



# The Mary Celeste

## An unexplained mystery

❖ **Read the following text carefully and then do the activities below.**

This is the incredible - but true - story of one of the most intriguing unsolved mysteries ever. What happened to the Mary Celeste ship and its crew?

The Mary Celeste left New York on (1)  
Captain Briggs and his (2) \_\_\_\_\_ were on the ship, along  
with (3) \_\_\_\_\_ other men.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, another ship called the (4) \_\_\_\_\_, was in  
(5) \_\_\_\_\_ Its captain saw the Mary Celeste. The captain and some men  
went on the Mary Celeste. There weren't any people on the ship!

There was a lot of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on the ship. In the kitchen, there were (7)  
and \_\_\_\_\_ Everything was in its place. The people weren't there, but all of their  
clothes and things were! The captain looked at the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on the table. The last  
date in it was (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Did the people leave the ship after that day?

Why did they leave? Did they jump off the ship? What happened to the people after they  
left the Mary Celeste?

People have tried to answer those questions for (10)

❖ **Write indirect questions about the missing information on the text.**

1. I'd like to know
2. I wonder
3. Does anybody know
4. Do you happen to know
5. I'm not sure
6. Can you tell me
7. Do you have any idea
8. I have no idea
9. Would you mind telling me
10. I don't know



❖ **The missing information is in the box below. Put the pieces of information in the right places.**

25 <sup>th</sup> November	-	family	-	food	-	plates and saucepans	-	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1872
years	-	Dei Gratia	-	logbook	-	the middle of the Atlantic	-	six

❖ **Two friends just read the text about the Mary Celeste and are talking about it. Complete the question tags they make.**

A- It's an interesting story, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

B- It certainly is. Have you read about it before?

A- Not really. But it took place in 1871, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

B- 1872, actually. The Mary Celeste sailed on November 5<sup>th</sup>, but the people on it were never seen again.

A- I guess the most intriguing thing was the food and the clothes the men from the Dei Gratia found, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

B- You're right! What's the point of leaving the ship with all your things on it?

A- They must have left for a good reason, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

B- Definitely. They weren't in the middle of the Pacific, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

A- No, they were in the middle of the Atlantic, but all the same: nowhere to go!

B- And they didn't have the logbook with them, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

A- No, the Captain of the Dei Gratia found it on the ship, too. I wonder what happened to those poor people.

B- I guess we will never know, \_\_\_\_\_ ?