

Topic: Polar Explorers		
Enquiry Question: Who reached the Poles first and how do we know?		
Focus Subject Area: History		
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where are the coldest places on Earth and what is life like there? Who reached the poles first? What was an expedition to the coldest places on earth like? How did expeditions to the poles change over 100 years? 	Prior Knowledge (world building) Children have an understanding of the Polar Regions through their Geography lessons – they understand the climate, the terrain and who/what lives there and how they survive. They also have an understanding of explorers through space exploration topic.	
Key knowledge	Chronology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Henson was one of the first explorers to reach the North Pole in 1909 Matthew Henson lived in a time in America when Black people did not have the same rights and opportunities as some White people. Matthew’s great achievements are even more impressive because of what he had to overcome to find jobs and to become a respected explorer. They travelled on sledges pulled by dogs. Amundson and his team reached the South Pole first Felicity Aston led many expeditions to polar regions and remote places around the world. In 2011, she began skiing across Antarctica on her own. She pulled a sledge of equipment. She wore special clothing which was windproof, waterproof and kept her warm. It took her 59 days to complete her journey. She was the first woman ever to ski across Antarctica alone. 	1472 European explorers begin expeditions to the Antarctic	
	1821 American John Dais is the first to set foot on Antarctica	
	1902 Three men, Scott, Wilson and Shackleton set off on an expedition called ‘The Discovery Expedition’ to try and find the South Pole but they had to turn back	
	1908 Shackleton decided to make another attempt to reach the South Pole they ran out of food and became ill and returned home	
	1909 American Robert Peary and his team including, Matthew Henson, is thought to be the first to reach the North Pole	
	1911 Norweigan Roald Amundsen and his team are the first to reach the South Pole	
	1912 Robert Scott and his team narrowly beaten to the South Pole	
	2012 In January 2012, Felicity Aston became the first person to ski across Antarctica	
Disciplinary Skills	Historical Enquiry Skills	
Historical significance and understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the lives of significant individuals in the past beyond living memory who have contributed to national and international achievements. 	Chronological understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop language related to the passing of time, e.g. decade, century To know where people/events studied fit into a chronological framework beyond living memory Sequence artefacts and events that are close together in time Historical enquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use sources - Choose and use parts of stories and other sources to show understanding historical concepts e.g. similarity and change, cause and consequence, continuity and change, significance etc Use these sources to ask further questions and discuss ways to find answers Historical interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start to use stories or accounts to distinguish between fact and fiction To know that there can be different accounts of the same event To begin to explore different accounts of the same event Explain that there are different types of evidence and sources, such as photographic and written, that can be used to help represent the past 	
Vocabulary Arctic, Antarctic, North Pole, South Pole, terrain,	Focus Texts Arctic Life – Collins Big Cat	Assessment Children create two different recounts of the same event: the first person to cross the north pole (Robert Peary vs Matthew Henson)

