

Man Breaks Underwater Record

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **surface** (noun): the top or outer layer of something. Example: The lake was so calm that we could see the mountains reflected on its surface.
2. **attach** (verb): to join, fasten, etc. something to another. Example: I usually attach my sleeping mat to the outside of my hiking bag since it's too big to fit inside.
3. **float** (verb): to be, or cause to be, on or near the surface of a liquid without sinking; to be suspended in a liquid or gas. Example: The boat floated gently down the river in the afternoon heat.
4. **glow** (verb): to produce a steady light. Example: Scientists have discovered a jellyfish that glows in the dark.
5. **beat** (verb): to get more points or be better than someone in a game or competition. Example: It's unlikely that anyone will ever match or beat Kelly Slater's record of 11 surfing World Titles.
6. **overpopulation** (noun): the state of having too many people living in a country, city, etc. Example: Overpopulation in Mumbai has contributed to heavy traffic and high levels of pollution in the city.



A German man has broken a world record by spending 120 days living underwater. But don't worry, he wasn't holding his breath! No, Rudiger Koch was living in a 30-square-meter capsule in the sea near Panama. And for sea-loving Koch, it wasn't just

about breaking the record—he wanted to show that people might be able to live under the sea in the future. Koch said living underwater wasn't actually too difficult.

1. How long did Rudiger Koch spend living underwater?
2. Where was Koch's underwater capsule located?

He had a bed, a small TV, and a computer that was connected to the internet. He also had an exercise bike to keep fit. One thing he didn't have was a shower. The capsule, which was 11 meters below the surface, was attached to another capsule that was floating on the water above. Visitors, including doctors, journalists, and people bringing food, were able to climb down a narrow staircase to see Koch.

1. What amenities did Koch have in his underwater capsule?
2. How deep was Koch's capsule located underwater?

The 59-year-old said it was a "great adventure" that he really enjoyed. He said the best part was being underwater at night when "it gets dark and the sea is glowing." After he came out of the capsule, beating the previous record by 20 days, he enjoyed some Champagne and then jumped into the Caribbean Sea. With the world facing challenges linked to climate change and overpopulation, some people are looking up to space to see whether humans could live on Mars. But others are looking down—underwater.

1. What did Koch enjoy most about living underwater?
2. How did Koch celebrate after coming out of the capsule?

Researchers around the world are planning to build capsules and even cities under the sea. A UK company called Deep has said it wants to have some scientists living underwater by 2027. The idea of underwater living is gaining interest as the world faces challenges like climate change and overpopulation. Some believe that living underwater could be a viable solution for the future. It remains to be seen whether these plans will become a reality.

1. What are researchers around the world planning to build underwater?
2. When does the UK company Deep plan to have scientists living underwater?

Living underwater may seem like a science fiction dream, but Rudiger Koch's record-breaking adventure shows that it could be possible. With advancements in technology and increasing interest in underwater habitats, the future might hold new ways of living beneath the waves. For now, Koch's achievement stands as a testament to human curiosity and the desire to explore new frontiers. Whether underwater living will become a common reality remains to be seen, but the journey has already begun.

1. What does Koch's record-breaking adventure show about underwater living?
2. How does Koch's achievement contribute to the idea of underwater living?

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on Rudiger Koch's record?

2. What do you imagine it would be like to live underwater for 120 days?
3. How long do you think you could handle living in an underwater capsule?
4. Do you think underwater living will become a reality in the future?
5. Would you rather live underwater or in space?
6. Have you ever been scuba diving? If so, where? If not, would you be interested in trying?
7. Do you generally enjoy being in water?