

The Race to the Pole

Amazing Fact

At the North and South Poles, the sun only rises and sets once a year. During winter, the sun is never seen and during summer, it spirals slowly upwards from the horizon to reach its highest point in the sky at the mid-summer solstice.

In 1910, two explorers, Robert Scott and Roald Amundsen, set off on separate expeditions each aiming to be the first to reach the previously unexplored South Pole. Amundsen's team were the first to arrive, leaving their flag for Scott's team to find. Tragically, while Amundsen's team returned alive, Scott's party all died on the return journey.



Challenge

This image shows Robert Scott and his team at the South Pole. Look at the image carefully and answer the questions on the next page. You could discuss your answers in pairs or groups. Be ready to feed back to your teacher and classmates.

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1. What can you see in the picture?

2. What flag is flying?

3. How do you think the team felt seeing this flag as they approached their destination?

4. Do you think they had any happy feelings?

5. What objects can you see in the picture? What are they for?

6. What thoughts do you think the men were having in the photograph?

7. How does the photograph make you feel?

8. Write a caption for this photograph.

9. Write a newspaper heading which would accompany this photograph.

10. What questions would you ask the men in the photograph?

You could also try to find out:

- which countries you can see the 'Midnight Sun' from;
- how the 'Midnight Sun' affects wildlife;
- what a solstice is;
- what scientists living in Antarctica do to help them survive six months of darkness.