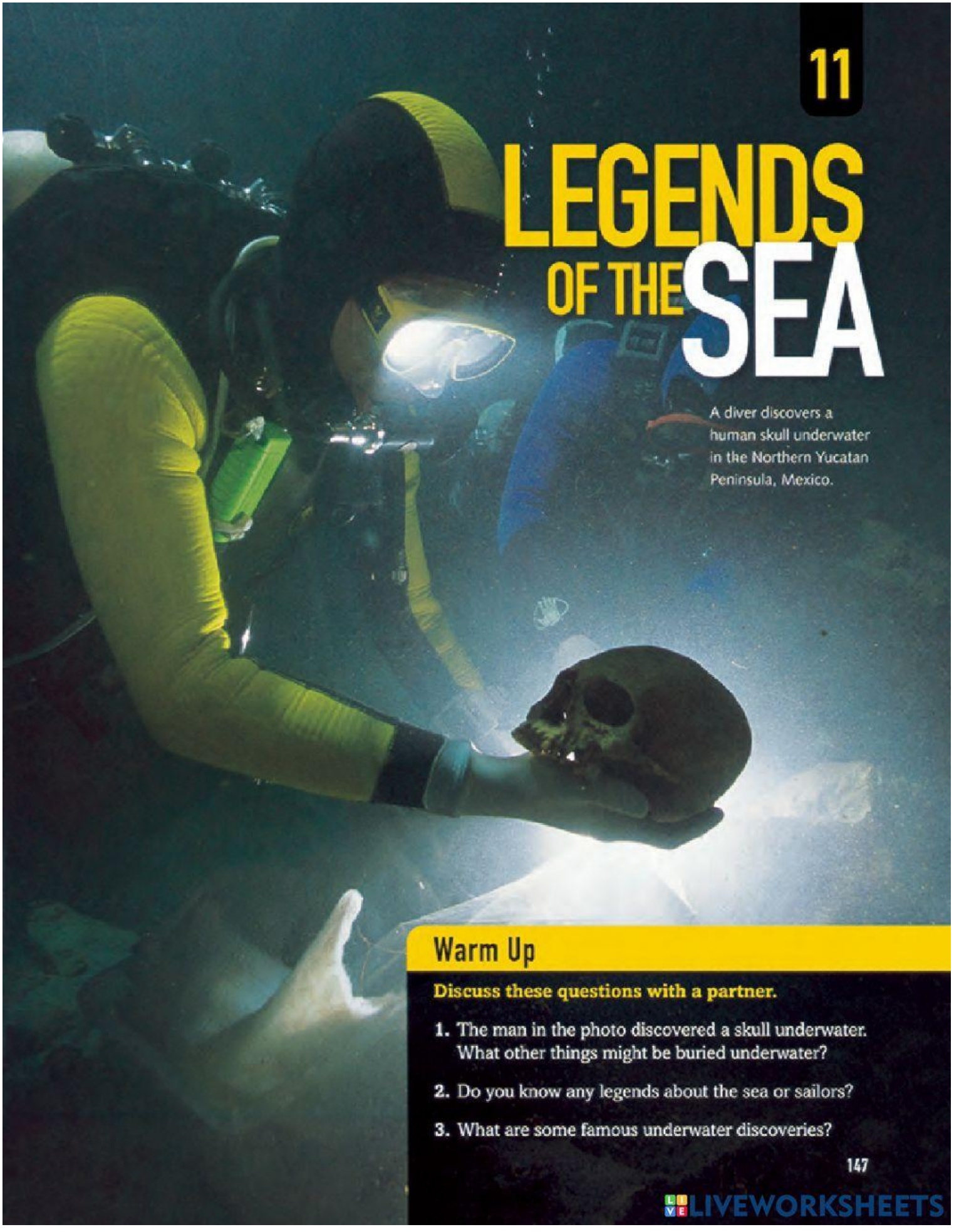
11

LEGENDS OF THE SEA



A diver discovers a human skull underwater in the Northern Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

Warm Up

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. The man in the photo discovered a skull underwater. What other things might be buried underwater?
2. Do you know any legends about the sea or sailors?
3. What are some famous underwater discoveries?

LIVEWORKSHEETS



A historic tall ship sails toward the sunset.

Before You Read

A. Matching. Read the information and match each word in **bold** with its definition.

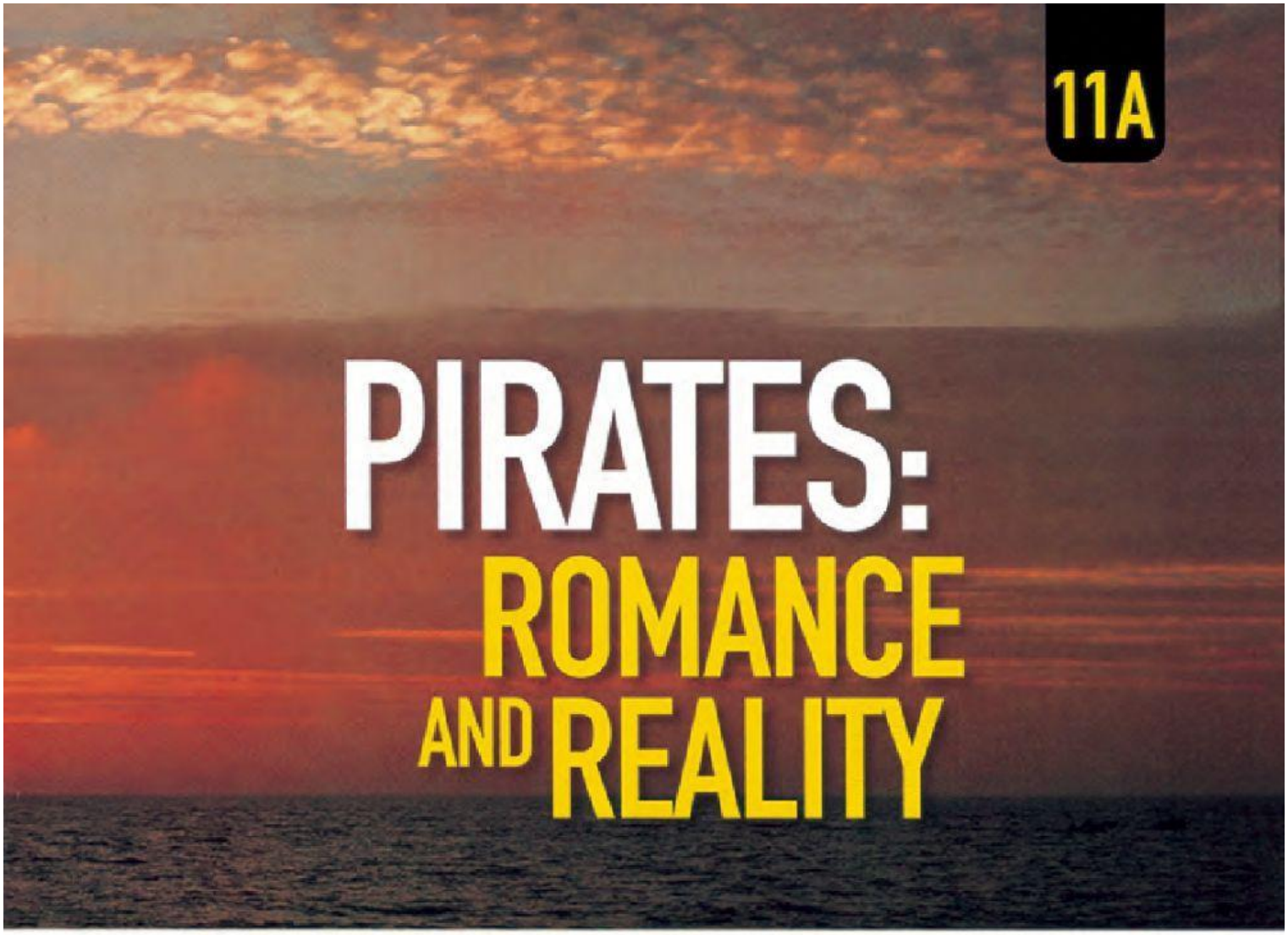
During the Golden Age of Piracy (1660–1730), **goods** such as cloth, spices, and weapons were commonly traded between Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas. Pirates were a common threat to **maritime** trade, especially in the Caribbean. One famous pirate **captain** was Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard.

a. ship's leader _____ **b.** related to the sea _____
c. things that are made to be sold _____

B. Predict. What do you think pirates were really like? Read the sentences and circle **T** (true) or **F** (false). Then read the passage to check your ideas.

1. On a pirate ship, men made the ship's rules together. **T** **F**
2. Pirates made most of their money by stealing gold. **T** **F**
3. Many pirates had wooden legs or wore earrings. **T** **F**

LIVEWORKSHEETS



11A

PIRATES: ROMANCE AND REALITY

In the movies, pirates have exciting and adventurous lives. But what was life actually like for an 18th-century pirate? Which aspects of the movie pirate are real, and which are invented?

A Pirate's Life

While movie pirates are men in search of adventure, the **average** pirate was usually trying to escape from a difficult life. Some were ex-sailors who were treated poorly on their ships. Others were escaped slaves who wanted their **freedom**. They came from many different backgrounds. But on a pirate ship, **equality** was important. Men elected[1] their captain and created the ship's rules together. The men also **divided** the **income** from stolen goods, and they shared these earnings fairly.

1 If you **elect** someone, you choose that person to lead.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Pirate Treasure

In movies, pirates have chests full of gold and piles of money stolen from other people. However, it was far more common for pirates to **steal** things like cloth, spices, and even medicine. They often sold these things. Of course, **purchasing** stolen goods from pirates was illegal, but many people did it. Also, unlike movie pirates, real pirates didn't **bury** their money, says Cori Convertito, who works at a maritime museum in the U.S. "They blew it as soon as they could on women and booze."[2]

Pirate Style

Movie pirates often wear eye patches and have wooden legs. Many real pirates also looked like this. Why? One **factor** was the poor living conditions. "Life at sea was hard and dangerous," says David Moore, a maritime museum employee in the U.S. **Disease** was also common. For these reasons, some pirates lost eyes and legs. But many pirates did one thing for their health: They wore earrings—just like in the movies. They believed putting weight on the ears stopped seasickness.

2 **Booze** is an informal word meaning *alcohol*.

"Duel on the Beach," by N. C. Wyeth (1882–1945), a romantic image of pirates' adventurous lives



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer for each question.

Main Idea

1. What is the main idea of this reading?
   a. A pirate's life was a dangerous but exciting adventure.
   b. Some things we've seen or read about pirates are true, but others aren't.
   c. The lives of 18th-century pirates and modern-day pirates are similar.
   d. Today's stories and movies about pirates are entirely wrong.

Vocabulary

2. In line 2, *aspects* is closest in meaning to _____.
   a. parts
   b. roles
   c. lives
   d. people



Detail

3. On pirate ships, _____.
   a. men were treated like slaves
   b. there were several captains
   c. only ex-sailors were allowed
   d. the men shared the money they made

Vocabulary

4. In lines 19–20, *They blew it* means "They _____ the money."
   a. hid
   b. spent
   c. made
   d. saved

Did You Know?

The fearsome pirate Blackbeard was said to wear burning ropes in his long beard in battle.

Inference

5. Which statement would David Moore probably agree with?
   a. Many pirates had a difficult life and probably died young.
   b. The appearance of movie pirates is very different from reality.
   c. A pirate's life wasn't as dangerous as we see in the movies.
   d. Many pirates were friendlier than we see in the movies.

Reference

6. In line 26, what does *For these reasons* refer to?
   a. the dangers of seasickness
   b. eye patches and wooden legs
   c. stealing and selling goods illegally
   d. poor living conditions and disease

Detail

7. According to the passage, pirates believed wearing earrings _____.
   a. was fashionable
   b. stopped seasickness
   c. brought good luck
   d. was only for women

LIVEWORKSHEETS

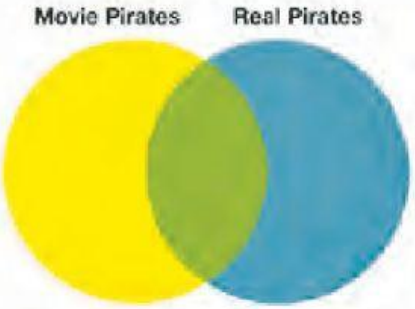
Reading Skill

Finding Similarities and Differences

Writers often compare and contrast ideas. When you compare, you focus on similarities. Words that signal similarities include *like, also, as well, both, neither.* When you contrast, you focus on differences. Words that signal differences include *unlike, but, however, while.* Venn diagrams are a useful way to present this information visually.

A. Classification. Look back at the passage on pages 149–150. Match each answer (a–f) with the type of pirate it describes.

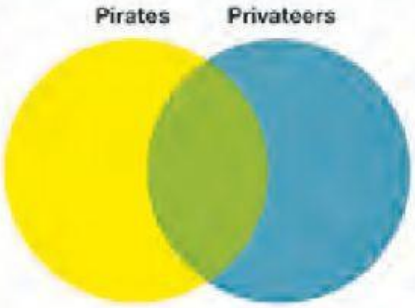
a. became pirates to have an adventure
b. wore earrings
c. mostly stole money and gold
d. sold their stolen goods and spent their earnings
e. buried their treasure
f. stole things like food and medicine



B. Completion. Now read the following passage. Underline the words that signal similarities and differences. Then complete the Venn diagram below.

Privateers are often confused with pirates because both attacked ships. However, there are differences. Pirates were basically maritime criminals who broke laws and terrified people. Privateers, however, were usually given orders by their country to attack enemy ships. Pirates usually kept everything they stole, while privateers gave part of it to their government. Life at sea was very difficult, however, so neither privateers nor pirates had easy lives.

a. attacked ships
b. broke the law
c. gave some of their money to their government
d. kept all the things they stole
e. had difficult lives



Critical Thinking Discuss with a partner. Think about how pirates are shown in movies. Based on the reading, in what ways are movie pirates' lives "romantic"?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary Practice

A. Completion. Complete the passage by circling the correct word in each pair.

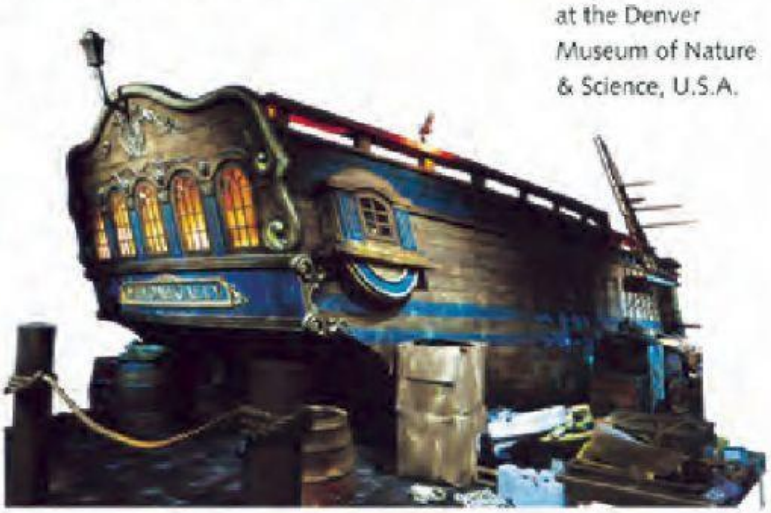
Most people earn a(n) **1.** (**disease** / **income**) by going to work. Not Barry Clifford. He makes money by finding lost pirate treasure. In 1984, he discovered a pirate ship called the *Whydah*, an English slave ship, in waters near Massachusetts in the U.S. It traveled to Africa, where the ship's captain **2.** (**buried** / **purchased**) a number of slaves—people who had lost their **3.** (**freedom** / **income**). The ship then traveled to the Caribbean. Captain Sam Bellamy and his pirates took the *Whydah* and **4.** (**stole** / **purchased**) all of its goods. Later, Bellamy's men **5.** (**divided** / **averaged**) the goods among themselves. But their luck didn't last, and soon the *Whydah* sank in a storm near Massachusetts.

Today, **6.** (**equality** / **factors**) such as bad weather and rough water make it difficult for Clifford's team to bring objects up from the *Whydah*. Despite this, over 200,000 objects have been found. These discoveries have helped change our image of pirates. For example, from the pirates' clothes, scientists have learned that the **7.** (**divided** / **average**) pirate was only about 1.6 meters (5'4") tall.

B. Definitions. Use the correct form of the words in **red** from **A** to complete the definitions.

1. If you have a(n) _____, you have an illness.
2. When there is _____, all people are treated the same.
3. _____ are reasons for or causes of something.
4. If something is _____, it is put in the ground and covered with earth.
5. _____ is money you earn, usually for work you do.

Word Link We can add **-dom** to some words to make nouns, meaning a state or condition. For example, *freedom* means "living in a free condition." Other examples include *boredom* and *wisdom*.



A replica of the *Whydah* ship at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, U.S.A.

LIVEWORKSHEETS