

What should I already know?

Antarctica is the coldest, driest and windiest continent on Earth.

It is very difficult for plants and animals to survive there.

For thousands and thousands of years, no humans had ever been to Antarctica.



Who was Captain Scott?

Captain Robert Scott was an English Royal Navy officer and **explorer**.

Captain Scott led two dangerous missions to the **Antarctic**.

He is widely known as Scott of the Antarctic

Robert Scott's Discovery Expedition

In 1902, Robert Scott, Edward Wilson and Ernest Shackleton set off to try to find the South Pole on the Discovery **Expedition**. They wanted to be the first explorers to reach the South Pole.

The team travelled on a sledge pulled by dogs. They reached further south than anyone had before!

Eventually, they were forced to turn back before reaching the South Pole.

By the time they returned to their ship, the explorers were all suffering from scurvy and frostbite.



They discovered Amundsen had got there first.

Captain Scott's Terra Nova Expedition

In 1910, Robert Scott set off on another **expedition** to reach the South Pole.

On the way to Antarctica, the ship was struck by a storm. The ship then ran into ice that it couldn't sail through. They were delayed by 20 days.

In 1911, the Terra Nova team set up a hut in a place they called Cape Evans on Antarctica. It was while doing scientific research that the team found out that the rival explorer, Amundsen, was camped on Antarctica too!

In September, Scott set out to reach the South Pole.

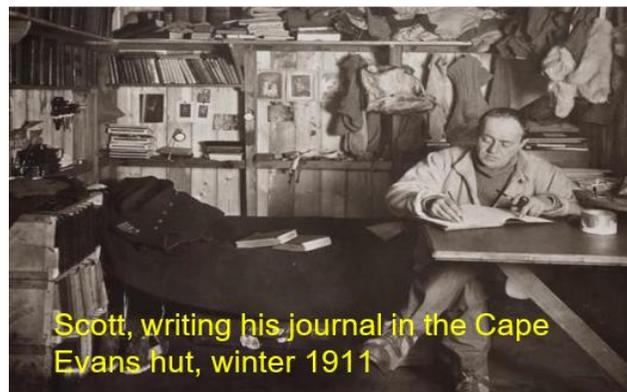
The Terra Nova team travelled over the ice and snow on foot, on skis, on motor sledges and on sledges pulled by both dogs and horses.

In 1912, the team finally achieved their incredible goal! The team of five men reached the South Pole and planted their British flag. There was just one problem...

The Amundsen expedition had already reached the South Pole!

They were extremely disappointed. After planting their flag, Scott's team headed for home.

Scott's Terra Nova expedition ended in tragedy. No one survived the return journey.



Scott, writing his journal in the Cape Evans hut, winter 1911

How do we know what happened on Scott's final journey?

A **primary source** of evidence is Captain Scott's diary which he used to record what was happening for the entire journey through the Antarctic.

Key Vocabulary

Antarctica	An ice-covered continent surrounded by the Southern Ocean
expedition	A journey for a particular purpose
explorer	A person who travels in search of geographical or scientific information
primary source	A source of evidence created by someone who took part in the event or witnessed it themselves.
South Pole	The southernmost point on Earth

Legacy

Captain Scott has many places named after him. The most important is the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station where scientists are still learning about the world just like Scott wanted to do.



Robert Scott Timeline

6th June 1868: He is born in the city of Plymouth. 1881: Aged 13, Scott joins the Royal Navy as a cadet. 1887-1899: He excels on ships as a young Navy Officer. 1901-1904: He commands the Discovery Mission. 1904: He is made Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. 1908: Scott marries Kathleen Bruce. 1910: Sets sail as the leader of the Terra Nova expedition. 17th January 1912: Reaches the South Pole, but finds that Amundsen was there first. 29th March 1912: Dies on the journey back to safety.