




1 Look at the text and the pictures. What do you think this place is?

2 Listen and read.  86

Atlantis: The Lost City

The story of Atlantis is one of the oldest and most interesting mysteries in the world. Many people have written books about it and made films, too. So, how did the story begin? Well, more than 2,000 years ago, a famous Greek writer called Plato wrote a story about a beautiful island in the Atlantic Ocean. He called it the Island of Atlantis.

Plato described the people and the island in a lot of detail. He said that the people were very rich and successful. He said there were talented engineers and architects who built fantastic palaces, houses, harbours and tunnels all over the island. They built the capital city on a hill and this was surrounded by five rings of water and land. All around the city were fields and mountains. The people were very good at farming. They kept animals in their fields and grew many different things, so there was always lots of food on the island. There was also lots of fresh water and the farmers built a system for watering their fields.

The richest people on the island lived in the highest mountains. Plato described the amazing buildings they lived in. He said that there were beautiful fountains with hot and cold water, gold statues and stone walls covered in precious metals and jewels.

In the story of Atlantis, Plato described how clever and peaceful the people were. They loved art and beautiful things, and they lived happily and successfully together. He said that they were friendly with their neighbours on the different islands and

never went to war. But then he described how they changed. As they grew richer, the people of Atlantis became selfish and greedy. They started to argue and fight with each other and the people from the other islands.

Then, one day, something terrible happened. There was a huge earthquake and great waves covered the island of Atlantis until it disappeared under the sea. In the story, Plato said that this was a punishment because the people had become so bad.

For over 2,000 years, everyone thought the Island of Atlantis was just a fantastic story. Then, in the late 1800s, people started to think differently. It all started with an American man named Donnelly. He was a politician and a writer, and he became very interested in the story of Atlantis. He started to think that Plato had described a real place and a real tragic event.



3 Read again and answer the questions.

- 1 Who wrote about the Island of Atlantis?
- 2 What were the people on the island like at first?
- 3 In the story, what happened to the island?
- 4 What did they find on Thera in the 1960s?

4 Discuss.

- 1 Do you think the Island of Atlantis is real or just a story? Why?
- 2 Do you enjoy reading about mysteries? Why (not)?
- 3 Do you know about any other mysteries? What are they?

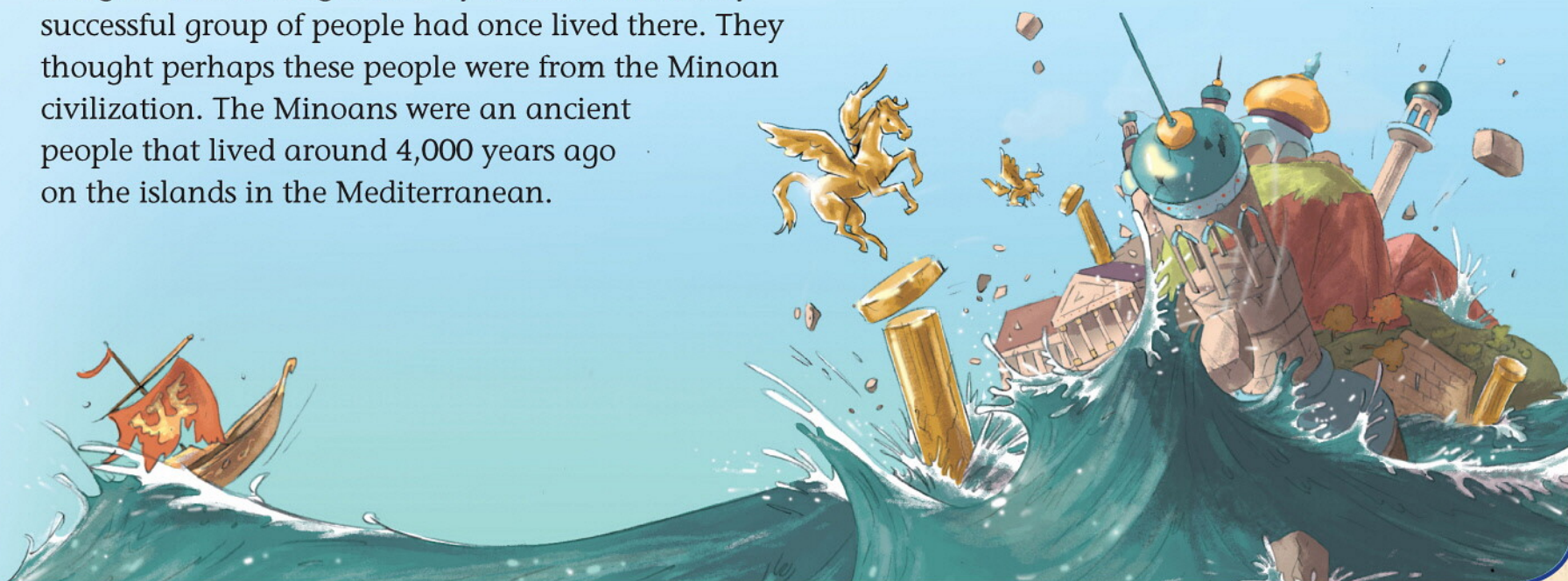
Donnelly studied the history of floods and natural disasters from Egypt to Mexico. He studied things that had happened thousands of years ago. Then he wrote a book and explained his ideas. He thought the story was about a real natural disaster. Perhaps there was a hurricane or an earthquake in the Atlantic Ocean near the island at this time. Perhaps it destroyed the island of Atlantis and all its people. Donnelly's book was very popular, and more and more people started to think that the Island of Atlantis was a real place. They started to have different ideas about where it might be and what had happened to it.

Then, in the late 1960s, there was a new idea. A Greek historian discovered the ruins of an ancient city on the Greek island of Thera, which is also called Santorini. This Greek island is famous for its volcano. When the historian and his team examined the ruins of the ancient city, they found streets, buildings, pottery and colourful wall paintings. All of these things were amazing, and they decided that a very successful group of people had once lived there. They thought perhaps these people were from the Minoan civilization. The Minoans were an ancient people that lived around 4,000 years ago on the islands in the Mediterranean.

The historian and his team also decided that the ancient city on the island had been destroyed and buried by a volcanic eruption. So, was Thera the island that Plato had described in his books? Was Thera the Island of Atlantis?

Not everyone believes that the ruins on the island of Thera are the ruins of Atlantis. Many people think the ruined island lies far beneath the sea in a different part of the world. Some people say it's near the Andes Mountains, in Bolivia. Others say it's close to Florida in the US. Other people think it was lost somewhere in Central America, the China Sea or Africa.

Of course, there are many more people that believe Atlantis is just a story. They say it was just a part of Plato's imagination. Whatever you think, the story of Atlantis is a great story and a great mystery.





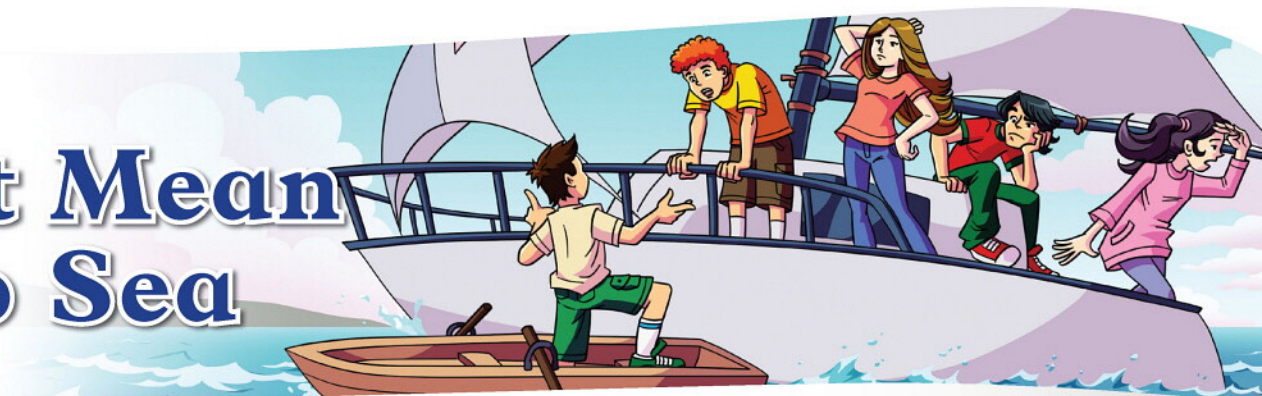
Extensive reading: fiction

1 Look at the pictures. What are the children doing? 2 Listen and read.  87

3 Read again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why are the children alone on the boat?
- 2 Why can't Jon turn the boat around?
- 3 Why can't the people on the ferry see the children's boat?
- 4 Who does the man on the ferry think the children are?

We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea



What has happened so far ...

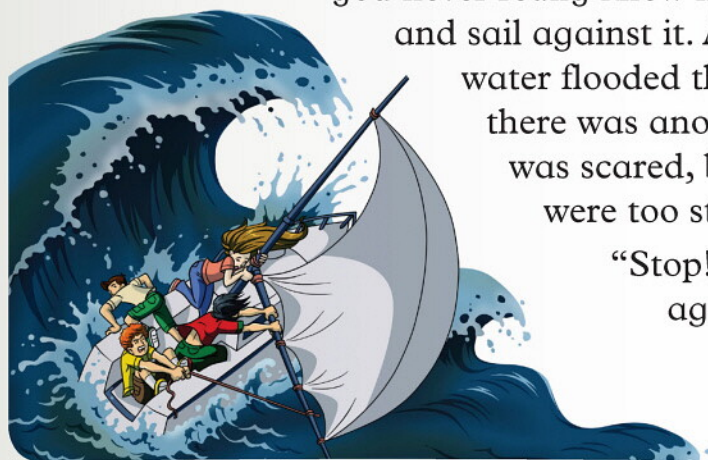
Jon, Susan, Roger and Kitty Walker were staying by a river. They met a young man called Jim Brading, who invited them to go sailing on his sailing boat. Their mother agreed, but told them to stay on the river and not to go out to sea. The children sailed to the mouth of the river, but then the wind died. They tried to use the boat engine to go back up the river, but there wasn't any petrol! Jim rowed to land to get some more. While he was gone, fog suddenly appeared, and then the children realized they were floating out to sea. They decided they had to wait until morning before they could return to the shore. But, when the fog finally disappeared, the rain started.

At first, the rain was not too heavy, but then the wind quickly became strong and, out of the west behind them, came a white wall of rain, falling down into the sea. It was still too dangerous to think of going back because they couldn't see anything through the rain. So, they went on, and the wind blew them further and further from the land. When it finally stopped raining, the sky in front of them was already growing dark, and the boat was sailing faster and faster through the tall waves.

"Let's turn back now," said Susan.

Jon took a deep breath. He wasn't sure that he could find his way back, but he didn't say this to the others. "All right," he said. "I'll turn the boat around now."

The next moment, terrible things began to happen. When you are sailing with the wind behind you, you never really know how hard the wind is blowing. It's very different when you turn and sail against it. As the boat turned into the wind, a wave broke over it and water flooded the boat. Up the boat came again, then down again, and then there was another big wave. The children were soon knee-deep in water. Jon was scared, but he tried to steer the boat against a sea and a wind that were too strong for him.



"Stop! Jon! Stop it!" cried Susan, at last. "We'll have to turn round again! We can't do this!" Susan, almost shaken to pieces by the boat's new violent movement, lay across the side and was terribly sick.

4 Discuss.

- 1 Did you enjoy the extract from the story? Why (not)?
- 2 What do you think happens at the end of the story?
- 3 Would you like to go sailing? Why (not)?

Jon slowly steered the boat round. Very slowly, the little boat turned away from the wind and back on her old course with the wind behind them again. From the cabin, they heard Kitty's frightened voice. The boat was full of water and she needed to get it out before they started sinking. Susan found the pump, and began pumping hard to get the water out of the boat.

It began to grow dark. The wind was still blowing hard, but the boat sailed on smoothly. Even Susan began to feel better. No one had fallen into the sea, everyone was safe and, soon, the night would end. The sun would rise, the wind would stop and they would sail back to land.

Susan and Kitty didn't feel seasick any more. Jon's arms hurt with steering, but he felt much happier. Roger was hungry and wondered if everyone had forgotten about supper. "Susan," he said. "It's ten o'clock. What about some chocolate or something?"

"Ten o'clock?" said Susan in surprise. "It's time you all had something to eat." And, a few minutes later, they were all eating very large pieces of fruit cake and pieces of chocolate.

Suddenly, Susan saw lights ahead.

"There's a green light on one side and a red light on the other side."

"It's a big ferry, on its way from Holland to England. It's coming this way," said Jon.

"Maybe they could take us back home," said Roger. "It's getting nearer and nearer.

I can see it very clearly."

"But they can't see us!" shouted Jon suddenly. "We've got no lights! And it's coming straight towards us. We've got to get out of the way. We've got to warn them. Roger, sound the horn!" Jon was very frightened as the boat was coming straight towards them and it was very big. Roger sounded the horn.

Someone on the ferry heard the loud noise of the horn and, at the last minute, the ferry changed course. The green light of the big ship disappeared and it went quickly past their little boat, almost touching its sides. "Show your light, you stupid fishermen," came an angry voice from the ferry. Then the ferry had passed them and was off on its way to England. The waves that the ferry made were very big, and everyone was thrown from side to side and got very wet again. They were still in one piece, although they were sailing further and further away from England.

**An extract from a story
by Arthur Ransome**

