

Subject: History	Year Group: 6	Unit: The Exploration of Antarctica
Key Question: Why and how did Ernest Shackleton travel to Antarctic?		
First- hand experience:		

NC Objectives to be addressed:				Prior Learning related to this unit of work	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066 				Year 1 – term 2 – Arctic Explorers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements, some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods 	
Local	Regional	National	International		

Key Vocabulary:

Tier 3			
Antarctic	South polar region – South Pole	Oceanographer	The scientific study of the ocean
Expedition	A journey undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose	Knighthood	Is an official title given to British men who have performed extraordinary service. When someone receives a knighthood, they're formally addressed as "Sir.
Geographic	The physical features of an area.	Navigating	To direct the way that a ship, aircraft, etc. will travel, or to find a direction across, along, or over an area of water or land, often by using a map:
Trekking	Go on a long arduous journey, typically on foot	Journalist	A person who writes for newspapers, magazines, or news websites or prepares news to be broadcast

Sequence of learning:

Knowledge to be taught (Declarative): Note – please teach in conjunction with the Geography plan for this unit of work.

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- Ernest Henry Shackleton was born in Ireland on February 15th 1874. His father, Henry Shackleton was a landowner at the time. His mother was called Henrietta.
- When he was six years old, Shackleton's father started his training as a doctor. Four years later, as his father had finished his training, the family moved to London as there were better job opportunities for his dad.
- Shackleton was home-schooled until the age of 11. He then went to prep school before attending Dulwich College in London.
- Although he was very clever, he never really got on with school. He was an avid reader and particularly enjoyed fictional accounts of adventures which made him want to experience these adventures himself rather than learn and read about them.
- He refused to walk in his father's footsteps and left school at 16 to enter the merchant navy instead. Through his job he travelled widely but what he really wanted was to explore the poles.
- Robert Falcon Scott was born in Devonport on June 6, 1868. During the 1880s and 1890s he served in the Royal Navy. He proved he was a good scientist and leader. By 1897 he had been promoted to first lieutenant – Scott and Shackleton explored together during one of his expeditions
- (The children will have heard of Henson in KS1 when they looked at Artic Explorers – but it is important to explore and contrast him now the children's knowledge of black history is embedded through KS1, KS2 and now UKS2) Matthew Alexander Henson (August 8, 1866 – March 9, 1955) was born in Nanjemoy, Maryland, to sharecropper parents who were free Black Americans before the Civil War. He spent most of his early life in Washington, D.C., but left school at the age of twelve to work as a cabin boy. He later returned to Washington and worked as a salesclerk at a good department store. One of his customers was Robert Peary, who in 1887 hired him as a personal valet
- Henson accompanied Robert Peary on seven voyages to the Arctic over a period of nearly 23 years. They spent a total of 18 years on expeditions together. He is best known for his participation in the 1908–1909 expedition that claimed to have reached the geographic North Pole on April 6, 1909. Henson said he was the first of their party to reach the pole.
- Henson achieved a degree of fame as a result of participating in the expedition, and in 1912 he published a memoir titled *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole*
- The first female explorer to reach the Antarctic was Caroline Mikkelsen, a Danish-Norwegian explorer who set foot on Antarctica on 20 February 1935.

2 and 3 Shackleton Expeditions:

- Shackleton led three British expeditions to the Antarctic. He was one of the principal figures of the "Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration"
- **Discovery:** In 1901 Ernest Shackleton became third officer to the National Antarctic Expedition's ship called 'Discovery'. The expedition was led by Robert Falcon Scott.
- The team set off on 31st July 1901 and sailed for five months before arriving at the Antarctic Coast on 8th January 1902.
- With Robert Falcon Scott and one other team member, Shackleton trekked towards the South Pole in extremely difficult conditions, getting closer to the Pole than anyone had come before.
- Unfortunately, the team experienced many difficulties during the expedition such as snow blindness, frostbite and scurvy.
- Shackleton became very ill and had to return home before reaching the South Pole.

- The Discovery expedition was successful in producing comprehensive scientific and geographical surveys, it was the first to penetrate the interior of Antarctica and effectively located the South Magnetic Pole. The Discovery expedition helped open the door to a century of British scientific research.
- Dr Hugh Robert Mill, a noted oceanographer and meteorologist sailed with Discovery as far as Madeira to help with the science programme. He became good friends with Ernest Shackleton during the voyage
- **Nimrod:** Back in Britain, Ernest Shackleton worked as a journalist for a while before his second Antarctic expedition on a ship named 'Nimrod' on 1st January 1908. This time, he was the leader of his own expedition.
- Shackleton and his team discovered the Beardmore Glacier. Next, they ascended Mount Erebus which is the second highest volcano in Antarctica. Now, they were closer to the South Pole than they'd ever been before. They were only 180 km from the Pole. They also made a number of important scientific discoveries.
- On his return home, Shackleton received an award from King Edward VII. A few months later, he received a knighthood from the King.
- **Endurance:** Ernest Shackleton was determined to go on another expedition, so he put an advertisement in the newspaper asking for men to join him. He got more than he bargained for as more than 5,000 people applied.
- In 1914, Shackleton selected a crew of 56 men, who were split between two ships named 'Endurance' and 'Aurora', which set sail on 8th August. This is the expedition that became the stuff of legends.
- Conditions in the Weddell Sea were slow and hazardous and on 19th January 1915, the ship 'Endurance' became stuck in a sheet of floating ice.
- Shackleton and his crew abandoned the ship after spending ten months on it. They lived on top of the Antarctic ice for almost two years before, in April 1916, Shackleton took five crew members to find help.
- They spent 16 days crossing 1,300km of ocean in a small boat with no navigating equipment to reach the island of South Georgia, where they trekked to a whaling station for help. He then went back to rescue all 22 men that he'd left behind, rescuing them on 30th August 1916.

Exploration	Invasion	Cultural Change	Rebellion	Empire	Technological Advancement	Crime and Punishment
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Resources and teacher subject knowledge

[Ernest Shackleton Teaching Ideas and Resources \(coolantarctica.com\)](http://coolantarctica.com) – *This site has some incredible resources that can be downloaded for free.*

[BBC - History - Ernest Shackleton](#)

[Matthew Henson - Kids | Britannica Kids | Homework Help](#)

[Robert Falcon Scott Facts for Kids \(kiddle.co\)](http://kiddle.co)