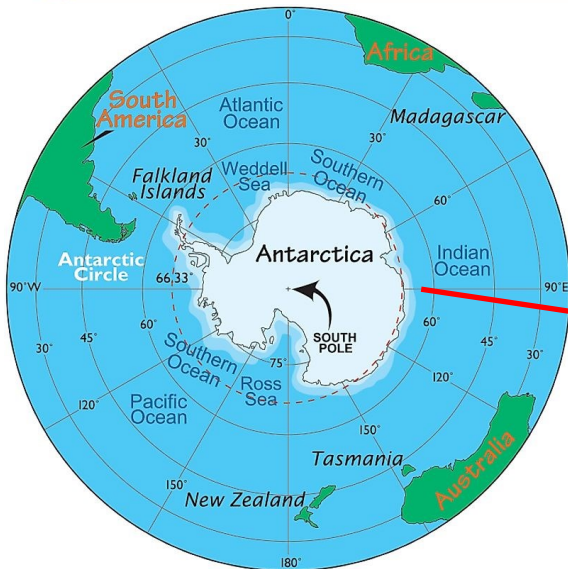


The Antarctic and Ernest Shackleton

KEY VOCABULARY

- **explorer** - A person who explores a new or an unfamiliar place.
- **navigate** - To move through a particular course in an unfamiliar area.
- **pack ice** - A large area of ice floating in the sea, formed by smaller pieces freezing together
- **glacier** - a slowly moving mass or river of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow on mountains or near the north and south poles
- **equator** - The imaginary east-west line encircling the Earth midway between the North and South poles
- **continent** - The world's main continuous expanses of land (Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Antarctica)
- **Antarctica** - The continent surrounding the South Pole: almost entirely covered by an ice sheet
- **southern hemisphere** - The half sphere of Earth which is South of the equator
- **longitude** - imaginary lines that run around the Earth vertically (up and down) and meet at the North and South Poles. These lines are known as meridians
- **latitude** - imaginary lines that run around the Earth horizontally
- **Endurance** - three-masted wooden vessel in which Sir Ernest Shackleton sailed for the Antarctic on the 1914 Imperial TransAntarctic Expedition.



Antarctic

Antarctica is located in the southernmost part of the planet. According to size, Antarctica is the fifth largest continent of our planet. The South Pole is near the middle of Antarctica.

Antarctica is the driest continent of the seven continents. Antarctica is an icy desert with very little rainfall throughout the year.

Antarctica is an ice covered continent surrounded by the Southern Ocean. Almost all of the continent's land is covered by a thick layer of ice.

Antarctica is the windiest place on the earth where windspeeds of more than 350 kilometres per hour/218 miles per hour have been measured.

Antarctica is the least populated continent. There are no residents living permanently here. Only around 1,000 people (in winter) and 10,000 people (in summer) live on the continent. These people are mainly based there for one year to live and work in the research stations. The research stations are scattered all around the continent.

The few areas where there is no or only little ice throughout the year are located in the most northern parts of the continent. There one will find also the typical **tundra** vegetation.

There are not many species living on the Antarctic continent. Whales, and seals live in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. The Emperor penguins are the only penguin species breeding on Antarctica.

Ernest Shackleton

Shackleton was an Anglo-Irish Antarctic explorer, best known for leading the 'Endurance' expedition of 1914-16.

In 1901, he went on his first Antarctic expedition, aged just 25.



Shackleton's second expedition was in 1907. 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.

In 1914, Shackleton made his third trip to the Antarctic with the ship 'Endurance'. Early in 1915, 'Endurance' became trapped in the ice, and ten months later sank. Shackleton's crew had already abandoned the ship to live on the floating ice. In April 1916, they set off in three small boats, eventually reaching Elephant Island. Taking five crew members, Shackleton went to find help. In a small boat, the six men spent 16 days crossing 1,300 km 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 August 1916. Not one member of the expedition died.

Endurance Timeline

03 Aug 1914	World War I breaks out
08 Aug 1914	<i>Endurance</i> leaves Britain
05 Dec 1914	Leave South Georgia Island
18 Jan 1915	Enter pack ice, immovable
24 Feb 1915	Ship routine ceased
25 Oct 1915	Ship cracks under pressure of ice, takes on water, abandoned by crew
21 Nov 1915	Ship sinks
Mar 1916	Attempts to move camp failed
09 Apr 1916	Set off on foot
18 Apr 1916	Arrived at Elephant Island
24 Apr 1916	Five leave on lifeboat to seek help
09 May 1916	Arrive South Georgia
30 Aug 1916	Crew rescued on fourth attempt



Useful Websites

https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/History/Ernest_Shackleton_map_time_line.php

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgh_77TtX5I (Royal Geographical Society)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5vVI37epol> (Features Shackleton's diary extracts read aloud)

<https://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/shackleton/> (Shackleton Online)

