





Key Knowledge:

Captain James Cook was the first person to circumnavigate the continent in the 1770s. In 1911, Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole, followed closely by Robert Falcon Scott, who died on the return journey.

Ernest Shackleton was an Anglo-Irish Antarctic explorer who led three expeditions. In 1914, he made his third trip to the Antarctic on the ship, Endurance, planning to cross the Antarctic via the South Pole. Early in 1915, Endurance became trapped in the ice, and ten months later, sank. Shackleton's crew had already abandoned the ship had been living on the floating ice. In April 1916, they set off in three small boats, landing on Elephant Island. Taking five crew members, Shackleton went to find help. In a small boat, six men spent sixteen days crossing 1,300km of ocean to reach South Georgia and then trekked across the island to a whaling station. The remaining men from the 'Endurance' were rescued in 1916. Not one member of the expedition died. Shackleton's account of the expedition (South) was published in 1919. Shackleton's fourth expedition aimed to circumnavigate the Antarctic continent, but on the 5th January 1922, he dies of a heart attack on the island of South Georgia. He was buried on the island. Ann Bancroft, an American explorer, was the first woman to successfully reach the Arctic and the Antarctic. In 2001, she returned to the Antarctic with Norwegian explorer, Liv Arensen, to complete a transcontinental crossing.

In 1941, Pearl Harbour, an American naval base in Hawaii, USA, was attacked by the Japanese. This was a preventative action to stop the Americans from becoming involved in their planned military action in Southeast Asia against overseas territories of the United Kingdom. In retaliation, Harry Truman, the president of the USA at the time, ordered the use of atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The bomber, Enola Gay, dropped the bombs. This led to the Japanese surrendering in June 1945.



Key Vocabulary:

Explorer – a person who explores a new or unfamiliar territory.

Expedition – a journey undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose, especially that of exploration, research or war.

Arctic – relating to the region around the north pole.

Antarctic – relating to the south polar region.

Endeavour - try hard to do or achieve something.

Endurance -

World War II – war involving many countries from 1939-1945

Atomic bomb – one which derives its power from the rapid release of nuclear energy

Nagasaki – the capital and largest city of Nagasaki in Japan.

Enola Gay – the bomber (Boeing B29) which dropped the nuclear bombs on Hirsoshoma and Nagasaki

Pearl Harbour – American naval base which was attacked by the Japanese in December 1941.

Significant People:

Ernest Shackleton – in 1914 attempted to cross the Antarctic with his crew on the ship Endurance.

Ann Bancroft – the first woman to successfully reach both poles.

Roald Amundsen – reached the South Pole in 1911.

Robert Falcon Scott – reached the South Pole but died on the return journey.

Harry S Truman – president of the USA who ordered the use of atomic bombs.

Historical Skills and Enquiry:

To compare and contrast expeditions.

To critically analyse sources of accounts of the past.