

HOW DID SCOTT'S EXPLORERS KEEP WARM IN ANTARCTICA?

INVESTIGATING CLOTHING WORN BY POLAR EXPLORERS ON SCOTT'S EXPEDITIONS

POLAR SURVIVAL KS1/KS2

Curriculum mapping:

History

Aims:

- Know and understand how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed

English

Aims:

- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas

Introduction activity

Watch together the 'drawers, vest, underwear' video clip located on page 20 of the Encyclopaedia of Artefacts: http://polar.lgfl.org.uk/encyclopaedia_of_artefacts.html#book/23

This clip shows some of the underwear worn by Edward Wilson, the chief surgeon and zoologist on Scott's first expedition, Discovery.

(Remind pupils that the expeditions were usually named after the boat that was used in the expedition – in this case, the 'Discovery'.)

Explain to the pupils that they are going to watch the clip again and this time they should take notes of important details. This is because they are going to imagine that they are planning their own expedition to the Antarctic and will have to think about how they can keep warm.

Watch the clip again while the pupils take notes.

As a class, share the notes that have been taken and create a list of important information about keeping warm in the Antarctic.

Main part of lesson

Discuss with the class the issue of the cold and wind chill on these expeditions, and how explorers had to make sure that they had the correct clothing to keep warm when exploring and even when 'safely inside' on the boat.

Watch the 'hood' video clip here: http://polar.lgfl.org.uk/encyclopaedia_of_artefacts.html#book/25

Draw out in class discussions how this hood was well suited to keeping explorers warm even though it wasn't waterproof.

Watch the 'jacket' video clip located on page 24: http://polar.lgfl.org.uk/encyclopaedia_of_artefacts.html#book/27

Before playing the clip, explain that you would like the class to note details about this jacket that was bought for all members of the expedition in the sledging party. This time, explain that you want them to take notes about the positive and negative elements of this jacket. The pupils will therefore need to take notes while watching and use these notes as a basis for the follow on activity.

Plenary

As a class decide whether you think Scott made a good choice in selecting this jacket to wear in the Antarctic.

In preparation for the follow up lesson which is 'How do modern explorers keep themselves warm' (if going to be taught) look at the two images of modern day explorers. Use 'modern day explorer clothing' and 'modern day explorer clothing 2' resource for a larger image.

Discuss how different, or not, the modern day clothing seems to be from items worn in Robert Scott's explorations.

