



The North

► This map shows the routes of the major Arctic expeditions.

First to the Pole

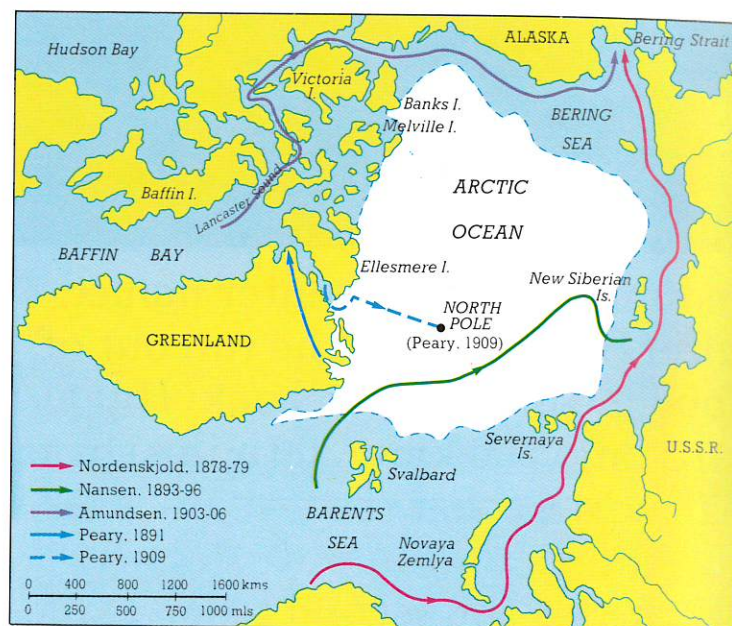
Robert Peary of the United States was the first person to reach the North Pole in 1909.

▼ An Inuit family, dressed warmly to survive the severe cold of the far north.



CHAPTER TEN

THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



For centuries, people have wondered about the remote icy regions of the far north. In the 19th century, several British explorers travelled north of Canada. They could not find the Northwest Passage that would connect the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Discovering Magnetic North
In 1829, John Ross led the Arctic



◀ Wally Herbert and his men were the first to cross the polar ice cap.

Nansen

Nansen Fridtjof Nansen from Norway designed a ship that would slip up out of the water when ice closed in. In 1893, after sailing north, Nansen let his ship freeze in. He then went on with sleds and kayaks. Nansen came within 386 kms (240 miles) of the Pole.

expedition that found the **Magnetic North Pole**. He had to abandon his damaged ship and live in a small makeshift house during the Arctic winter. Luckily, a whaling ship rescued them. Sir John Franklin led a less fortunate expedition in 1845. His ship became frozen in ice and he died. Some of his men tried to walk away on the ice, but they too met with a chilly death. Baron Nils Nordenskjöld, a Swedish explorer, travelled north of Siberia and found the Northeast Passage in 1878-79. The Northwest Passage was finally navigated in 1903-06 by Roald Amundsen, from Norway.

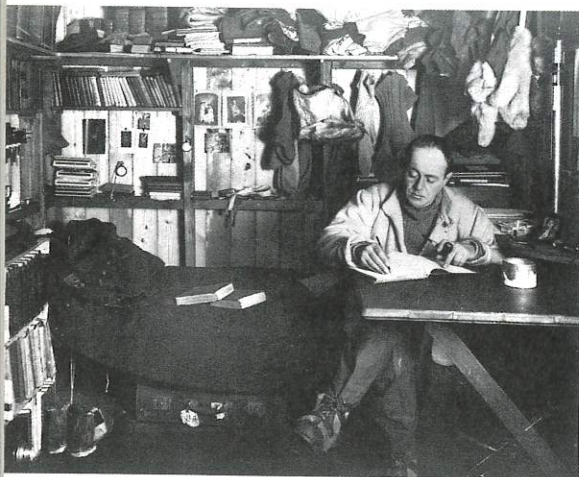
▼ Fridtjof Nansen was a great explorer and a brilliant scientist. He also drew fine illustrations of his travels.





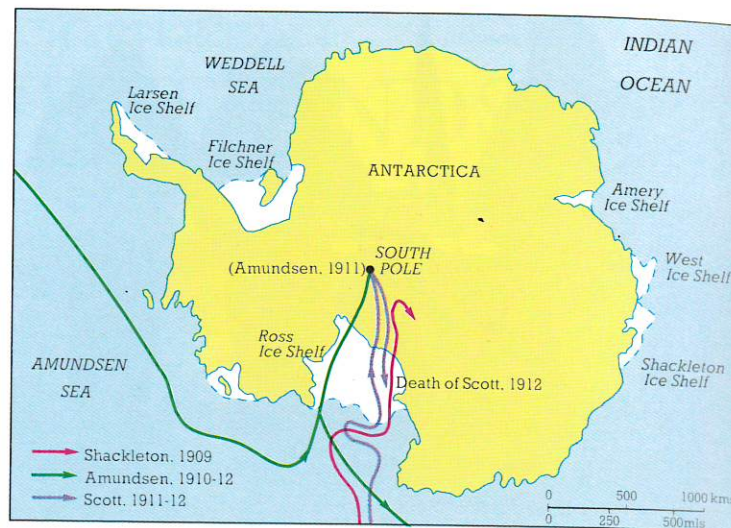
The South

► The main routes in search of the South Pole.



▲ Robert Scott writes in his diary before setting out for the South Pole.

► In the Antarctic, high winds whip the snow into a fog-like, blinding white out. Bare flesh can freeze in less than a minute.



Antarctica was the last continent to be explored. Explorers raced to be first to the South Pole.

The Race to the South Pole

In 1908 Ernest Shackleton, a British explorer, discovered the Beardmore Glacier. He almost



reached the South Pole. Just 160 kms (100 miles) from the pole he ran short of food and had to turn back. In 1911, two men raced for the pole. Roald Amundsen, a Norwegian, used Arctic sledge dogs called huskies. British expedition leader Robert Scott had ponies and motorized sledges. The sledges soon broke down. The ponies could not survive the cold. For four weeks, Scott and his men hauled their supplies on foot. Then Scott took four men and hurried the remaining 286 kms (178 miles) to the pole. When they arrived they found Amundsen had been there 34 days earlier, on 14 December, 1911. With his dogs, he had made the trip in seven weeks. Scott and his four men died on the return journey.



▲ The Beardmore Glacier.

▼ Here is Shackleton's well-stocked base hut.



The bitter end

From the South Pole, Scott and his men started back to their base camp, 300 kms (200 miles) away. They were running out of food and were exhausted. One died on the Beardmore Glacier. Another man aware that food was running out, wandered away. The other three died 12 days later, only 18 kms (11 miles) from food and shelter.

◀ The Norwegian flag is raised over the South Pole.



The Last Unknown

► Ernest Shackleton had his ship, *Endurance*, locked in ice for nine months, and then it sank.

▼ The type of clothing modern explorers need to survive in the Arctic and Antarctic.



In 1915, Ernest Shackleton made one of the most heroic journeys in Antarctica. His ship froze in the ice and later sank. He and his 28 crewmen camped for four months on the ice until it broke up. They rowed to a small island. Then Shackleton and five men sailed in a small boat 1,400 kms (870 miles) to an island whaling station for help. All of his men were saved.

Mapping and photographing
Today, our interest in Antarctica

is scientific. In 1946, the US sent a crew to map and photograph over half the coast. In 1957, a British team crossed Antarctica in snowmobiles. They found that the **icecap** averages 2.5 kms (1.5 miles) thick. If it melted, it would be as much water as the Atlantic Ocean!

The 12 Nation Treaty

In 1959, 12 nations signed a treaty, promising not to claim any more Antarctic land and to use the area only for peaceful research.



▲ Ice-breakers like this make modern Antarctic research safer.