

My blue challenge by Isabelle Prain – Wigan

EXPLORERS AND INVENTORS

This term we have been studying Explorers and Inventors. My favourite bit out of Explorers and Inventors was learning about Ernest Henry Shackleton and Scott of the Antarctic (Robert Falcon Scott). When Ernest Shackleton set out on his ship, the Discovery, in 1901 he wanted to be the first person to reach the South Pole. Unfortunately, he had to go home early because he was ill. I went to Scotland and I actually went on the Discovery and saw a shiny brass plaque on each of Scott's and Shackleton's door and there were model figures of them inside and Scott was writing his diary.

Shackleton set out again in 1907, but this trip he had to turn back early this time too.

In 1911 Shackleton started out for another trip to the South Pole on a ship called the Endurance. It was quite scary. Unfortunately, the Endurance got stuck in pack ice. This means that as the ice moves in the ship gets squashed and finally it sinks. When the Endurance got stuck, they got all the supplies and all the dogs out of it and started camping on the ice. They ate the supplies and hunted seals so they could eat them. They drifted for months on the ice until they reached Elephant Island. Then Shackleton and some other men got in a lifeboat and sailed to another island where they found some people to rescue them. Amazingly, they all survived.

Robert Falcon Scott led a trip to the South Pole. Unfortunately, Roald Amundsen was there 31 days before him. Despair in their hearts the crew started the treacherous 800 mile journey back. Sadly they didn't all make it back. Edward Oates was suffering from frost bite and he realised that he was holding back his crew. The last that was seen of Edward Oates was when he walked outside into a storm and he said "I am just going outside and I may be some time." He died. The remaining men died later of starvation. A rescue party found their frozen bodies a month later with Scott's diary.