

Shackleton's Endurance

A Story of Adventure and Leadership

The Story of the Expedition

Why was Shackleton called the greatest leader ever? What was it that he and his fellow explorers did that was so epic?

This short overview details the outline of the fateful 1914–1917 Trans-Antarctic voyage by Sir Ernest Shackleton on board the Endurance and will help your pupils answer those and many more questions about this almost unbelievable feat. It has been designed to be used in class and will have a suite of resources supporting the primary curriculum, particularly history and geography.

This resource is intended to be used by the class teacher as:

- A storybook to listen to and discuss
- A class reading book to share and read aloud (with older pupils)
- An independent read by more confident readers
- A series of provocations to support learning about specific topics across the curriculum, particularly history and geography.
- All of the above.

It can be used online, shared as a PPT or printed out. The story is built around the factual evidence sourced through the photography of Frank Hurley, who documented the expedition in detail, and from diaries, accounts and other reports held in the archives at the Royal Geographical Society. But whilst most of it is non-fiction, it also provides an imaginary first-person account as if told by one of the members of the expedition. This will invite children to put themselves on board the Endurance and consider what it must have been like to travel to Antarctica (and back) in those times.

The book contains maps and a glossary. Enquiry questions with some resource prompts will also be added to help you delve beneath the surface with the children as they reflect on the nature of the evidence they are presented with.

It is accompanied by support resources prompting children to make comparisons between 'then and now', by comparing evidence from Shackleton's voyage with that from a very relevant, present day example. On the 5th February 2022, [Endurance22](#) set sail from Cape Town on board the SA Agulhas II, a modern, strengthened ship very different to the wooden sailing vessel Endurance.

The team aboard the SA Agulhas II include the historian and broadcaster Dan Snow and they are seeking to sail to the Weddell Sea and find the wreck of Endurance. You can follow Dan's progress with your class through photographs, Blogs, Podcasts and video through his social media channels and also through the work of Reach the World.

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