

# Roald Amundsen



# Why is Amundsen famous?

- Roald Amundsen (1872 - 1928) was an explorer of the North and South Poles.
- He led the first expedition to reach the South Pole and he was the first person to visit both the North and South Pole.



# Roald Amundsen – Early life

- Amundsen was born in Norway in 1872. He grew up in Norway with his three brothers. He had dreamt of becoming an explorer, but his mother wanted him to become a doctor. He followed his mother's wishes until she died when he was 21 years old. Then he left school to pursue his dream of exploring.



# Travelling on ships

- Amundsen became a crewmember on various ships travelling to the Arctic. He learned valuable lessons of survival during these early trips that would help him later on.
- He learnt that fresh seal meat had vitamin C which would help in curing scurvy.
- He used animal skins rather than wool coats to keep warm.



*Roald Amundsen piloting his ship*

# Northwest passage

- In 1903 Roald commanded his own expedition on his ship the Gjoa.
- He travelled to the magnetic North Pole and was the first to discover the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.
- This passage had been searched for over many centuries. Roald's ability to navigate and survive this trip was a great accomplishment.



*His ship the Gjoa*

# South Pole

- Amundsen was in a race with British explorer Robert Scott to be the first to the South Pole.
- In January 1911 Amundsen's ship arrived in Antarctica. They set up camp there and prepared for the trip to the South Pole.
- He made sure that the dogs were well fed. One of the crew, redesigned the sleds they would use to make them lighter so that they would be easier to pull. This helped save energy during the trip.



# The expedition

- Roald Amundsen set out to reach the South Pole ten months after arriving on Antarctica.
- He wore reindeer skins to keep warm.
- There were five men, 52 dogs, and four sleds. At first they travelled quickly, but soon they had to pass over mountains and avoid dangerous crevasses. After nearly two months of hard travelling, they arrived at the South Pole On December 14, 1911.
- Roald Amundsen planted the Norwegian Flag at the South Pole.
- All five of Amundsen's crew returned safely to base camp, but only 11 dogs made it back alive.
- The expedition took 99 days and they travelled over 1,800 miles.



Amundsen and the Norwegian Flag at the South Pole

# North Pole

- Amundsen still had the goal of reaching the North Pole. In 1926 he joined an expedition with Umberto Nobile aboard the airship Norge.
- They flew over the North Pole in May in what was considered to be the first visit to the North Pole.



# Rescue attempt

- Amundsen died in a plane crash during a rescue attempt on June 18, 1928.
- He was trying to save some of the crew of an airship that had crashed.



# Fun Facts

- Amundsen, Nobile, and Ellsworth all dropped their country's flags onto the North Pole as they flew over.
- At one point he was attacked and nearly killed by a polar bear.
- He named the mountain range he crossed on his way to the South Pole the Queen Maud Mountains, after the queen of Norway.
- When he reached the South Pole, he stayed there for three days to rest and get ready for the trip back.
- Roald Dahl, who wrote Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was named after Amundsen.

