

Session outline

Archive adventures Polar explorers

People set sail for many reasons. Pirates look for treasure. Traders want to buy and sell. Migrants seek a new life.

But what about explorers? Do they travel for fame and glory? Or is it simply the adventure of being in far-flung places?

In our 'polar explorers' session we use real historical documents to find some of the answers.

We meet Tom Crean, crew member of three trips to the Antarctic with famous explorers Scott and Shackleton. Our actor character brings the story to life as he describes his adventures in the Antarctic wilderness.

Then the children take a look at real archive treasures relating to polar expeditions, from leather-bound books and the yellowing pages of a newspaper to photographs from the expeditions and the actual equipment that the explorers took with them.

Children use the historical evidence to discover who signed up for expeditions, from the famous names to the ordinary crew members. They imagine what it would be like to be stuck in the ice waiting for the thaw and learn how the crews kept themselves entertained for months on end.

Using the Museum's collections, we talk about expedition equipment and wonder whether you need more than warm coats and fur-lined boots to survive in one of the world's most harsh environments.

Curriculum links

Literacy, History, writing for different purposes, exploration.

In the classroom

Visit our website for a variety of session-linked classroom activities to help you prepare for your visit and follow it up back at school:

rmg.co.uk/schools



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