

Ernest Shackleton

Ernest Shackleton was a polar explorer. He went on three journeys to the Antarctic and made lots of discoveries.

Early Life

Ernest Henry Shackleton was born on 15th February 1874. His parents were Henry Shackleton and Henrietta Gavan. Ernest had one brother and eight sisters!

Ernest loved to read adventure stories as a child. He was very clever but found school boring. He did not want to hear about the world from his teachers; he wanted to see it for himself.



Sailing the Seas

Ernest left school when he was 16 years old. He spent many years learning how to sail and spent a lot of time on ships that carried food and goods around the world. After eight years, Ernest was able to sail a British ship anywhere in the world.

Discovery

Ernest's first journey to the Antarctic was on the National Antarctic Expedition. This was a journey of discovery led by Robert Falcon Scott, who was a successful explorer. The team set sail aboard a ship named 'Discovery' on 31st July 1901. They arrived at the Antarctic coast over five months later but lots of things went wrong for the team. Ernest became very poorly and was sent home early on 4th January 1903.

Nimrod

Ernest began his second journey to the Antarctic on 1st January 1908. He set sail aboard a ship named 'Nimrod'. Ernest and his team climbed Mount Erebus, which is the second-highest volcano in Antarctica. They came even closer to the South Pole than they had before. Ernest received an award from King Edward VII for what he had done.

Endurance

Ernest wanted to go to the Antarctic again so he put an advert in the newspaper asking for men to join him. More than 5,000 people wanted to go but Ernest only chose a crew of 56. They were split between two ships named 'Endurance' and 'Aurora'. Both ships set sail on 8th August 1914.

Unfortunately, the ship 'Endurance' became stuck in the ice on 19th January 1915 and it sank nine months later. Ernest and his crew left the ship and lived on top of the Antarctic ice.

They were there for nearly two years before they were rescued on 30th August 1916.

Did You Know...?

- Ernest married his wife, Emily, on 9th April 1904.
- Ernest and Emily had three children. They called them Raymond, Cecily and Edward.
- One cat, named Mrs Chippy, lived on the ship 'Endurance' during the journey.



Questions

1. From which person did Ernest receive an award? Tick one.

- ☐ Queen Victoria
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth II
- ☐ King Edward VII
- ☐ King Henry VIII

2. On which date did Ernest marry his wife, Emily? Tick one.

- ☐ 15th February 1874
- ☐ 4th January 1903
- ☐ 9th April 1904
- ☐ 19th January 1915

3. What were the names of the two ships that took part in Ernest's third journey to the Antarctic? Tick two.

- ☐ 'Endurance'
- ☐ 'Nimrod'
- ☐ 'Aurora'
- ☐ 'Discovery'

4. Draw lines to match the event to the year it happened in.

Ernest was rescued from the ice.

1874

Ernest was born.

1901

Ernest went on his first journey.

1916

5. Fill in the missing words.

Ernest had _____ brother and _____ sisters!

6. Find and copy the name of the cat that lived aboard 'Endurance'.

7. Do you think Ernest and the team enjoyed their first trip to the Antarctic? Explain how you know.

Answers

1. From which person did Ernest receive an award? Tick one.

- ☐ Queen Victoria
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth II
- ☒ **King Edward VII**
- ☐ King Henry VIII

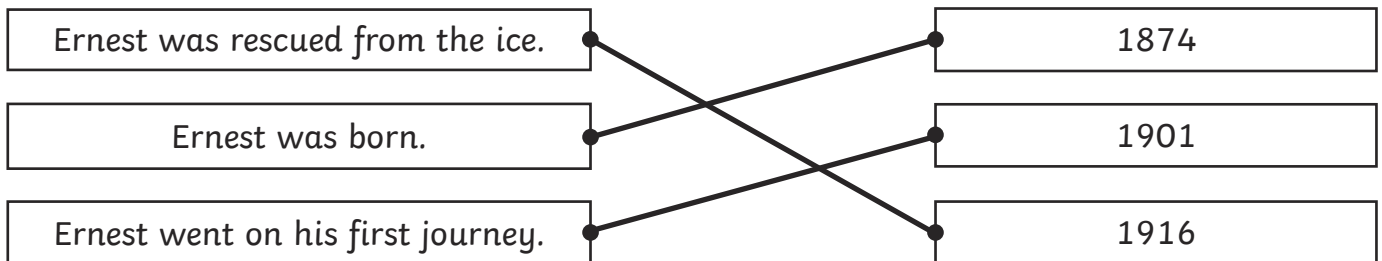
2. On which date did Ernest marry his wife, Emily? Tick one.

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3. What were the names of the two ships that took part in Ernest's third journey to the Antarctic? Tick two.

- ☒ **'Endurance'**
- ☐ 'Nimrod'
- ☒ **'Aurora'**
- ☐ 'Discovery'

4. Draw lines to match the event to the year it happened in.



5. Fill in the missing words.

Ernest had **one** brother and **eight** sisters!

6. Find and copy the name of the cat that lived aboard 'Endurance'.

Mrs Chippy

7. Do you think Ernest and the team enjoyed their first trip to the Antarctic? Explain how you know.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I do not think that the team enjoyed their first trip to the Antarctic because the text says that it was full of hardships and Ernest became very poorly.

Ernest Shackleton

Ernest Shackleton was a polar explorer. He went on three expeditions to the Antarctic and made many scientific discoveries.

Early Life

Ernest Henry Shackleton was born on 15th February 1874. He was the second of ten children born to Henry Shackleton and Henrietta Gavan. Ernest's father, Henry, was a **landowner** at the time of Ernest's birth but began training to be a doctor when Ernest was six years old.



Joining the Merchant Navy

As a child, Ernest loved to read; he enjoyed reading adventure stories. Although Ernest was very clever, he found school boring. He did not want to hear about the world, he wanted to see it for himself.

Ernest left school at the age of 16 and joined the **merchant navy**. He spent four years learning how to sail before becoming a **Second Mate** and, four years after that, a Master Mariner. This meant that he was able to sail a British ship anywhere in the world.

Discovery

Ernest was invited on the National Antarctic Expedition. This was a journey of discovery led by Robert Falcon Scott – a successful explorer. This would be Ernest's first expedition to the Antarctic. The team set sail aboard a ship named 'Discovery' on 31st July 1901. They arrived at the Antarctic coast over five months later on 8th January 1902.

Unfortunately, lots of things went wrong for the team during the journey. Ernest became very poorly and was sent home early on 4th January 1903.

Nimrod

In 1908, Ernest attempted his second Antarctic expedition. He set sail aboard a ship named 'Nimrod' on 1st January. On this expedition, Ernest and his team climbed Mount Erebus – the second-highest volcano in Antarctica. They came even closer to the South Pole than they had before. Ernest received an award from King Edward VII when he returned home.

Endurance

Ernest put an advertisement in the newspaper asking for men to join him on another expedition. More than 5,000 people applied. In 1914, Ernest chose a crew of 56 men. They were split between two ships named 'Endurance' and 'Aurora'. Both ships set sail on 8th August.

Unfortunately, the extreme weather meant that the ship 'Endurance' became stuck in the ice on 19th January 1915 and sank nine months later. Ernest and his crew abandoned the ship and lived on top of the Antarctic ice for almost two years before they were finally rescued on 30th August 1916.

Glossary

landowner: A person who owns a large amount of land.

merchant navy: The ships which transport goods to and from a country.

Second Mate: An assistant on a merchant ship.



Questions

1. Which of these jobs did Ernest's father have at the time of Ernest's birth? Tick one.

- ☐ doctor
- ☐ Second Mate
- ☐ Master Mariner
- ☐ landowner

2. How many people applied to go on Ernest's third expedition with him? Tick one.

- ☐ 19
- ☐ 56
- ☐ 1,914
- ☐ 5,000

3. Draw lines to match the name of the ship to the date that Ernest set sail on it.

'Endurance'	31 st July 1901
'Discovery'	1 st January 1908
'Nimrod'	8 th August 1914

4. Number these events to show the order they happened in Ernest's life. The first one has been done for you.

- ☒ 1 Ernest Henry Shackleton was born on 15th February 1874.
- ☐ Ernest became very poorly and was sent home early.
- ☐ Ernest left school at the age of 16.
- ☐ Ernest was invited on the National Antarctic Expedition.
- ☐ Ernest received an award from King Edward VII.

5. Find and copy the name of the second-highest volcano in Antarctica.

6. Give one thing that Ernest enjoyed doing as a child.

7. Explain why Ernest's first polar expedition ended early.

8. Do you think that Ernest was a successful polar explorer? Give a reason for your answer.

Answers

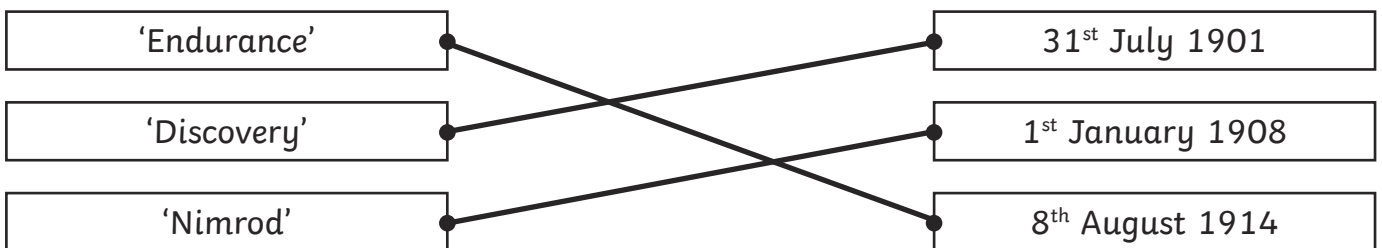
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- ☐ Second Mate
- ☐ Master Mariner
- ☒ **landowner**

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4. Number these events to show the order they happened in Ernest's life. The first one has been done for you.

- 1** Ernest Henry Shackleton was born on 15th February 1874.
- 4** Ernest became very poorly and was sent home early.
- 2** Ernest left school at the age of 16.
- 3** Ernest was invited on the National Antarctic Expedition.
- 5** Ernest received an award from King Edward VII.

5. Find and copy the name of the second-highest volcano in Antarctica.

Mount Erebus

6. Give one thing that Ernest enjoyed doing as a child.

Ernest enjoyed reading adventure stories as a child.

7. Explain why Ernest's first polar expedition ended early.

Ernest's first polar expedition ended early because lots of things went wrong for the team and Ernest became very poorly.

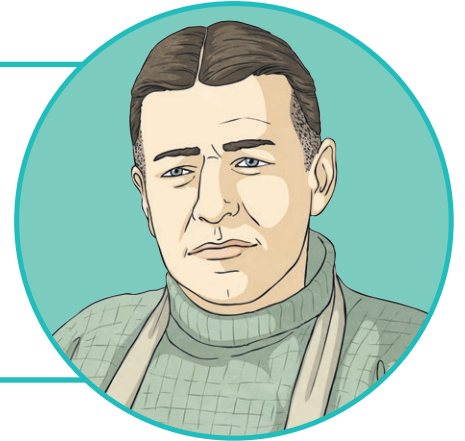
8. Do you think that Ernest was a successful polar explorer? Give a reason for your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think Ernest was a successful polar explorer because he went to Antarctica three times, which is more than most people have done.

Ernest Shackleton

Ernest Shackleton was a renowned polar explorer, who participated in three expeditions to the Antarctic and made many important scientific discoveries.

Early Life

Ernest Henry Shackleton was born on 15th February 1874. He was the second of ten children born to Henry Shackleton and Henrietta Gavan. Ernest's father, Henry, was a landowner at the time of Ernest's birth but began training to be a doctor when Ernest was six years old.



Joining the Merchant Navy

From an early age, Ernest loved to read. He enjoyed reading about fictional adventures and this made him want to go on adventures himself. Although Ernest was very clever, he found school boring and did not enjoy learning about the world by reading about it. Ernest wanted to experience everything for himself.

In order to do this, Ernest left school at the age of 16 and joined the **merchant navy**. He became an **apprentice** on a ship and spent four years learning how to sail before becoming a **Second Mate**. Four years later in 1898, Ernest achieved the title of Master Mariner. This meant that he was able to sail a British ship anywhere in the world. Although Ernest travelled to places around the world, he never saw the Antarctic – something he was eager to do.

Discovery

Ernest was invited on the National Antarctic Expedition – a voyage of discovery led by Robert Falcon Scott. This would be Ernest's first expedition to the Antarctic. The team set sail aboard a ship named 'Discovery' on 31st July 1901, arriving at the Antarctic coast over five months later on 8th January 1902.

Unfortunately, the team experienced many hardships during the expedition, including snow blindness, frostbite and **scurvy**. Ernest became very poorly and was sent home early on 4th January 1903, never having reached the South Pole.

Nimrod

In 1908, Ernest attempted his second Antarctic expedition and set sail aboard a ship named 'Nimrod' on 1st January. On this expedition, Ernest and his team climbed Mount Erebus – the second-highest volcano in Antarctica – and came even closer to the South Pole than they had before. Ernest received an award from King Edward VII when he returned home.

Endurance

Wishing to go on another expedition, Ernest put an advertisement in the newspaper asking for men to join him; more than 5,000 people applied. In 1914, Ernest selected a crew of 56 men, who were split between two ships named 'Endurance' and 'Aurora'. The ships set sail on 8th August.

Conditions in the Weddell Sea were hazardous. On 19th January 1915, the ship 'Endurance' became stuck in the ice and sank. Ernest and his crew abandoned the ship and lived on top of the Antarctic ice for almost two years before they were finally rescued on 30th August 1916.

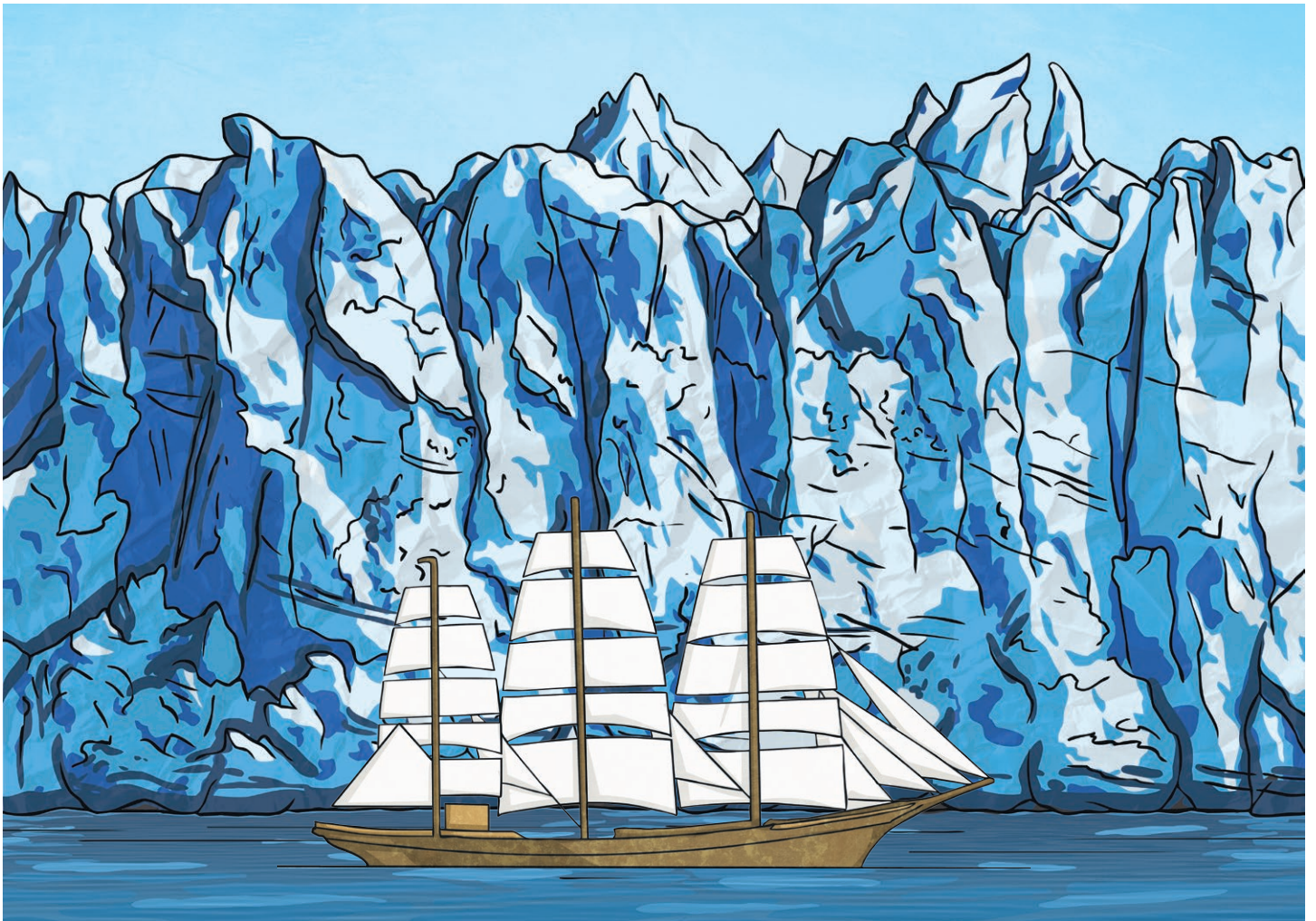
Glossary

apprentice: A beginner who is learning a trade.

merchant navy: The ships which transport produce to and from a country.

scurvy: A disease caused by a lack of vitamin C.

Second Mate: An assistant on a merchant ship.



Questions

1. In which country was Ernest born? Tick one.

- ☐ England
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Wales

2. Between which two ships were the men split on Ernest's third expedition? Tick two.

- ☐ 'Discovery'
- ☐ 'Aurora'
- ☐ 'Nimrod'
- ☐ 'Endurance'

3. Find and copy one word from the text which describes the conditions of the Weddell Sea during Ernest's third expedition.

4. List three hardships faced by the team on Ernest's first polar expedition.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

5. **Ernest Shackleton was a renowned polar explorer.**

Give another word which means the same as **renowned**.

6. Summarise Ernest's first polar expedition in 30 words or less.

7. Explain why Ernest found school boring.

8. Would you like to live a life like Ernest Shackleton's? Fully explain your answer.

Answers

1. In which country was Ernest born? Tick one.

- ☐ England
- ☒ **Ireland**
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Wales

2. Between which two ships were the men split on Ernest's third expedition? Tick two.

- ☐ 'Discovery'
- ☒ **'Aurora'**
- ☐ 'Nimrod'
- ☒ **'Endurance'**

3. Find and copy one word from the text which describes the conditions of the Weddell Sea during Ernest's third expedition.

hazardous

4. List three hardships faced by the team on Ernest's first polar expedition.

1. snow blindness

2. frostbite

3. scurvy

5. **Ernest Shackleton was a renowned polar explorer.**

Give another word which means the same as **renowned**.

Accept any synonym of renowned, such as: famous; celebrated; eminent; esteemed; prominent; great.

6. Summarise Ernest's first polar expedition in 30 words or less.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Ernest was invited to go on the National Antarctic Expedition with Robert Falcon Scott but they faced many hardships and Ernest returned home early as he was poorly.

7. Explain why Ernest found school boring.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Ernest found school boring because he didn't like to read or hear about the world, he wanted to experience everything for himself.

8. Would you like to live a life like Ernest Shackleton's? Fully explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I would not like a life like Ernest Shackleton's because it seemed incredibly dangerous. He was stuck on the Antarctic ice for almost two years before being rescued and he faced lots of dangerous conditions.