

Who was Captain Scott?

Captain Robert Scott was an English Royal Navy officer and **explorer**.

Captain Scott led two dangerous missions to the **Antarctic**.

He is widely known as Scott of the Antarctic, the title of a 1948 film.



Captain Robert Scott

Antarctica

Antarctica is the coldest, driest and windiest continent on Earth.

Although it is covered in ice and snow, it is dry because it hardly ever rains.

It is very difficult for plants and animals to survive here.

For thousands and thousands of years, no humans had ever been to Antarctica.

They weren't even sure it existed!

In the 18th and 19th centuries, many brave explorers tried to find it.

Eventually, humans found Antarctica!

Once it was discovered, the next challenge was to reach the **South Pole**.



Key Vocab

Explorer	A person who travels in search of geographical or scientific information
Expedition	A journey for a particular purpose
Antarctic	an ice covered continent surrounded by the Southern Ocean
South Pole	The southernmost point on Earth
Historical evidence	Anything left over from the past is a source of evidence.
Primary Source	A primary source of evidence is one that was created by someone who witnessed first-hand or was part of the historical events that are being described. The most common primary sources are journal entries or letters.



Robert Scott's Discovery Expedition

In 1902, Robert Scott, Edward Wilson and Ernest Shackleton set off to try to find the South Pole on the Discovery **Expedition**. They wanted to be the first explorers to reach the South Pole.

The team travelled on a sledge pulled by dogs. They reached further south than anyone had before!

Eventually, they were forced to turn back before reaching the South Pole.

By the time they returned to their ship, the explorers were all suffering from scurvy and frostbite.



Discovery Expedition in Antarctica



Scott's group the day after they discovered Amundsen had reached the pole first



Robert Scott's Terra Nova Expedition

In 1910, Robert Scott set off on another **expedition** to reach the South Pole.

On the way to Antarctica, the ship encountered several problems. The ship was struck by a storm. The ship then ran into ice that it couldn't sail through. They were delayed by 20 days.

In 1911, the Terra Nova team set up a hut in a place they called Cape Evans on Antarctica. It was while doing scientific research that the team found out that the rival explorer, Amundsen, was camped on Antarctica too!

In September, Scott set out to reach the South Pole.

The Terra Nova team travelled over the ice and snow on foot, on skis, on motor sledges and on sledges pulled by both dogs and horses.

In 1912, the team finally achieved their incredible goal! The team of five men reached the South Pole and planted their British flag. There was just one problem...

The Amundsen expedition had already reached the South Pole!

They were extremely disappointed. After planting their flag, Scott's team headed for home.

Scott's Terra Nova expedition ended in tragedy. No one survived the return journey.

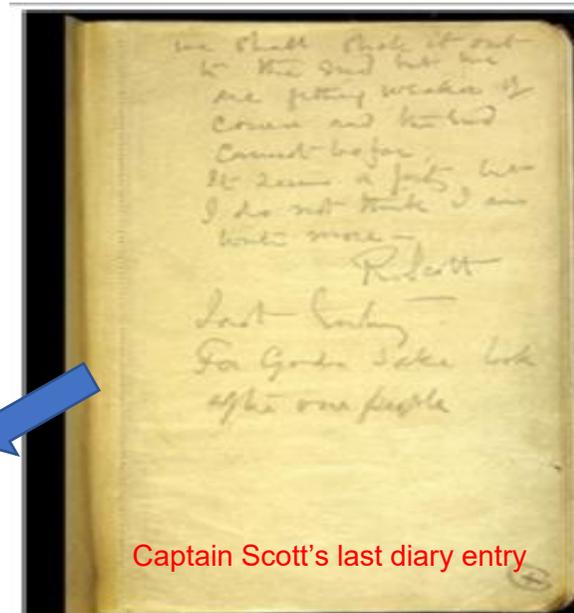
We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end cannot be far. It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more.
R. Scott
Last Entry
For God's sake look after our people.

How do we really know what happened on Scott's last journey?

A **primary source** of evidence is Captain Scott's diary which he used to record what was happening for the entire journey through the Antarctic.



Scott, writing his journal in the Cape Evans hut, winter 1911



Captain Scott's last diary entry