



Graham Walters Breaks Two Rowing Records

What has Graham Walters achieved?

- **Graham Walters has rowed across the Atlantic Ocean in 96 days.**
- **He rowed from the Canary Islands, off the west coast of Africa, to Antigua, an island nation that is in North America.**

A **carpenter** from Leicestershire has rowed across the Atlantic Ocean. He has also become a record-breaker.

Graham Walters, 72, broke two world records. He has become the oldest person to row any ocean solo and the oldest person to row an ocean more than once!

Graham had set himself the challenge to row across the Atlantic Ocean. He did this to raise money for Help for Heroes. It's a charity that supports **veterans** with illness, injuries and wounds.

He set off from Gran Canaria, part of the Canary Islands, on 25th January. After 96 days, covering a distance of 3000 miles, he arrived on the island of Antigua, in the Caribbean sea, on 29th April.

However, the journey wasn't all plain sailing. Not far from the finishing line, he was almost blown off course by strong winds. This would have added days to his **voyage**.

At this point, Graham sent an alert to the Antiguan coastguard. They then towed him into harbour, allowing him to reach the finishing line. The Guinness Book of Records then checked that the records had been broken.

Graham has so far raised over £4000 for Help for Heroes. He had set himself a target of £500. David Martin, head of **fundraising** at Help for Heroes, said, "Graham is clearly a remarkable

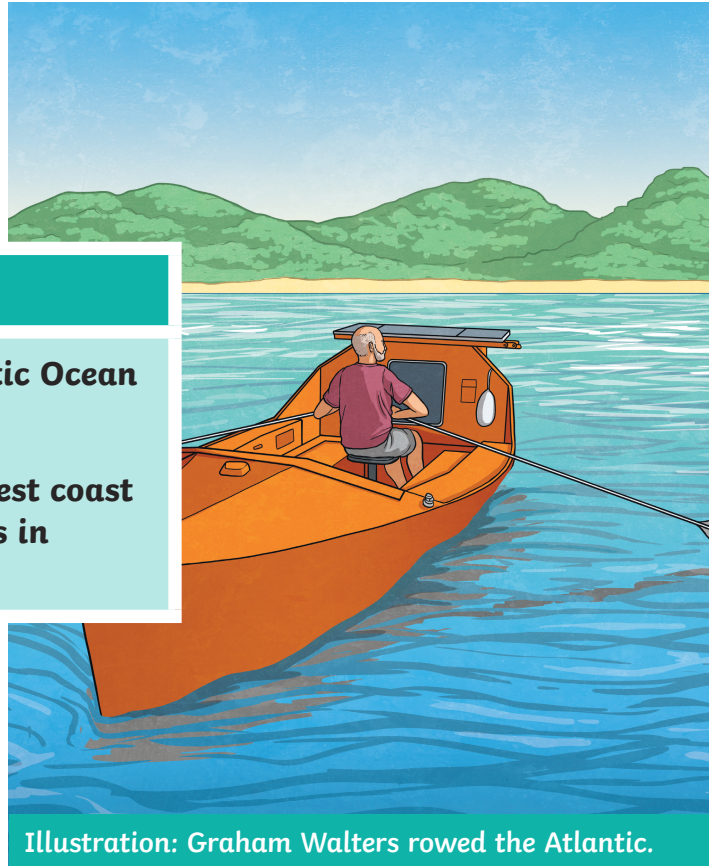


Illustration: Graham Walters rowed the Atlantic.

and determined man." This voyage was the fifth time that Graham had rowed across the Atlantic. However, he says that this journey will be the last time he rows across an ocean.

Graham rowed in a boat called the George Geary, named after his grandfather, who played cricket for England. Using his carpentry skills, Graham made it in his back garden 22 years ago.

The boat, though, will not be coming home to the UK with Graham. He plans to leave it in a museum in Antigua for people to view.

Glossary

carpenter	A person who makes or repairs wooden objects.
veterans	Ex-members of the armed forces.
voyage	A long journey involving travel by sea.
fundraising	To raise money for a charity.

Questions

1. Find and copy a word from the second paragraph that means 'alone'.

2. Find and copy three pieces of information in the article about Graham's voyage across the Atlantic.

1.

2.

3.

3. The phrase 'It wasn't all plain sailing' suggests that...

- ☐ It was an easy journey for Graham.
- ☐ He overcame a number of challenges.
- ☐ The end was straightforward.
- ☐ Graham used a sail instead of rowing parts of the journey.

4. "Graham is clearly a remarkable and determined man."

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'determined' in this sentence.

- ☐ calm
- ☐ resilient
- ☐ shy
- ☐ unprepared

5. Compare the amount of money that Graham expected to raise at the start with the amount he had raised now.

6. Write a summary of the story in 15 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Find and copy a word from the second paragraph that means 'alone'.
solo
2. Find and copy three pieces of information in the article about Graham's voyage across the Atlantic.
Accept any three facts from the following: he set off from Gran Canaria on 25th January; he arrived in Antigua on 29th April; his journey lasted 96 days; he has raised money for Help for Heroes; he was almost blown off course; the journey was 3000 miles long.
3. The phrase 'It wasn't all plain sailing' suggests that...
 - ☐ It was an easy journey for Graham.
 - ☒ **He overcame a number of challenges.**
 - ☐ The end was straightforward.
 - ☐ Graham used a sail instead of rowing parts of the journey.
4. "Graham is clearly a remarkable and determined man."
Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'determined' in this sentence.
 - ☐ calm
 - ☒ **resilient**
 - ☐ shy
 - ☐ unprepared
5. Compare the amount of money that Graham expected to raise at the start with the amount he had raised now.
Accept an answer which refers to the following in the text: Graham has so far raised over £4000 for Help for Heroes. He had set himself a target of £500.
6. Write a summary of the story in 15 words or fewer.
Accept any answer which refers to the story and is 15 words or fewer, e.g. Graham Walters has rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, breaking two world records.