

Year 6 Geography - Antarctica

Prior Knowledge

You should already know of and be able to give many facts about the Antarctic Expedition led by Sir Ernest Shackleton 1914-1916.

Key Vocabulary

Antarctica	Arctic	Expedition
Source	Primary source	Secondary source
History	Legacy	Cause
Effect	Chronological	Pack ice
Continent	Landmass	Endurance

Knowledge and Understanding

Ernest Shackleton was not the first person who wanted to explore the Antarctic continent. Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole summit before Shackleton could – therefore he changed his plans. Shackleton wanted to be the first person to cross the Antarctic continent landmass.

Other global events were happening in the same time period – World War 1 started 1 month after the expedition departed England. There were many primary sources we can gather from the expedition – what are they? What is Ernest Shackleton's legacy and what impact has he had on British history?

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.



Who am I - Ernest Shackleton? What can you discover about the Endurance Expedition?

How did I become an explorer? What is my legacy?