Ernest Shackleton

Polar Explorer

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Quality Standard Approved

Aim

- To explain who Ernest Shackleton was, and what he achieved.

Success Criteria

- To know about his early life.
- To recall his expeditions and what he discovered.

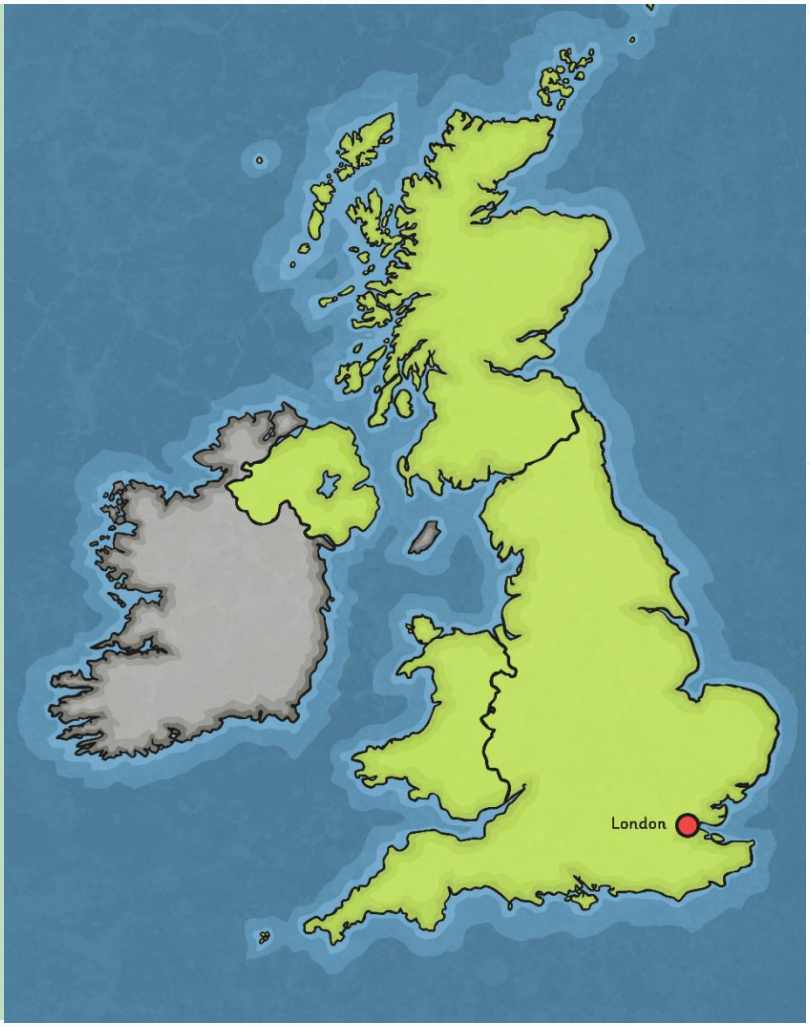
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Who Was Ernest Shackleton?

Ernest Shackleton was born in Ireland in 1874.

He was the second oldest of 10 children.

He lived in Ireland until 1884, when his family moved to South London.



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Who Was Ernest Shackleton?



Ernest loved reading, and had a great imagination. He loved the idea of going on great adventures.

His father was a doctor and wanted Ernest to follow in his footsteps.

However, Ernest had a different idea about what he wanted to do.

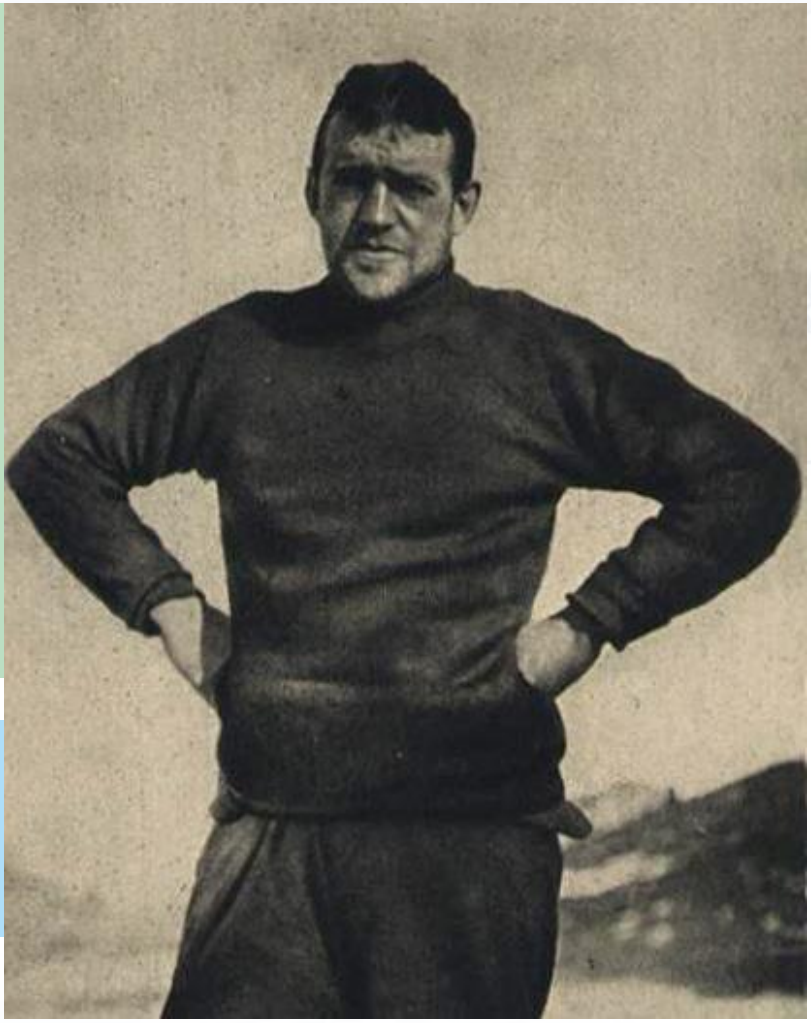
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What Did Shackleton Do?

At the age of just 16, Shackleton joined the Merchant Navy and became a sailor.

At just 18, he had been promoted to **first mate**.

He was able to fulfil his dreams of having adventures and sailing all over the world. He wanted to become an explorer.

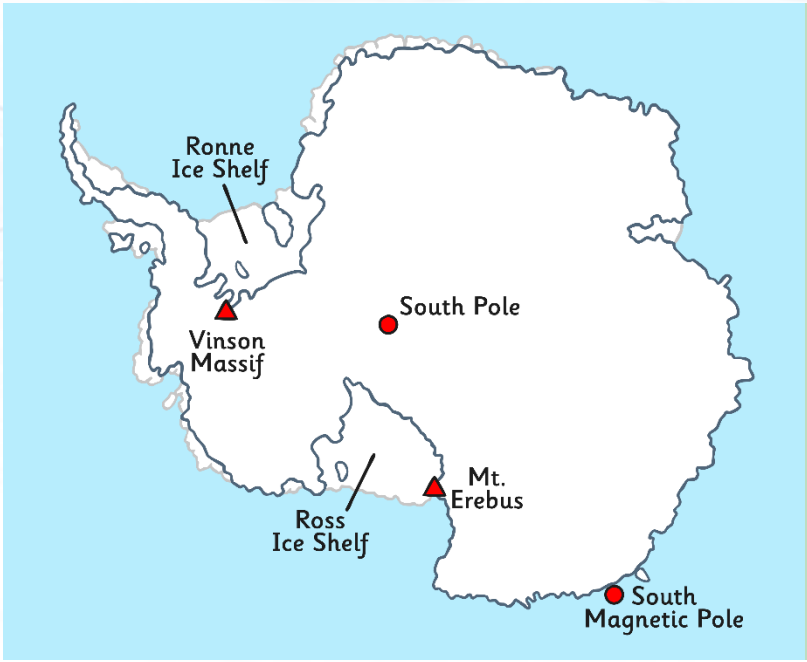


First Mate – the officer second in command to the master of the ship.

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Where Did Shackleton Want to Explore?

Shackleton wanted to be a polar explorer.
He wanted to be the first person to reach the South Pole.



In 1901, he went on his first Antarctic expedition, aged just 25. He joined another explorer, Robert Scott, and he came closer to the South Pole than anyone had before him.

Unfortunately, he became ill, and had to return before reaching the South Pole.

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Shackleton's Second Expedition

Shackleton's second expedition was in 1907. This time he was a leader on a ship called Nimrod.

Despite terrible weather conditions and a treacherous journey, Shackleton and his team managed to come within 180km of the South Pole before turning back on 9th January, 1909.

On his return, he was regarded as a hero. He received a medal from the Royal Geographical Society. He also received a knighthood and became Sir Ernest Shackleton.

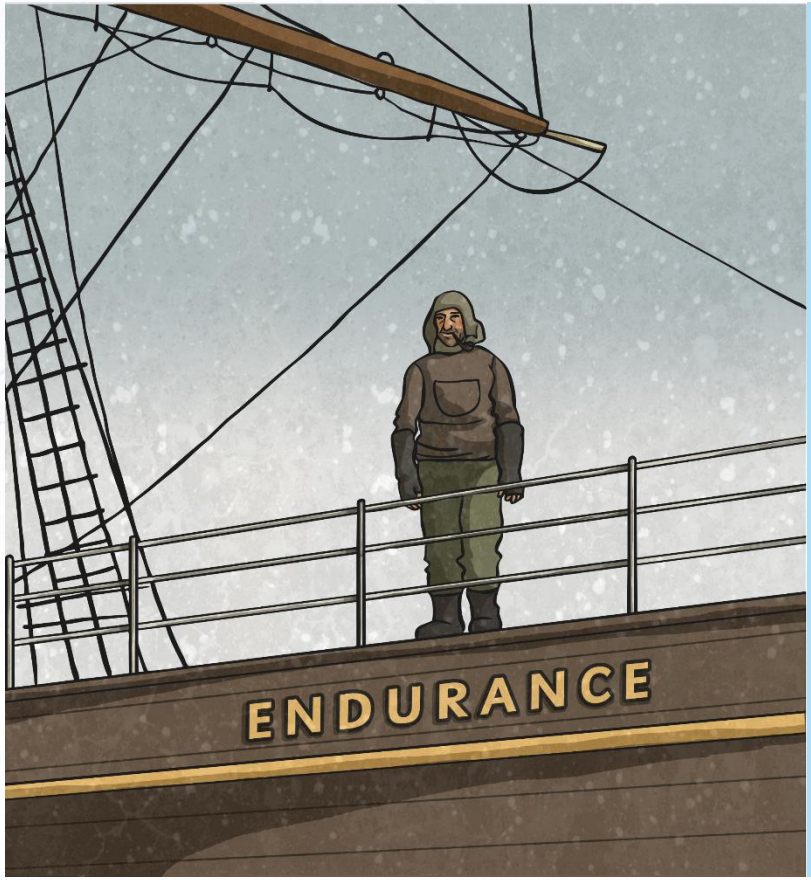


Shackleton and some of his team in Antarctica.

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Did Shackleton Continue Exploring?

Shackleton wanted to explore further and before doing so, advertised for men to join him.



The advertisement told men to expect cold temperatures, low wages and dangerous conditions.

In 1914, he began an exploration on a ship called Endurance.

In January, the ship became trapped between the ice. Shackleton and his men abandoned the ship, and had to live on the ice for several months.

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Did Shackleton Continue Exploring?

In the spring, the ice began to thaw and Shackleton's men were able to board small boats and head for Elephant Island.

When they got there, nobody was on the island.

Shackleton and five men took a lifeboat to South Georgia. Once they arrived, they were able to organise a rescue mission for the other men.

Shackleton and his men were on the ice for almost two years but thankfully, no one died.



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What Happened to Shackleton?

During an expedition, Shackleton died from a heart attack in January 1922.

He is buried in South Georgia (a small, remote Atlantic island).

In 2010, several crates of whisky and brandy were discovered in the Antarctic. They had been left behind by Shackleton and his team during the Nimrod expedition.

There is a statue to celebrate Shackleton in London.



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