Going Deeper

**All of Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands, is below sea level. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The deeper we dig for answers, the more we uncover new questions, *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Most ants stay underground. Everywhere. Even at picnics. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Banco Central in Fortaleza is Brazil's central bank, in charge of the country's money supply. In 2005, a group claiming to be a landscaping company rented out a building two blocks away. It garnered no suspicion that they hauled away soil day after day. No one knew that they were tunneling beneath the city right into the Banco Central. The robbers made off with almost R$165 million Brazilian reals, worth over $70 million. In the following years, various suspects were arrested, but only R$20 million was ever recovered. No one knows how many robbers were truly involved. (*The Daily Chronicle)***

If you want constant climate, dive 800 feet down in the ocean – where the temperature doesn’t change no matter what’s going on above. *(L. M. Boyd)*

The Continental Deep Bore being drilled by German scientists now reaches down 8,100 meters, or more than 4 miles. *(Rocky Mountain News, August 9, 1993)*

Isn’t Crater Lake in southern Oregon the deepest lake in North America? Deepest in the United States, at 1,932 feet. Credit Canada’s Great Slave Lake at more than 2,000 feet as deepest in North America. *(L. M. Boyd)*

A crocodile can stay underwater for an hour. *(L. M. Boyd)*

**Oak Island off the coast of Nova Scotia has a mysterious deep shaft that has resisted exploration because the water cannot be pumped out. All that has been discerned is that the shaft was dug and lined with logs in the eighteenth-century by an unknown band of men. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 424)***

**On January 23, 1969, Lt. Don Walsh of the U.S. Navy and Jacques Piccard, son of a famous scientist of that name, descended 35,800 feet to the bottom of the deepest hole in the ocean. That’s almost seven miles … straight down! I can think of a few other people who have sunk lower than that, however. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 174)***

Along the shore of South-West Africa, penned between volcanic mountains and the pounding Atlantic, lies one of the oldest, most savage deserts on earth. Geographers call this area the Skeleton Coast, because the beaches are littered with the bones of so many foundered ships To its few residents it is the Forbidden Territory, because no one may enter without permission or leave without being X-rayed. Neither name quite does it justice, for beneath these desolate sands lie some of the richest deposits of gem diamonds in the world. *(Rona\ld Schiller, in Reader’s Digest)*

Drift beautifully on the surface and you will die unbeautifully in the depths. *(Richard Ellmann, biographer)*

In an underwater dive, a duck’s heartbeat slows to half speed. *(L. M. Boyd)*

Youngest part of the earth is the ocean bottom. *(L. M. Boyd)*

Why can’t we tap the earth’s hot core for energy? Too deep to drill – 4,000 miles. Be like drilling the length of the Canada-United States border not counting Alaska. *(L. M. Boyd)*

The Grand Canyon is 7,000 feet deep at its deepest point. *(Kids’ Pages)*

Jack rabbits never dig burrows. *(L. M. Boyd)*

Anthropologist Margaret Mead said jealousy is not a measure of love’s depth. “It merely records the degree of the lover’s insecurity.” *(L. M. Boyd)*

On Manhattan Island, 12.5 miles long and 2.5 miles wide with 500 miles of paved streets, are more than 100,000 places through which you can descend into the vast netherworld of vaults and tunnels. That “Beauty and the Beast” show isn’t so far off. *(L. M. Boyd)*

Most marine life in the oceans live close to the top. *(L. M. Boyd)*

What happens to the monster when Scotland’s Loch Ness freezes over? It doesn’t. Too deep. *(L. M. Boyd)*

**The best work I’ve ever done has a feeling of having been excavated. I don’t feel like a novelist as much as an archeologist who is digging things up and looking at the carvings on them. Sometimes you get a little pot out of the ground, and that’s a short story. Sometimes you get a bigger pot, which is a novella. Sometimes you get a building, which is like a novel. When I feel I’m “creating,” I’m usually doing bad work. *(Stephen King)***

**The oceans average out to be four times deeper than the land is high. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Why Phelps set so many records: At this year’s Olympics, swimmers set 25 new international speed records, compared with only eight new record times at the 2004 Games in Athens. The talents of Michael Phelps and the other record-breakers are partly responsible, but the depth of the pool in Beijing played a major part in the eye-opening speed of the 2008 Olympics’ swimmers, says New Scientist. It’s a matter of basic physics. The Beijing pool is about 3 feet deeper than pools used at earlier Olympics. That additional depth reduces the drag on a swimmer’s body by extending the distance traveled by the so-called bow wave – the wave that shoots downward and outward from the swimmer’s upper body. A swimmer generates a second wave, known as the stem wave, with his lower body. If the bow wave bounces off the bottom of the pool and comes back to contact the stem wave, the result is drag. Since the Beijing pool is too deep for the bow wave to reflect back on the stem wave, swimmers do not have to contend with some of the usual backward pull, enabling them to swim faster. Experts stress, though, that the pool is within official size limits, so the swimmers fully deserve to be in the record books. “The current spate of swimming records is fair and valid,” says exercise scientist Brent Rushall. *(The Week magazine, September 5, 2008)***

**Your pulse slows down when you put your face in water. That much the researchers have learned. What they’re trying to figure out now is whether this phenomenon goes back to the beginnings of mankind. The heartbeat of all sea mammals slows when they dive. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Four hundred miles north of Winnipeg, residents in the town of Flin Flon, Manitoba, raise fresh fruit, herbs, and roses all year around in abandoned copper and zinc mines that lie 1,750 feet underground. With the use of high-intensity lighting, drip irrigation, and computers, growers maintain temperatures of 78 degrees by day and 69 degrees at night, ideal conditions for many plants – even roses – to thrive and blossom comfortably. *(Lester Seto, in Portals of Prayer)***

**What a river tries to do is deepen its channel. It leaves most of the widening to other forces: rain, frost, gravity, plants, animals. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Not the leaves but the roots of certain Venezuelan plants trap, dissolve and digest insects. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In a heavy sea, how deep would a diver have to go to get to calm water? About 60 feet. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Brunnich’s guillemots, an arctic seabird, can dive to depths of up to five hundred feet beneath the ocean’s surface in search of food. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 159)***

**The deep sea diving record for seabirds – 800 feet – is held by the penguin, as you might surmise. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**A southern elephant seal can stay in a mile-deep dive for a couple of hours. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Gray seals have a surprising way to make their air last longer: “deferred food-processing.” The marine mammals can stay submerged 20 minutes without coming up for a breath, gulping down as many fish as they can stomach. Most animals start digesting their food as soon as they eat it. But digestion uses oxygen, a precious commodity for an animal holding its breath. Gray seals can put off digestion until after they stop hunting and return to land – sometimes hours later – according to new research from the University of St. Andrew’s in Scotland. This ability may let seals forage longer and in deeper water. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Do spiders spin webs underwater? Some do. And collect air bubbles in them. And raise their offspring on the oxygen in the bubbles. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**There is no known way for a submarine to communicate with land via radio when it is underwater. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 38)**

**A redneck college student joined the swim team. Every day at 5 p.m. he would stay after practice and jump in the pool. He would then hold his breath and dive to the bottom, staying there for as long as his lungs could hold. He would then come out, take another breath and repeat the procedure. He did this repeatedly until he was ready to faint and then would crawl out of the pool and go back to his dorm room. After about a week of this, the coach started worrying about the redneck student’s mental stability. Finally the coach asked the student what he was doing. “Well,” said the student, “one of my professors recently told me that deep down I’m not so stupid.” (Tidbits)**

**Seasick sailors of old went below decks to lie down during storms. Literally, to put themselves beneath the wind and rain. That’s where we got the not-feeling-well phrase: “under the weather.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**How fast is the pulse of a killer whale? At the surface, 60 beats a minute. Underwater, 30 beats a minute. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It’s now known that the sperm whale sometimes dives as deep as two miles. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 10)***

**Sperm whales can dive to 9,800 feet in search of prey. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 152)***

Sperm whales can dive as deep as 5,000 feet and stay underwater for as long as one-and-a-half hours. *(Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)*

**Why whales as yet have not learned how to breathe under water, I don’t know. They spend as much as 80 percent of their lives there. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***