 270
32. spasms	p. 109	74. dirigible	p. 280
33. cascading	p. 110	75. decimated	p. 283
34. hyperextended	p. 112	76. circumnavigate	p. 293
35. insatiable	p. 112	77. esophagus	p. 309
36. ascend	p. 114	78. discernible	p. 314
37. jettison	p. 114	79. primeval	p. 327
38. groped	p. 114	80. conical	p. 329
39. periphery	p. 116	81. mantra	p. 330
40. bombarding	p. 118	82. bends	p. 336
41. hypothermia	p. 118	83. recompression chamber	p. 336

42. furtively

p. 120

TRUE - FALSE QUESTIONS

1. (True, False) The T-Rex enters the water to eat the Megalodon.
2. (True, False) Jonas was once a submersible pilot.
3. (True, False) Megalodons fed on whales.
4. (True, False) Humans killed off Megalodons.
5. (True, False) Life cannot exist without sunlight.
6. (True, False) Fossilized Meg teeth are white.
7. (True, False) Terry wants Jonas to pilot the mini-sub into the Mariana Trench so she doesn't have to go.
8. (True, False) The Tanaka lagoon was originally designed to hold Megalodons and giant squids.
9. (True, False) Megs can detect the heartbeat of its prey from long distances.
10. (True, False) The Mariana Trench is an unexplored gorge.
11. (True, False) The Mariana Trench is 7 miles deep.
12. (True, False) The Mariana Trench is located off Hawaii.
13. (True, False) LEXAN is a type of bullet-proof glass.
14. (True, False) Hydrothermal vents can spew mineralized water at temperatures as high as 700 degrees Fahrenheit.
15. (True, False) A shark's caudal fin is its tail.
16. (True, False) Sunlight can penetrate to the bottom of the Mariana Trench.
17. (True, False) Many species living in the abyss glow to attract their prey.
18. (True, False) The first nuclear submarine was the Nautilus.
19. (True, False) JAMSTEC is a Japanese toy company.

20. (True, False) The “bends” comes from excess nitrogen in the blood.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Why does Jonas Taylor want to return to the Mariana Trench if he almost died there seven years earlier?
2. Could Megalodons really still exist?
3. If a Megalodon was discovered, should we leave it alone, kill it, or capture it?
4. Why does the Mariana Trench remain unexplored? Should we explore it?

PROJECTS

1. Create a detailed sketch of a scene in the book.
2. Write a biography on one of the main characters.
3. Write two journal entries from a character's point of view.
4. Give a two minute speech about the novel in front of the class
5. Create a collage based on the novel.
6. Paper mache a replica of:
 - a) A MEG
 - b) A MEG tooth
 - c) A mini-sub
7. Contact the Author via e-mail and interview him.
8. Create a book cover design or movie poster.
9. Design a video game for MEG.
10. Cast characters for the MEG movie.
11. Do a book report on
 - a) Megalodon sharks
 - b) deep-sea submersibles
 - c) Mariana Trench
 - d) hydrothermal vents
12. Website assignments:
 - a) download a free image
 - b) write the author
 - c) take one of the tours
 - d) enter a contest
13. Read: **The TRENCH**, the sequel to MEG.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Carcharodon Megalodon means:
 - a) big shark
 - b) big tooth
 - c) big predator
 - d) big mouth
2. Megalodons may have become extinct for all BUT the following reasons:
 - a) change in ocean temperatures
 - b) lack of food
 - c) hunted by man
 - d) none of the above
3. Jonas decides to return to the Mariana Trench because:
 - a) he wants to kill a Meg.
 - b) he wants to prove he's a man to Terry.
 - c) he wants to help Masao capture a live Meg.
 - d) he wants to find a white tooth to prove the sharks exist.
4. Life forms living in the abyss often glow to:
 - a) attract prey
 - b) attract mates
 - c) all of the above
 - d) none of the above
5. The female Meg escapes the Mariana Trench by:
 - a) following the dead male's warm blood trail to the surface
 - b) following Jonas's mini-sub to the surface
 - c) it is hooked and hauled to the surface by the *Kiku*.
 - d) it hunts down the *Kiku*, surfacing to attack.
6. The Meg attacks the Nautilus because:
 - a) it is hungry
 - b) it is aroused by the sonar pings
 - c) it thinks it is another Meg.
 - d) it knows Jonas is on-board
7. Jonas's plan to capture the Meg is to:
 - a) lure it into the Tanaka lagoon with a dead whale
 - b) drug it, then haul it into the Tanaka lagoon in a big net.
 - c) capture it on a big hook
 - d) attract it by using sonar pings

8. The chapter entitled, "The Gates of Hell" refers to:

- a) Jonas's marriage to Maggie
- b) the Mariana Trench
- c) hydrothermal vents
- d) the Meg's jaws

9. Jonas kills the Meg by:

- a) overdosing it with drugs
- b) ramming it with his mini-sub
- c) electrocuting it
- d) ripping out its heart

10. In the final scene, Jonas realizes:

- a) they have captured a baby Meg
- b) he is suffering from the bends
- c) he loves Terry
- d) all of the above

SCIENCE/OCEANOGRAPHY

Define the following:

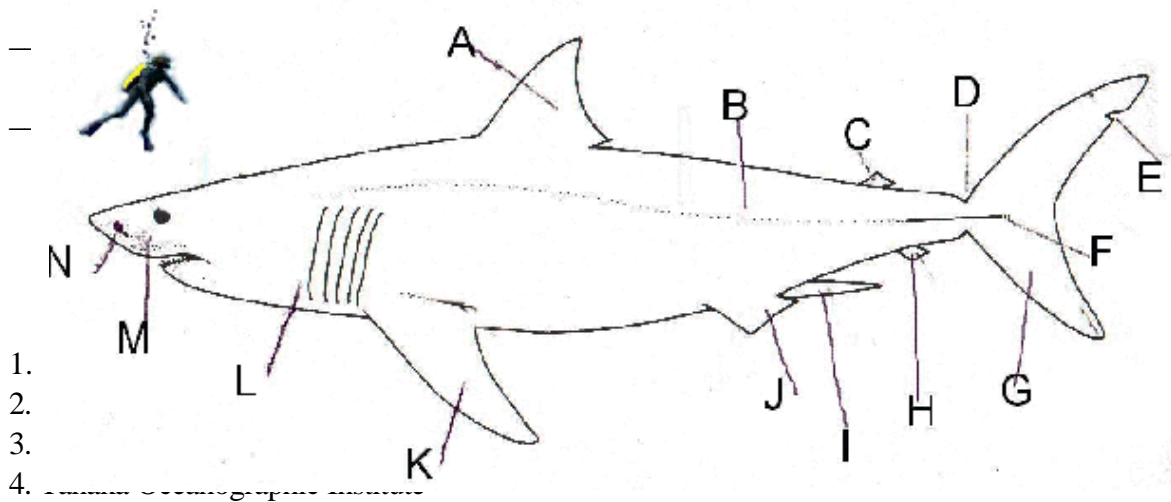
1. Deep sea trenches
2. Hydrothermal vents
3. Thermocline
4. Hadal zone
5. Challenger Deep
6. JAMSTEC
7. Bathyscape
8. Tube worms
9. Dermal denticles
10. Argonaut
11. Red Triangle
12. Caudal Fin

Matching:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| _____ carcharodon Megalodon | A - Black smoker |
| _____ carcharodon carcharias | B - Big tooth |
| _____ hydrothermal vent | C - Great white shark |
| _____ hadal zone | D - Warm-cold layer |
| _____ thermocline | E - Rear of a boat |
| _____ cetacean | F - Right side of a boat |
| _____ coelacanth | G - Abyssal regions |
| _____ Nautilus | H - Classification of whales |
| _____ starboard | I - a lobe-finned fish once believed extinct |
| _____ stern | J - Left side of a boat |
| _____ bow | K - Front of a boat |
| _____ port | L - World's first nuclear submarine |

MEGALODON SHARK ANATOMY

___ Nostrils ___ Pre-caudal Notch ___ Pelvic Fin ___ Gill Slits ___ Dorsal Fin
 ___ Caudal Fin ___ Lateral Line ___ Clasper (males only)



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. _____
5. Tanaka Lagoon
6. The Challenger Deep
7. Hydrothermal vents
8. Saipan
9. Oahu's Sunset Beach, Hawaii
10. D. J. Tanaka Memorial Lagoon
11. Monterey Bay Canyon
12. Farallon Islands
13. Galapagos Islands
14. Monterey Bay Sanctuary

CREATIVE WRITING:

Assignment:

Create your own Megalodon shark attack scene. Be sure to include:

- a) Characters involved
- b) Setting
- c) Vantage Point of:
 - 1) Victims
 - 2) Megalodon
 - 3) Third Person Narrative