

A deadly race

Just over one hundred years ago, two men took part in a deadly race. One man and his team would not survive.

Where did the race take place? And what was the goal?

Look at this map. It shows a land that hardly anyone knew at that time: Antarctica.



The South Pole

Within Antarctica is the South Pole. It is the southern-most point on the earth, opposite the North Pole.

The average temperature is about minus fifty degrees. That is COLD.

Did you know?

Antarctica has six months of daylight and six months of darkness. At the South Pole in December, there is no night – just daylight all the time.

The South Pole was the place our two men wanted to reach.

Their names?

Robert Falcon Scott, from England, and Roald Amundsen, from Norway.

Did you know?

Antarctica is 99% covered by ice and snow.

We call Antarctica and the area around it, “the Antarctic”.

Explorers

Other explorers had wanted to find out more about this remote land, its geography and its wildlife.

James Clarke Ross (1800–1862)

Who was he? An officer in the British Navy.

What did he do? He explored volcanoes, seas and coastlines, putting them on a map of Antarctica for the first time.

How close did he get to the South Pole? About five hundred miles away.

What stopped him? His ships were faced with a huge wall of ice seventy metres high. This was later named “The Ross Ice Shelf”.



Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922)

Who was he? A British explorer who first visited the Antarctic in 1901. He fell ill and had to return home, but he wanted to go back.

What did he do? In 1909, he and three others got within nearly one hundred miles of the South Pole.

Why didn't they reach it? They ran out of food and only just made it back.



Did you know?

Years later, Shackleton's ship sank in the Antarctic. The crew had to row eight hundred miles through stormy seas to safety.