
Alvin is No Chipmunk!

Many people know Alvin as a cartoon chipmunk with a
10 funny voice. Yet to scientists, Alvin is a key that opens the door
23 to a deep underwater world.

28 Alvin is a submersible, a ship that can travel miles deep in the
41 water to the bottom of the ocean. It was named after Allyn Vine,
54 the man who helped make Alvin and deep sea research possible.

65 Alvin is made of a light, but strong metal. It has to be strong.
79 Why? The weight of water at depths of 6,000 feet or more feels
92 about the same as if you tried to hold up 50 jumbo jets!

105 Since 1964, Alvin has made over 4,000 trips to the
115 ocean's bottom. Just three people and many scientific tools
124 can fit inside the submersible. Yet in this tiny ship, scientists do
136 very big tasks, such as map the ocean floor. Because of Alvin,
148 all sorts of new and strange organisms have been found living
159 where no one thought they ever could!