

Lost and found: the extraordinary story of Shackleton's Endurance epic

Level 3: Advanced – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes the journey of the *Endurance* to Antarctica and the eventual survival of its crew after the ship sank.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

Key:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <i>stowaway</i> | 7. <i>convulsed</i> |
| 2. <i>barrier</i> | 8. <i>dysentery</i> |
| 3. <i>floe</i> | 9. <i>clamber</i> |
| 4. <i>decamp</i> | 10. <i>biting</i> |
| 5. <i>keepsake</i> | 11. <i>surge</i> |
| 6. <i>outcrop</i> | 12. <i>circumvent</i> |

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g., in item 5 they may say "The place where it became stuck in the ice and sank" or similar.

Key:

- 28 (27 crew members plus the stowaway)
- first to establish a base on one side of the continent and then to continue to the other side
- nine months
- its location when it sank
- zero; It was uninhabited.
- almost 500 days
- six; Shackleton, Worsley and four others
- 16 days
- three; Shackleton and two others
- South Georgia

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to highlight important historic achievements linked to the concept of exploration. As a first stage, or as an alternative to naming the explorers, you could ask students to put the events in historical order beginning with the earliest. As a follow-up you could ask students to suggest other important historical achievements relating to discovery and exploration.

Key:

- Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay
- Neil A Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin E Aldrin Jr
- Ferdinand Magellan's crew in the ship *Victoria* (Magellan never completed the journey as he was killed in what is now the Philippines.)
- Roald Amundsen and his crew
- Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon
- Bartolomeu Dias and his crew

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Point out that another word for *clamber* is 'scramble'. It is also possible to circumvent rules and regulations in the sense of avoiding them somehow. A *keepsake* is a kind of souvenir, although it is generally quite small and usually reminds you of a person or a pet rather than an object or place, although this is also possible.

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Ask students to refer back to the text to see the words in context and check their answers. Note that in an emergency, the expression often used is 'abandon ship', without the article, as in "They were forced to abandon ship".

Key:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. <i>d</i> | 4. <i>e</i> |
| 2. <i>f</i> | 5. <i>a</i> |
| 3. <i>b</i> | 6. <i>c</i> |

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

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6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to open an internet search engine and enter 'famous shipwrecks' or similar. They should then find and note down key information about an interesting wreck, possibly one located in one of the areas mentioned. Scapa Flow between the Scottish mainland and the Orkney Islands contains the wrecks of the German fleet that was sunk by its commanders at the end of World War I. There are numerous wrecks in the Aegean Sea, some over two thousand years old. Several legends about sunken ships and treasure are associated with the Bermuda Triangle.

The task could also be done as a homework task.