

Antarctic Leadership

Achievements and Legacies from the Heroic Age

Lesson Plan

Age: 11-16

Subjects: English, History, Geography

Overview: Compare the achievements and legacies of 4 Antarctic Explorers from the early 20th century.

The presentation PowerPoint could be delivered by the teacher as a whole though is quite wordy if the audience is a bit fidgety.

I suggest the teacher introduces it and goes through the pages of one of the explorers with the class, whichever seems most appropriate. If there is no preference, Amundsen is a good start.

Ask questions of the class such as:

Was he successful in what he set out to do?

Do you think he thought he was a success? Why/why not?

Discuss the idea of “legacy” – what was the legacy of this expedition?

What might have been his reasons for wanting to go on this expedition?

Why might his crew have wanted to go with him?

What did the rest of the world think of him?

What did his country think of him?

Do YOU think this was a successful expedition?

Student tasks

1 - Students should then look through the PowerPoint themselves, filling in the worksheet as they go, the purpose of this is to make them read and take note in preparation for the next stage.

2 - The main task is to prepare a 5 minute presentation on the explorer of their choice arguing why his achievements were the greatest and why his legacy was the best.

This can be differentiated and extended to varying degrees in the following ways:

Simplify

- Use the worksheet only rather than the presentation task, expanding the answers to each section as a piece of extended writing.
- Describe the achievements and legacy as a presentation rather than making an argument for the best.

Extend

- Allow time for extra research on the explorer of their choice.
- Compare the 4 explorers rather than just evaluating one.