



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Curriculum Capture for Year 2 History

Topic: Lives of significant individuals who have contributed to national and international achievements: Captain Robert Scott & Ernest Shackleton- Exploration of the South Pole

Key People

Robert Falcon Scott

Scott of the Antarctic' was a naval officer and explorer, who died attempting to be the first to reach the South Pole.

- Born on 6 June 1868 in Devonport.
- At the age of 13, he became a naval cadet and served on several Royal Navy ships in the 1880s and 1890s.
- He led the Discovery Expedition in 1901-1904 and reached further south than anyone before them.
- Scott returned to Britain a national hero.
- He led the Terra Nova Expedition in 1910-1913 and reached the South Pole.
- Scott died on his return journey from the South Pole. He was buried under the tent, with a cairn of ice and snow to mark his final resting spot.



Ernest Shackleton

Shackleton was an Anglo-Irish Antarctic explorer, best known for leading the 'Endurance' expedition of 1914-16.

- Born on 15 February 1874 in County Kildare, Ireland.
- His family moved to London where Shackleton was educated.
- His father was a doctor and wished for Shackleton to become the same.
- At the age of 16, he joined the merchant navy and qualified as a master mariner in 1898.
- He travelled widely but was keen to explore the poles.
- In 1901, Shackleton was chosen to go on the Antarctic expedition led by British naval officer Robert Falcon Scott on the ship 'Discovery'.
- In 1908, he returned to the Antarctic as the leader of his own expedition, on the ship 'Nimrod'.
- He was knighted on his return to Britain.

Key Knowledge

Discovery Expedition

- 1901 – 1904
- The first official British exploration of the Antarctic regions.
- The expedition carried out scientific research and geographical exploration in what was then largely an untouched continent.
- Robert Falcon Scott led the expedition
- Ernest Shackleton was a member of the expedition team. The Discovery Expedition trekked closer to the South Pole than anyone had come before.
- There was extremely difficult conditions.
- Shackleton became seriously ill and had to return home not completing the expedition.

As a trailbreaker for later ventures, the *Discovery Expedition* was a landmark in British Antarctic exploration history.

Nimrod Expedition

- 1907– 1909
- The first of three expeditions to the Antarctic led by Ernest Shackleton.
- One of the objectives of the journey was for Shackleton to reach the South Pole, it was the second time that he tried.
- During the expedition, his team climbed Mount Erebus, made many important scientific discoveries and set a record by coming even closer to the South Pole than before.



Terra Nova Expedition

- 1910 – 1913
- Scott wished to continue the scientific work that he had begun when leading the Discovery.
- He also wanted to be the first to reach the South Pole.
- He and four companions made it to the South Pole on 17 January 1912, where they found that the Norwegian team led by Roald Amundsen had beaten them by 34 days.
- Scott's entire party died on the return journey from the pole; their bodies, journals, and photographs were found by a search party eight months later. The bodies were buried under the tent, with a cairn of ice and snow to mark the spot.

Timeline of Key Events

1901- 04	Discovery Expedition reached further south than anyone had before.
1908	Shackleton returned to the Antarctic as the leader of his own expedition, on the ship 'Nimrod'.
1910	In June, Robert Scott set off on the whaling ship Terra Nova.
1911	In October, the expedition set off from base with mechanical sledges, ponies and dogs. In December, The dog teams turned back, leaving the rest of Scott's expedition to face the ascent of the Beardmore Glacier and the polar plateau.
1911	Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole on the 14 th December.
1912	17 th January, Scott reached the South pole, only to find that Roald Amundsen's party, had beaten them there.
1912	29 th March, Scott's entire party died of exposure on their return journey from the South Pole.
1914	Shackleton led his third trip to the Antarctic with the ship 'Endurance'.