

Shackleton's Journey

Spring 2

Antarctica



Terrain	The Antarctic is based on a large land continent (Antarctica) covered in ice and snow. Antarctica has several mountains as well as huge glaciers. Large icebergs can be found at sea.
Climate and Weather Patterns	Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. The temperature can reach as low as -89°C ! Worse still, freezing blizzards can take place for days at a time.
Animals	Emperor penguins are one of Antarctica's famous residents. A number of seals and birds also live in Antarctica.

Timeline of key events	
1772-1774	Captain Cook crossed the Antarctic Circle.
1819-21	Captain Thaddeus Bellingshausen (Russian naval officer) circumnavigates the Antarctic.
Late 19 th century to after World War I	"The Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration" - many were drawn to Antarctica and in just a few short years, Antarctica was where some of the bravest and most worthy of explorers met some of the harshest conditions ever endured. Some expeditions succeeded, others didn't.
1921	Captain John Davis, an American seal hunter, first lands on the continent of Antarctica.
1823	James Weddell, a British whaler, discovers the sea; it is named after him - The Weddell Sea.
1840s	British, French and American expeditions establish Antarctica as a continent.
1901	Captain Scott (British) leads the first Antarctic expedition to reach the South Pole - Ernest Shackleton is with him - it is unsuccessful.
1909	Douglas Mawson (Australian) reaches the South Magnetic Pole.
1911	Roald Amundsen (Norwegian) reaches the South Pole for the first time.
1912	Captain Scott reaches the South Pole - when he gets there he discovers Amundsen has beat him to it. Scott and his team die on the return journey.
1914	Ernest Shackleton (Irish) attempts to cross the continent on foot. His boat <i>The Endurance</i> , gets stuck in the ice and is eventually rescued in 1917.
1961	The Antarctic treaty comes into effect to ensure it is used peacefully, is not exploited or used for animal hunting or ruled by one group or country.

Key individuals of <i>The Endurance</i> expedition	
Sir Ernest Shackleton	Expedition leader.
Frank Worsley	Captain of <i>The Endurance</i> .
Frank Hurley	Official photographer of the expedition - his photos are still seen today.
Percy Blackborow	Sometimes spelt Perce Blackborow or Blackborrow. He was a stowaway on <i>The Endurance</i> . Shackleton put him to good use as a steward.

Picture taken by Frank Hurley



Climate
<p>Cool summers High mountains - 2300m average Ice sheet covers 99% of the land Long cold winters Long dark nights (winter) South pole temperature: -62°C to -55°C</p>



Flora
<p>Very few plants as only 1% of land is not covered with ice. Rock has moss and lichen growing on it. Most flora is found on the islands. There are no trees!</p>

Fauna
<p>Rich seas due to phytoplankton. Penguins, eg Emperor, Chinstrap Fur seals, elephant seals. Orcas, Minke whales</p>

<p><u>Task 1</u> Choose a key individual from <i>The Endurance</i> expedition. Research the individual and create a fact file.</p>	<p><u>Task 2</u> Create a piece of artwork based on the climate, fauna and flora information.</p>	<p><u>Task 3</u> Imagine you are a member of <i>The Endurance</i> expedition. Write a diary entry of a typical day onboard the ship.</p>
<p><u>Task 4</u> Create an illustrated timeline of key events surrounding Antarctica.</p>	<p><u>Task 5</u> Draw/paint the picture taken by Frank Hurley, can you recreate this picture using similar colours.</p>	<p><u>Task 6</u> Write a persuasive letter, explaining why we should try to protect Antarctica.</p>