

Would You Want to be a Polar Explorer?

Who is Shackleton?



Sir Ernest Shackleton, born on 15th February 1874, was a famous explorer who made many important scientific discoveries. He took part in four expeditions to the South Pole.

The expeditions were normally named after the ships that they sailed on: *The Discovery*, *The Nimrod*, *The Endurance* and *The Quest*. During his expeditions, Shackleton and his team faced extremely difficult conditions and suffered with snow blindness, frost bite and scurvy,

Why is he famous?

Shackleton's most well-known expedition was *The Endurance*. In 1914, Shackleton selected a crew of 56 men to join him. As they travelled on the Weddell Sea, conditions became slow and hazardous and the ship became stuck in a sheet of floating ice. Shackleton and his crew abandoned the ship after spending 10 months on it. They then lived on top of the Antarctica ice for almost two years before Shackleton decided to search for help with 5 crew members.

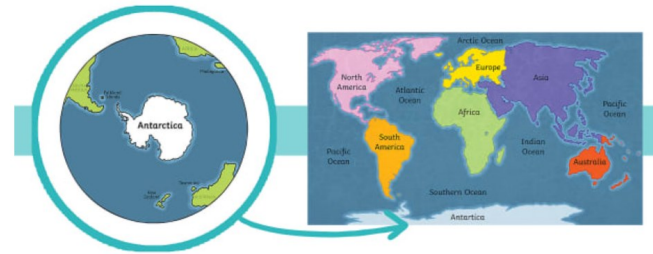
They spent 16 days crossing 1300km of ocean in a small boat with no navigating equipment to reach the island of South Georgia, where they trekked to a whaling station for help. He then went back to rescue all 22 men that he'd left behind.



Would you like to find out more?

- *What other great polar expeditions have happened?
- *Research other great polar explorers such as Robert Falcon Scott.
- *What is it like to live in a cold place like Antarctica?

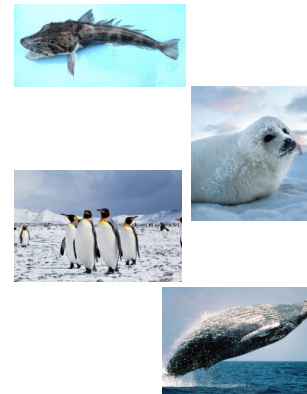
Where is Antarctica?



Antarctica

On Earth, the furthest points in the north and south are called poles. The Arctic is in the far north, around the North Pole, and the Antarctic is in the far south, around the South Pole. These areas are very cold and the ice is so thick that only the tops of the mountains stick up above it. In the winter, the sun never rises and even though the sun never sets in summer, it still stays so cold!

What animals live in Antarctica?



Key Vocabulary

Antarctica: the south polar region

Classify: arrange a group of people or things into categories

Expedition: a journey by a group of people for a specific purpose especially for exploration, research or war.

Explore: travel through an unfamiliar area in order to learn about it

Explorer: a person who explores a new or unfamiliar area

Habitat: a place where animals and plants live, where they can find everything they need to stay alive

Iceberg: a large floating block of ice

Microhabitats: a very small part of a habitat such as a clump of grass or a space between rocks.

Mini-beast: a mini-beast is a small creature like an insect, a worm or a spider.

Stowaway: a person who secretly travels on a vehicle such as a ship, plane, train, cargo truck or bus.

Book Talk and English

As we are moving closer to the *most wonderful time of the year*, we will be reading and exploring *The Christmasaurus* by Tom Fletcher. William Trundle goes on a magical Christmas adventure when he meets a dinosaur named the Christmasaurus. The story is about friendship and families and how to discover your heart's true desire. We will be using the Christmasaurus to inspire our writing of a



English Key Vocabulary

noun: a person, place or a thing.

adjective: a word that describes a noun e.g. huge

verb: a doing word e.g. walk

adverbs: a word that describes a verb e.g. quickly

non-chronological report: a piece of writing that gives information about a topic

fiction: a piece of writing that is made up by the author

non-fiction: a piece of writing that is completely true and is made with facts and information

glossary: a page in non-fiction books that explains the meaning of technical words

paragraph: a group of sentences that are about the same thing

rhyme: words that have the same sound at the end

World Habitats

There are different types of habitats all around the world.

Oceans: Many kinds of plants grow in the ocean and all kinds of creatures live there too.



The Arctic: The only plants that can grow in the Arctic region are grass and mosses. Trees are unable to grow because the ground stays frozen all year round. There are many land mammals in the Arctic.



Tropical rainforests: There are lots of trees, colourful birds, millions of bright insects and many different animals.



Desert: There is very little water, which means not many living things can survive here.



Animal Adaptation

Plants and animals live in habitats that suit them and have special features to help them survive. That is why animals that live in cold places have thick fur and why animals that live in or near water are good swimmers.



Food Chains

A food chain shows how each animal gets its food. Food chains are one of the ways that living things depend on each other to stay alive. Arrows in a food chain mean '**is eaten by**'. In this food chain, the caterpillar is eaten by the bird and the bird is eaten by the cat.



Each food chain starts with a green plant. Green plants are called producers because they produce their own food. All animals are called consumers because they consume their food by eating plants and other animals. Animals that eat other animals are called predators and the animals that they eat are called prey. There are food chains in all kinds of habitats.

PE

This term we will be playing dodge ball in our outdoor session. A very popular game which will help to develop our understanding of attacking and defending. We will also be exploring movements through dance linked to the secret life of toys.

Music

We will begin the term by exploring musical rhythms and structures. Can you clap a steady beat? With the nativity performance fast ap-

Computing

Our focus for the term is digital photography. We will be exploring how to take a good photograph, whether portrait or landscape is most suitable and looking at how some photographs are not all as they seem. We will be linking it to our nativity and look forward to sharing some pupil

Art

Exploring portraits and self portraits.

We will be looking at portraits of famous artists and discussing abstract and realism. We will be learning to sketch faces and features of faces.