

PART 2

You are going to read an article about exploring the Antarctic. For questions 8-15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

In earlier centuries the Antarctic was thought to be a huge continent. Its existence in the southern hemisphere, around the South Pole was believed to act as a balance to the known continents in the northern hemisphere. In the 18th century, it was discovered to be far smaller than people had first thought. This was after Captain Cook sailed for the first time south of the Antarctic circle and reached the edge of the ice-pack. A small part of the ice-covered continent - the coast of Graham Land - was first seen in 1820. Explorers from various countries saw parts of the coastline in other areas, but the first large-scale exploration was made by Captain James Clarke Ross in 1841.

With his two ships, Erebus and Terror, he went right into the Ross Sea and discovered the great Ross Ice Barrier. After that, explorers ignored the Antarctic and there were no further journeys there until the 1890's, when an international plan of study was set up. A Norwegian, C.E. Borchgrevink, was the first person to spend a winter in the Antarctic and to travel on the ice barrier. He was there from 1898 to 1900. Several other explorers followed.

From 1901 to 1904 Captain Scott journeyed in his ship, Discovery. Once on land, they travelled further south than anyone had done before. A little later, Ernest Shackleton beat this by travelling to within 160 kilometers of the South Pole. In 1910 Captain Scott organised his second journey, determined to reach the South Pole this time, but for him it became an impossible goal. At the same time, another Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen, made clear his intention of reaching the South Pole. It had become a race.

Amundsen set up his base at the eastern end of the Ross Ice Barrier and, using teams of dogs to pull his sledges, reached the Pole on 14 December, 1911. Meanwhile, Scott and his team had their start delayed by bad weather. When they did set off they had to pull their sledges themselves, as Scott was against animal labour. It went from bad to worse and when at last they reached the South Pole, it was a month after Amundsen's arrival.

The return was just as difficult. They struggled against the weather and their own weakness, until they died only a few kilometres from their base.

Other outstanding explorations were carried out: one by Admiral Byrd in 1929, when he flew over the South Pole, the British trip of 1934, which made the first maps of any part of the Antarctic, and the American Navy expedition of 1940. During this one, they sailed round the entire continent and large areas were photographed from the air. The Antarctic was the scene of great adventure during the International Geophysical year in 1958 and 1959, where scientists from all over the world met there and all took part in the explorations. Most recently, in 1993, two British explorers completed the first crossing of the Antarctic without any outside help, and the longest polar journey - both world records.

8 What was learned about the Antarctic in the eighteenth century?

- A It was a very large continent.
- B It was not as large as people believed.
- C It had a long coast-line.
- D It had ice-packs.

9 What did many explorers see in the 1800's?

- A the great ice-barrier
- B the southern part of the Antarctic
- C other continents in the southern hemisphere
- D areas of coastline

10 How did explorers react to the Antarctic for a time in the nineteenth century?

- A They lost interest in it.
- B They travelled over the ice-barrier.
- C They sailed there often.
- D They made large scale explorations.

11 Who travelled nearest to the South Pole before 1910?

- A Roald Amundsen
- B Ernest Shackleton
- C Captain Scott
- D Captain Ross

12 Scott did not believe

- A that Amundsen would reach the South Pole.
- B that the weather would improve.
- C that using dogs to pull sledges was acceptable.
- D that the return journey would be easier.

13 What does "it" in line 23 refer to?

- A the journey
- B the weather
- C pulling their sledges
- D being beaten by Amundsen

14 Who was responsible for aerial photography of the Antarctic?

- A the British expedition
- B Admiral Byrd
- C international scientists
- D the American Navy

15 The latest expedition to the Antarctic

- A broke one world record.
- B broke two world records.
- C repeated what had been done before.
- D attracted participants from all over the world.