

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

Level 2: Intermediate – 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

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 dating the events, 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:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. 1953 | 4. 1911 |
| 2. 1969 | 5. 1922 |
| 3. 1492 | 6. 1606 |

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that you can also *abandon* a project or an idea in the sense of 'giving up' and the verb can also be used with people, as in "We were abandoned in the middle of Paris without money", meaning 'left without help'. A *remote* place is also difficult to get to, usually because transport links are not good, and is often described as being 'in the middle of nowhere'.

Key:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <i>stowaway</i> | 6. <i>dysentery</i> |
| 2. <i>ice floe</i> | 7. <i>recuperation</i> |
| 3. <i>abandon</i> | 8. <i>feat</i> |
| 4. <i>navigator</i> | 9. <i>glacier</i> |
| 5. <i>remote</i> | 10. <i>launch</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 7 they may say "It was uninhabited" or similar.

Key:

1. *False. There were 28 because there was also a stowaway.*
2. *False. They were planning to establish a base on the Weddell Sea.*
3. *True*
4. *False. They shot the cat and some of the dogs.*
5. *True*
6. *True*
7. *False. Noone lived there.*
8. *True*
9. *False. There were three including Shackleton.*
10. *True*

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Ask students to check their answers by referring back to the text to see the phrases in context.

Key:

1. *on the other side of the island*
2. *after nine months of being stuck*
3. *almost a year after they had set out*
4. *seven and a half miles in seven days*
5. *an extraordinary feat of survival*
6. *the first time in almost five hundred days*

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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.

6. In your own words

- a. This could also be done as a homework task. If students require ideas, suggest they research some of the early expeditions to South America or, perhaps, the north-west passage in Canada.