



# ROBERT SCOTT KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## Overview

**Captain Robert Falcon Scott** (1868-1912) was a British explorer and Royal Navy Officer who was one of the first people to reach the South Pole.

Scott led two expeditions to Antarctica – the 'Discovery Mission' and the '**Terra Nova Expedition**.' The second was an attempt to reach the South Pole first.

Scott led a group of five men to the **South Pole** on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1912.

When they reached the South Pole, they realised that **Roald Amundsen's Norwegian expedition** had got to the pole first.

On the return journey, Scott and his four fellow explorers **died of exhaustion, starvation and extreme cold.**

A photograph of Robert Scott from 2011.



## Times in His Life

### Early Life



-Robert Scott was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1868. He was the third of six children.

-His father was a brewer, but both of his granddads and all of his uncles were in the military.

-Scott grew up in comfort, and attended a good school.

### Military Career



-Aged only 13, Scott joined the navy as a cadet.

-He served on navy ships throughout 1880-1890.

-The death of his father meant that his whole family now relied on his income.

### Discovery Mission

-Scott attracted the attention of the Royal Geographical Society, who put him in command of the Discovery Expedition of 1901 to 1904.

-The expedition, which included Ernest Shackleton, went further south than anybody had been before. Scott and his team returned to England as national heroes.

-Scott was awarded many medals and awards, including some from abroad. He was promoted to captain, and King Edward VII promoted him to Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.



### Terra Nova Mission

- Scott set sail on the Terra Nova in 1910, aiming to become the first to reach the South Pole.

-The sledges and pony teams failed, leaving Scott and 4 other men to trek alone to the pole. They reached it on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1912, but found Roald Amundsen's Norwegian team had got there first.

-They tried to travel the 1500km back, but all died in the freezing conditions by 29<sup>th</sup> March 1912.



## Answers to Important Questions and Key Vocabulary

### Was Robert Scott a good leader?



-Scott had many skills that are good to have when you are leading other people:  
-Successful leaders are able to persuade other people and Scott persuaded people to fund the expedition.  
-Good leaders are also open to new/different ideas, and Scott was taking a journey into the unknown.  
-However, some people say that Scott's team made many mistakes under his leadership, and that this is why Roald Amundsen beat him to the pole.

### How did Scott become interested in the Antarctic?



-Scott was not fascinated by the Arctic at first – he took the job leading the 'Discovery' trip because he wanted the chance to be a commander. After his first trip, though, he was hooked!

### Who was Roald Amundsen and how did he beat Scott's team to the Pole?



-Amundsen planned a route that meant that he spent less time in the freezing mountains;  
-Amundsen used dogs to pull sleds of equipment along, and also wore skis. This made travel quicker.  
-Scott did not fully commit to using dogs.  
-It is thought that Amundsen's team used their fuel better, to keep themselves warm. They also had more food rations, so that they were not hungry.

### How did Scott and his team die?



-The weather is hottest in Antarctica in December and January. Amundsen had already left Antarctica by the end of January.  
-However, Scott's team were still travelling at the end of March. By this time, they were desperately hungry and exhausted, and the weather was colder. They died in their tents during a storm.

### Key Vocabulary

Explorer

Antarctica

South Pole

Sled

Terra Nova

Discovery

Leader

Commander

Navy

Diary

Courage

Trek

## Top 10 Facts!

1. Scott had one son, who later went on to found the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
2. Amundsen beat Scott to the pole by 5 weeks.
3. Scott kept a diary of his trip, most of which has been salvaged.
4. In the final few entries in his diary, Scott clearly knew that he was going to die. He said that he hoped his family would be looked after.
5. When news of Scott's death reached the UK, he immediately became a national icon.
6. A fossil from a 250-million-year-old tree was found next to Scott's body!
7. Scott's family ran into financial problems when he was in the Navy. His dad went bankrupt and then died. Scott's family relied on him.
8. Scott and his team made several scientific observations whilst in the Antarctic.
9. Scott and his team were the first to observe Emperor penguins with their eggs.
10. The bodies of the explorers were not found until November 1912.

## Robert Scott Timeline

6<sup>th</sup> 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. 17<sup>th</sup> January 1912: Reaches the South Pole, but finds that Amundsen was there first. 29<sup>th</sup> March 1912: Dies on the journey back to safety.