

Reading Comprehension (Grade 6)-2

Read the following passage:

By the end of 15th century, European explorers had considerable experience of long distance ocean voyaging. In particular, they had learnt that the greatest danger, apart from storms and hurricanes, was lack of food and water. If a ship was becalmed, supplies could quickly run low.

European navigators had also learnt that there were other problems besides hunger and thirst. They noticed that the ship's crew often fell sick even when they had enough food to eat and water to drink regularly. For a long time, they couldn't understand what caused this sickness. Many crew members even died of this mysterious disease.

Much later, the navigators discovered that the crew suffered from a disease called Scurvy which was caused due to deficiency of vitamin C. This deficiency resulted in swollen and bleeding gums and even caused loss of teeth. Some men who couldn't recover eventually died.

Not until the 18th century did the British Navy discover an effective way of preventing this disease. The crew members were now served with daily dose of lime juice which is rich in vitamin C. This soon earned British sailors the nick name 'Limeys'.

Based on your reading, complete the following statements:

1. The two discoveries made by the European explorers about long distance ocean voyaging were:

_____ (i) _____
_____ and
_____ (ii) _____
_____ .

2. The sailors often fell sick because of

_____ (iii) _____ .

3. The symptoms of their sickness included

_____ (iv) _____
and _____ (v) _____ .

4. Finally, the crew was given _____ (vi) _____ to avoid sickness.

5. Find words from the passage which mean:

plentiful- _____ (vii) _____

shortage- _____ (viii) _____