

Keystage history

Knowledge organiser

Scott of the Antarctic



Scott of the Antarctic

Why we are learning about Scott of the Antarctic

You are learning about Scott as he was one of Britain's most famous explorers. Perhaps you are studying other explorers too such a Columbus or even the men who first went to the moon. Scott lived over 100 years ago in a very different age when there were no mobile phones, no internet and the first planes had only just taken to the skies. To attempt what Scott did in going to the unconquered Antarctic , with just a small group of men in freezing conditions with very simple tents and clothes and only dogs to help transport the equipment, was truly heroic. Although a Norwegian, called Amundsen, got to the South Pole just before him and Scott and his party didn't survive the return journey, he is still admired for his fantastic courage and determination and was an example for later explorers to follow. As many as 30 statues were put up in his honour in the years after his last expedition but today some people think he made mistakes in managing the expedition.

1868

1881

1901

1904

1910

1912

After death

Scott was born

Aged just 13 Scott joined the navy

Scott leads Discovery expedition to Antarctic

Discovery returns to Britain

Terra Nova expedition set sail

Scott reaches the South Pole but dies on return journey

Scott seen as a real hero

Some people think he was careless





Key vocabulary

Amundsen	A Norwegian explorer of polar regions. He was a key figure of the period known as the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration
Antarctic	Relating to the south pole or to the region near it. Mostly southerly point on Earth
Expedition	A journey undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose ie research
Frostbite	Injury to body tissues caused by exposure to extreme cold, typically affecting the nose, fingers, or toes
Polar	Relating to the North or South Pole.
Scurvy	A disease caused by a serious vitamin C deficiency
Sledge	Vehicle on runners for taking goods or passengers over snow or ice, often pulled by animals
Huskies	A breed of powerful dog with a thick double coat used for pulling sledges
Nansen	Polar explorer, scientist, diplomat,

Top takeaways

You will have learned that:

1. Captain Scott was an heroic explorer of the Antarctic who reached the south Pole in 1912 but the Norwegian Amundsen had beaten him to it.
2. The expedition was famous for geographical and scientific work such as with penguins and the hundreds of great photographs they took of the land there which no-one had seen before.
3. On the 800 mile journey back Scott's part all died through lack of food and the freezing cold.
4. His bravery has helped us understand the dangers of polar exploration, such as scurvy, snow blindness and frostbite and how best to use skis, dogs, other forms of transport, as well as types of clothing and food supplies.
5. After he died he became a hero in Britain and everyone thought how brave he was.
6. More recently some people have said he was too careless and made mistakes with the planning.