

Going on an Expedition

OBJECTIVES

Students will use a variety of reference materials to research a subject and will relate the results of their research orally and in writing. They will describe the accomplishments of antarctic explorers and scientists.

MATERIALS

- reference materials (*Use your library and a computer with Internet access.*)
- paper
- pencils or pens

BACKGROUND

The ability to use the Internet and library references to do research is a critical skill for students. This activity gives students practice using these investigative skills.

Antarctica is a continent without any native human inhabitants. At least for now, Antarctica is protected by the Antarctic Treaty. This Treaty bans military activity, nuclear testing, and radioactive waste dumping in Antarctica. It protects the continent's plant and animal species. Antarctica is open to all nations for scientific investigation. The antarctic ecosystem is a strong and healthy one, but it is extremely sensitive to outside disturbance. Life has adapted to survive in one of the world's harshest environments.

ACTION

Individually or in groups, students use reference materials and the Internet to research the accomplishments of an antarctic explorer or scientist. Ask students to create written "logs" of the explorer's trip, and to present verbal news accounts. Invite students to relate their findings to the class as if they were the explorers.

DEEPER DEPTHS

Research the work of penguin scientists such as David Ainley, Gerald Kooyman, Frank Todd, Bernard Stonehouse, or Wayne Trivelpiece. Can students find other penguin researchers?

| <i>explorer</i> | <i>country</i> | <i>accomplishment</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Roald Amundsen | Norway | first man to reach the south pole, 1911 |
| Richard E. Byrd | USA | first to use aircraft in the Antarctic, 1929 |
| Jules Dumont D'Urville | France | traveled closest to magnetic south pole, 1840 |
| Douglas Mawson | Australia | geographic and scientific discoveries, 1909-1929 |
| Nathaniel Palmer | USA | discovered mainland of Antarctica, 1820 |
| James Clark Ross | England | antarctic expeditions, 1841 |
| Robert Falcon Scott | England | second man to reach the south pole, 1911 |
| Ernest Shackleton | Ireland | attempted to cross Antarctica, 1914-1916 |
| Charles Wilkes | USA | led first American expedition to Antarctica, 1838 |