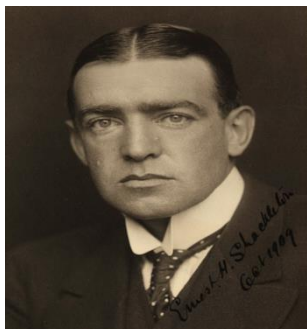


ERNEST SHACKLETON



Ernest Shackleton was born 15th February 1874 and died 5th January 1922. He was an Anglo-Irish Antarctic explorer who led British expeditions to the Antarctic.

EARLY LIFE

Ernest Shackleton was born on a farm in Ireland in 1874. His family had lived in the same country for over 150 years, but Ernest dreamt of travelling around the world. When he was six years old, he dug a hole in his back garden to try to get to the other side of the world! He had the four qualities of a good explorer: optimism, patience, idealism and courage.

Ernest joined the merchant navy when he was 16 years old to become a master mariner. He took part on two expeditions to try and reach the South Pole. Unfortunately, Roald Amundsen, a Norwegian explorer, reached it first. Ernest decided he would reach and cross Antarctica from sea to sea.

THE EXPEDITION

Before this expedition to Antarctica, Ernest advertised for other men to join him on his adventure and many applied. In August 1914, a team of 28 men, 69 sled dogs, several pigs and a cat named Mrs Chippy set off to the Antarctic. Their ship was named Endurance.

A few months into their failing, their ship became trapped in the ice, unable to move, so the men had to make camp on land until the ice melted. But after nine months, the ice started breaking the ship into pieces. This meant the crew had to drag lifeboats to the open sea in an attempt to reach land. After seven days, the lifeboats reached Elephant Island, but this land was vast and uninhabited. There was little hope of the crew being rescued.





THE RESCUE

Ernest Shackleton and four other men went to get help. They sailed hundreds of miles to South Georgia to get help at the whaling station. After this, a rescue party saved everyone from Elephant Island in August 1916.

LATER LIFE

Ernest Shackleton intended to carry out a programme of scientific activities back in the Antarctic but died on 5th January 1922 before he could do this.

FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MflcX7vxq4A>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. When was Ernest Shackleton born?
2. What did Ernest Shackleton join when he was 16?
3. Where was Ernest Shackleton's first expedition to?
4. Where did the crew end up stranded?
5. When did Ernest Shackleton die?