

INSPECTOR MUIRHEAD'S THEORY

Read and complete the text with the words from the box below.

wave	devastating	wait	scientific	huge
however	hit	hard-working	were	emergency

An Edinburgh policeman, Robert Muirhead, was sent to the island to solve the mystery. Muirhead was a ¹ _____, practical investigator, and not at all superstitious. Among other clues, he found equipment lying all over the island, and also a ² _____ rock, much too heavy for any men to carry, lying on the steps leading up to the lighthouse. In the end, the only explanation he could think of was that the men had been carried off by an enormous ³ _____. Muirhead's explanation was immediately rejected. But more than one hundred years later, in nineteen ninety-five, the ship *Queen Elizabeth II* was ⁴ _____ by a one-hundred-foot wave which, according to her captain, 'came out of the darkness' and 'looked like the White Cliffs of Dover'.

Then a paper published in a ⁵ _____ journal recently proved that the 'monster wave', which for centuries had been considered a sailors' myth, is a mathematical reality: many smaller waves can suddenly combine in mid-ocean and create a huge wave of ⁶ _____ force. Most marine scientists now agree that it is a naturally occurring – though rare – event.

So finally, the only explanation that fits the facts is that the three lighthouse men had rushed out to attend to some ⁷ _____ and had then been swept away by an enormous wave. Inspector Muirhead, it now appears, was almost certainly right. He solved the case back in nineteen oh one, but he had to ⁸ _____ another century for the proof.

⁹ _____, science still cannot answer all the questions surrounding the Flannan Islands mystery. Why did one man leave his rain jacket behind? Why ¹⁰ _____ the bodies of the men never found? Maybe these are things we will never know.

