

Polar Exploration Then and Now

To compare Felicity Aston's experience of polar exploration with Matthew Henson's.

Read the information on this sheet. Then, cut and stick the correct pictures on the table to show the answers to the questions.

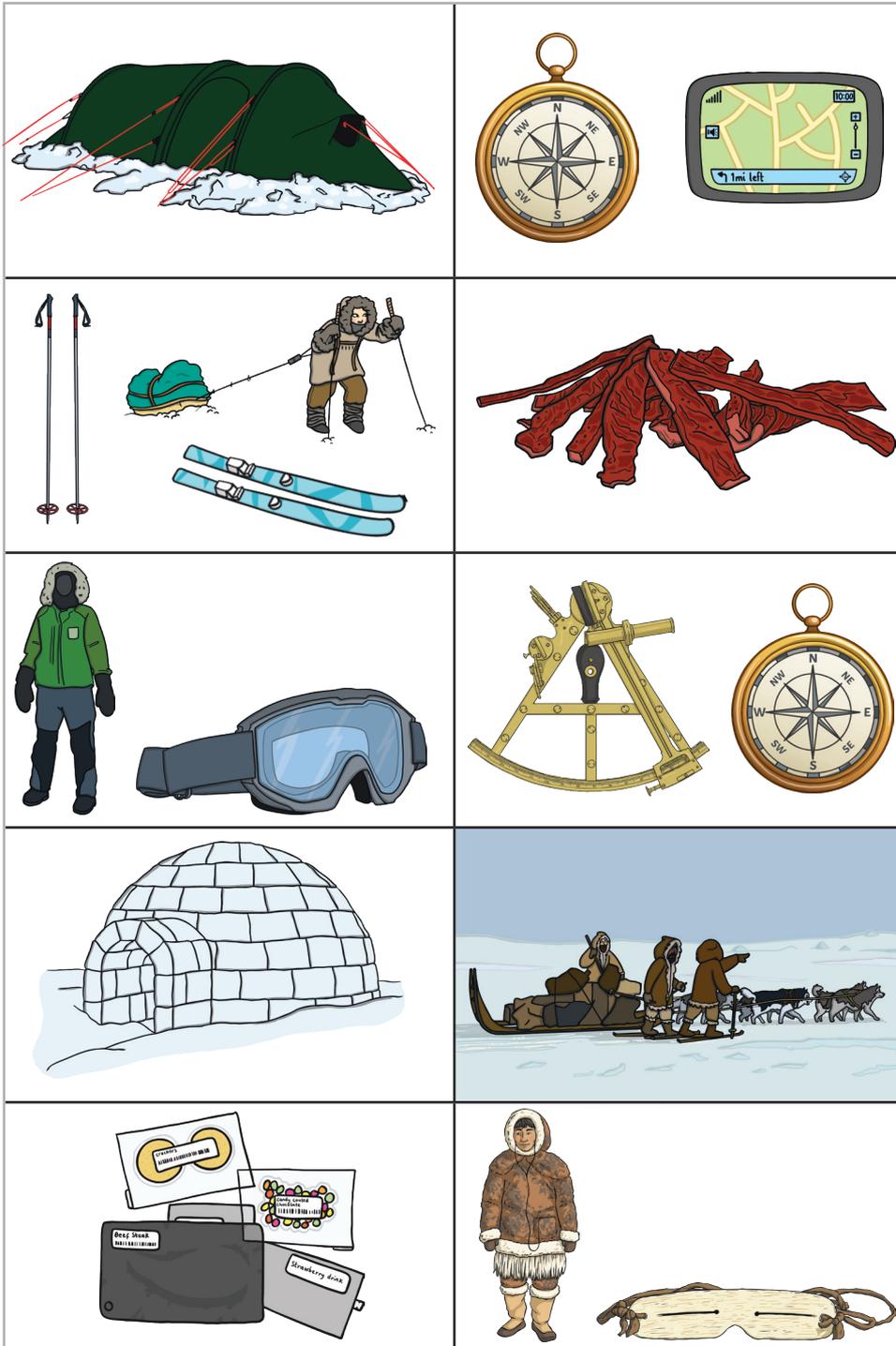


Matthew Henson in the Arctic

- In 1909, Matthew Henson reached what he thought was the North Pole.
- It was a very long and hard exploration.
- They had sledges pulled by dogs.
- They walked on skis.
- The skis and ski poles were made of wood.
- Every night they made an igloo from snow to sleep in.
- They had blankets.
- They wore warm clothes made from animal skin and animal fur.
- They used a compass and a sextant.
- They ate pemmican (a mixture of dried meat, dried berries and fat).

Felicity Aston in the Antarctic

- In 2012, Felicity Aston was the first person to ski alone across Antarctica using just her own power.
- It was a long and hard exploration.
- She walked on skis.
- The skis and ski poles were made of layers of different materials and were lighter than skis used to be in the past.
- Every night she slept in a tent.
- She slept in a sleeping bag.
- She wore warm clothes mostly made from human-made materials.
- She used a compass to help her find the way. She also used GPS to check her locations and for others to track her.
- She ate freeze-dried meals that were high in energy.

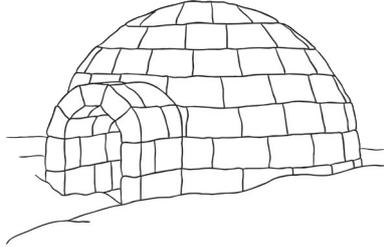
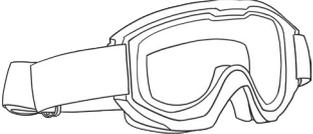
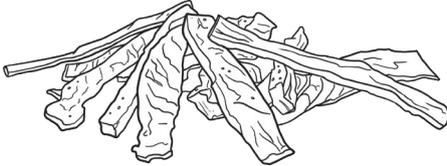
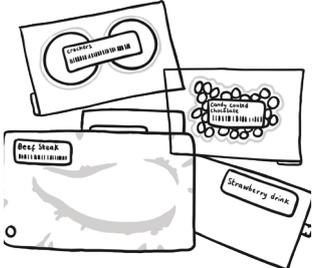
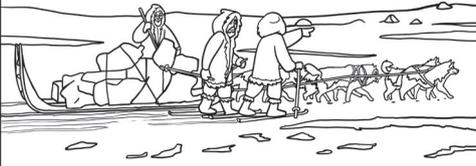
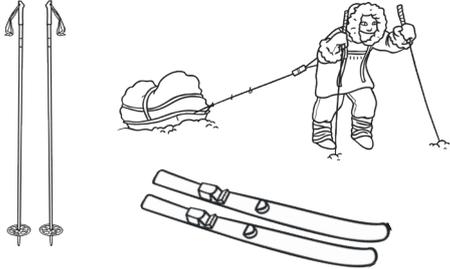
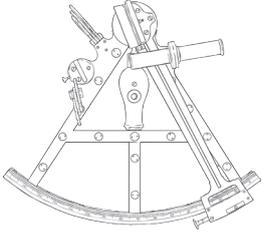
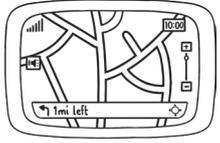


| | Matthew Henson 1909 | Felicity Aston 2012 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Where did they sleep? | | |
| What did they wear? | | |
| What did they eat? | | |
| How did they travel? | | |
| How did they check where they were? | | |

One reason their explorations were different is _____

One reason their explorations were the same is _____

Answers

| | Matthew Henson 1909 | Felicity Aston 2012 |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Where did they sleep? |  |  |
| What did they wear? |   |   |
| What did they eat? |  |  |
| How did they travel? |  |  |
| How did they check where they were? |   |   |

One reason their explorations were different is **Felicity had GPS to check her location, which is more accurate.**

One reason their explorations were the same is because **they put all their things on sleds. (Answers can reflect any knowledge the children have of the two expeditions and do not need to be taken from the information sheet).**

Polar Exploration Then and Now

To compare Felicity Aston's experience of polar exploration with Matthew Henson's.

Read the information on this sheet. Then, write and draw in the boxes on the table to answer the questions.



| Matthew Henson in the Arctic | Felicity Aston in the Antarctic |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1909, Matthew Henson reached what he thought was the North Pole.• It was a very long and difficult exploration.• They had sledges pulled by dogs.• They walked on skis.• The skis and ski poles were made of wood.• Every night they made an igloo from snow to sleep in.• They had blankets.• They wore warm clothes made from animal skin and animal fur.• They used a compass and a sextant.• They ate pemmican (a mixture of dried meat, dried berries and fat). | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2012, Felicity Aston was the first person to ski alone across Antarctica using just her own power.• It was a long and difficult exploration.• She walked on skis.• The skis and ski poles were made of layers of different materials and were lighter than skis used to be in the past.• Every night she slept in a tent.• She slept in a sleeping bag.• She wore warm clothes mostly made from human-made materials.• She used a compass to help her find the way. She also used GPS to check her locations and for others to track her.• She ate freeze-dried meals that were high in energy. |

| | Matthew Henson 1909 | Felicity Aston 2012 |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Where did they sleep? | Every night, Matthew and his team made an igloo to sleep in. They slept on blankets.  | |
| What did they wear? | | |
| What did they eat? | | |
| How did they travel? | | |
| How did they check where they were? | | |

One reason their explorations were different is _____

One reason their explorations were the same is _____

Answers

(Children may have chosen to draw or write their answers or a combination of the two.)

| | Matthew Henson 1909 | Felicity Aston 2012 |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Where did they sleep? | Every night, Matthew and his team made an igloo to sleep in. They slept on blankets.  | She slept in a sleeping bag in a tent. |
| What did they wear? | They wore warm clothes made from animal skin and animal fur. | She wore warm clothes mostly made from human-made materials. |
| What did they eat? | They ate pemmican (a mixture of dried meat and fat). | She ate freeze-dried food that was high in energy. |
| How did they travel? | They had sledges pulled by dogs. They walked on skis that were made of wood. They used ski poles made of wood too. | She walked on light skis made from layers of different materials. |
| How did they check where they were? | They used a compass and a sextant. | She used a compass and GPS. |

Many possible answers. Example answers:

One reason their explorations were different is **that Matthew Henson had sledges that were pulled by dogs and Felicity Aston pulled her own sledge.**

One reason their explorations were the same is because **that they both used skis and ski poles.**

Polar Exploration Then and Now

To compare Felicity Aston's experience of polar exploration with Matthew Henson's.

Read the information on this sheet. Then, write sentences to answer the questions on the following page.

Matthew Henson in the Arctic

In 1909, Matthew Henson reached what he thought was the North Pole. It was a very long and difficult exploration.

Matthew Henson travelled with the Inuit of Greenland and the exploration was led by Robert Peary. Robert had wanted to be the first to get to the North Pole to be famous and make money.

The team had sledges pulled by dogs. They sometimes rode on the sledges but they also walked on skis which were made of wood.

Every night, they made an igloo from snow to sleep in. They had blankets under them and on top of them too. They wore a deerskin shirt and their trousers, boots and coats (or parkas) were also made from fur. Sometimes they wore snow goggles which were made from wood with slits cut for them to see through.

They used a compass and a sextant to find their way and to check where they were. After the exploration, it was Robert's measurements that were questioned when some people said that the team did not make it to the North Pole.

They ate pemmican (a mixture of dried meat, dried berries and fat). This was high in energy but did not provide them with as much energy as modern food for explorers.



Read the information on this sheet. Then, write sentences to answer the questions on the following page.

Felicity Aston in the Antarctic

In 2012, Felicity Aston was the first person to ski alone across Antarctica using just her own power. It was a long and difficult exploration.

Felicity travelled on skis. The skis and ski poles were made of layers of different materials and were lighter than in the past. She pulled a sledge with her equipment loaded on it.

Every night, Felicity slept in a tent that was specially designed for providing shelter from cold temperatures. She slept in a warm sleeping bag.

She wore warm clothes mostly made from human-made materials. Many modern coats for polar explorers are made from a combination of human-made fabrics and down (feathers). Felicity made sure that her face was covered when she was out of the tent. She wore snow goggles to protect her eyes from the sun.

Felicity used a compass to help her find the way and used GPS to check her location and to mark it on a map. GPS was also used for others to track her. She also carried satellite phones in case she needed to contact anyone.

She ate freeze-dried meals that were high in energy. These come in a variety of flavours and need hot water to be added to them.



Now, write sentences to answer the questions. Think about the two explorers, where they slept, what they ate, what they wore and how they travelled.

What were the differences between Felicity Aston's and Matthew Henson's explorations?

What were the similarities between Felicity Aston's and Matthew Henson's explorations?

Answers

What were the differences between Felicity Aston's exploration and the exploration by Matthew Henson?

- **Matthew Henson explored in a group but Felicity Aston went on her exploration alone.**
- **Matthew Henson's team had sledges pulled by dogs but Felicity Aston pulled her own sledge.**
- **Matthew Henson's skis were made of wood but Felicity Aston's were lighter skis made from layers of different materials.**
- **Matthew Henson slept on and under blankets in an igloo but Felicity Aston slept in a sleeping bag in a tent.**
- **Matthew Henson wore animal furs and skins to keep warm but Felicity Aston dressed in clothes made from warm, mostly human-made materials.**
- **Matthew Henson wore snow goggles made from wood with slits cut for him to see through but Felicity Aston wore modern snow goggles.**
- **Matthew Henson's team used a compass and a sextant to work out where they were and where they should go but Felicity Aston used a compass and GPS.**
- **Matthew Henson ate pemmican but Felicity Aston ate freeze-dried food.**
- **Matthew Henson may not have reached the North Pole but it is known that Felicity set out to achieve her aim.**

What were the similarities between Felicity Aston's exploration and the exploration by Matthew Henson?

- **They both went on long and difficult journeys.**
- **They both travelled through snowy and icy environments.**
- **They both wore snow goggles.**
- **They both wore warm clothes.**
- **They both ate foods that were high in energy.**
- **They both had sledges.**
- **They both walked on skis and used ski poles.**