



**STORIES  
FROM  
THE SEA**

## EXPLORATION OBJECTS



## SKIS FROM THE DISCOVERY EXPEDITION

### Date made

c.1900

### Object ref.

GRYEH : 1963.89

### Credit

Great Yarmouth  
Museums

### Description

This pair of skis was made for Captain Scott's first Antarctic expedition in 1901-04 (often called the Discovery Expedition after the name of his ship). They are made from wood with leather straps to attach them to your boots. Only one person on the expedition knew how to ski, and most of the explorers only began learning once they reached Antarctica. This meant that they were not very good skiers and found using the skis very difficult.

Because of the difficulties the expedition had with the skis, Scott decided that they

were not a good way to travel across the Antarctic. He recommended that explorers should wear good boots and walk, pulling their own sledges, rather than using a team of dogs to pull the sledge and skiing along behind it.

Other polar explorers such as the Norwegian Roald Amundsen disagreed. He believed that skis and dog teams were the best way of travelling across the Antarctic.

### Questions

1. Why do you think Scott and his team had no experience skiing before they reached Antarctica?
2. How are these skis different to modern skis? How are they the same?



Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

