

## Ernest Shackleton

### Who Was Ernest Shackleton?

Ernest Shackleton was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1874. He lived in London and died in 1922.



### When did he start travelling?

Ernest Shackleton wanted to be an adventurer after reading so much when he was a boy. When he was 16, Ernest left school and started to learn to be a sailor. He was good at it and became a Captain by the time he was 24.

### Where did he go?

Ernest Shackleton visited **Antarctica** three times. The second time, he was nearly the first person to get to the South Pole, but had to turn back with less than 200km to go because of bad weather. By the time he made the third trip, someone else had already got to the South Pole so he decided to try to be the first to go across Antarctica. He would use sleds, pulled by dogs, and walk.

### What happened to him?

When Shackleton got to Antarctica in 1915, his ship (Endurance) got stuck in the ice, broke and sank. The crew got in their lifeboats and sailed for 5 days to Elephant Island, which was 500km away. Shackleton and five of the men then went in a tiny boat for more than 1000km to get help and then had to walk 50km over mountains to get to where people were. Then they sent a bigger boat to rescue the men.



### Why is he important?

Many people think that Ernest Shackleton is a hero because he managed to get all his men home safely. Other explorers died in the cold Antarctic.

### Reading task – can you answer these questions?

- 1) Where did Shackleton go on his travels? Can you find these places on a map or globe?
- 2) Why did people think Ernest Shackleton was a hero? Do you agree?
- 3) How do you think the men would have felt when they were rescued? Why?
- 4) Can you find out who was the first man to get to the South Pole?
- 5) Can you draw a picture of something Ernest Shackleton did or saw?

### Challenge Task

Ernest Shackleton has asked you to join his crew to go to Antarctica. Write a list of all the things you need to pack. Remember to number each item. Maybe you could find out what Ernest took?