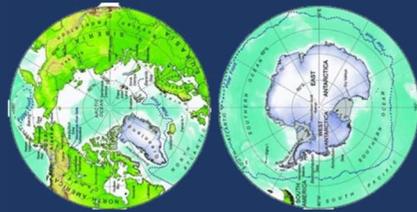




WHAT IS AN EXPLORER?

An explorer is a person that travels into unknown regions. They want to see new places and share their findings with the rest of the world through making maps, telling stories, drawing pictures and writing diaries. Explorers use special equipment such as compasses and maps.

The Polar Regions consist of the Arctic and Antarctic. They are located at the very top and very bottom of the Earth. There are lots of similarities and differences.



Who was Ernest Shackleton?

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton was a polar explorer who attempted to reach the South Pole in the early 1900s.

His bravery earned him a knighthood. Shackleton's most famous expedition was the 'Endurance mission' of 1907-1909.

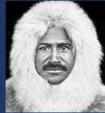


Key Vocabulary

Antarctica		the southernmost continent in the world
Arctic		a region in the north of the planet
climate		the average weather conditions in a place over 30 years or more
equator		an imaginary line around the Earth that goes exactly midway between the North Pole and the South Pole
ice caps		an ice cap is a thick layer of snow and ice covering less than 50,000 square kilometers. Ice caps form as snow falls, melts and falls again.
North Pole		the point that is farthest north on the planet Earth.
polar regions		polar habitats are located at the very top and very bottom of the Earth.
explorer		a person who explores an area that is not known
explore		to travel across or through in order to discover or search for something.
expedition		a journey taken for a reason, or a group taking such a trip.
travel		to journey from place to place.
South pole		the point on the earth's surface that is farthest south.
glacier		a large mass of ice formed in cold regions from compacted snow and very slowly moving down a slope or across land.

Who was Matthew Henson?

Matthew Henson was a Black American explorer and is believed by many to be the first person to reach the North Pole. In 1887 Matthew met an explorer called Robert Peary. Robert invited him to join him as his **assistant** on his next **expedition**. They travelled all over the world for twenty years, visiting many exciting places. In 1908, Matthew and Robert set off for the North Pole for the eighth time. Robert had been suffering from frostbite which caused him to move slowly. After many months, they finally reached what they thought was the North Pole on 6th April 1909. Only six men managed to finish the journey. Robert claimed he was the first person to reach the North Pole, but it is widely believed that Matthew actually reached it before him.



Who was Robert Falcon Scott?

Captain Robert Falcon Scott led two expeditions to Antarctica. He wanted to find out more about the animals, the weather and the land of Antarctica. Scott and his fellow explorers also wanted to be the first to reach the South Pole. Robert Falcon Scott and his team did not reach the South Pole first - they were beaten there by a Norwegian party led by Roald Amundsen. Unfortunately Scott and his companions had a disastrous time with blizzards, gale force winds, poor clothing and little food on their journey back from the South Pole and they all eventually died.



Who was Roald Amundsen?

Roald Amundsen was one of the important figures in polar exploration. He became the first person to reach the South pole in 1911, the first to sail through the Northwest passage between 1903 and 1906 and the first to fly over the North pole in 1926. He was the first person to reach the North and South poles.



Special equipment

Polar explorers need many special types of equipment to assist them, such as:

- Mechanical sledges,
- Compasses 
- Maps,
- Binoculars and first-aid,
- Candles and matches,
- Warm clothing
- Dog sleds 

Who is Preet Chandhi?

Preet Chandhi completed a solo expedition across Antarctica to the south pole, finishing on 3rd January 2022. In January 2023 she recorded the longest ever solo and unsupported polar expedition.

