

Skeletal Report Form for Students

1. Look at the skeleton diagram. The sailor's broken nose would have been found on his

- a. femur
- b. humerus
- c. cranium
- d. mandible

2. Based on evidence from the skeleton's hips, vertebrae, and tarsus, our sailor probably walked

- a. bow-legged
- b. swaggering, like a pirate
- c. with a limp
- d. with an elegant stride

3. Judging from the jawbones (mandible, maxilla), and teeth (dentition), the sailor

- a. may have used his canine teeth as a tool
- b. had lost several teeth from cavities and gum disease
- c. was an adult
- d. all of the above

4. Why did the researchers hope to get a sample of the sailor's DNA?

- a. to compare with that of living members of the Barange family in France and prove that his name was C. Barange
- b. to establish if it was male or female
- c. to see whether he had a single or double helix
- d. answers "a" and "b"

5. Look at the skeleton diagram. What bones are connected to the pelvis (pelvic girdle)?

- a. metatarsals
- b. vertebrae (spinal column)
- c. phalanges
- d. tibia

6. We know the skeleton was that of a man based on

- a. the narrow width of his pelvis and overall robustness
- b. the size of his head
- c. the name on the ID card in his wallet
- d. the shape of his feet

7. We think the sailor died of dehydration (thirst) because

- a. he had no mortal wounds
- b. there was no evidence of fatal diseases
- c. a diary written by one of La Salle's colonists says that the sailors ran out of water and some had died
- d. all of the above

8. There was no usable DNA in bones, teeth, or brain of the skeleton because

- a. it had all dried up
- b. it had become contaminated with marine organisms
- c. it was too old
- d. its genes had gone out of style

9. Look at the diagram of the skeleton. The longest bone in the body is the

- a. humerus
- b. metacarpal
- c. femur
- d. molar

10. Look at the diagram of the skeleton. The fibula is part of

- a. the leg
- b. the hand
- c. the spinal column
- d. the body element that makes some people tell fibs

Sum up your data on the skeleton by circling the correct answer below

Sex: male female

Ethnicity: European Native American

Stature (height): tall (about 6 feet) short (about 5 feet 4 inches)

Age: teenager in his 20s to late 30s old (60s to 70s)

Health: feeling good in pain (many injuries) but otherwise healthy

Dig Deeper

1. The *La Belle* wrecked just $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from land. Why do you suppose the sailor didn't swim ashore to find water, instead of dying of thirst?
2. Do you think scientists can say for sure what color eyes the sailor had?
3. While you're alive, are your bones alive, too?
4. If your DNA could prove you were related to any famous person living now or in the past, who would you choose to be related to?
5. Based on all you have learned, what do you think life was like for this sailor while on board *La Belle*?