

**QUIZZES!  
PUZZLES!  
GAMES!**

**AND  
MORE**



# EXPLORERS

## History-at-Home Pack

Discover Irish explorers  
and how to become an explorer!



Learn about Ernest Shackleton



Take part in some fun  
exploration-themed tasks  
and activities



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# A HISTORY OF... Exploration

Throughout history, humans have travelled from their home lands to different places. Sometimes, they travelled out of necessity, in order to find food or shelter; to trade with other peoples; or to escape something. At other times, they travelled purposefully, to go on adventures; to discover something new; or to make a new life for themselves in other countries. Many others still travelled to seek riches; to give aid or to help other people; or even to share and spread their beliefs or religions with others.



## THE FIRST EXPLORER

While we don't know for certain who the first explorer was, one of the earliest known explorers was Hannu, an Egyptian who lived in 2750 BC. Hannu travelled to what is now known as Ethiopia and Somalia in search of treasures!

## ST. BRENDAN

One of the earliest known Irish explorers was St. Brendan the Navigator. A Christian missionary, St. Brendan was born in 484 AD in Tralee, in County Kerry. It is said that Brendan travelled far and wide setting up monasteries – and that he even spent 7 years at sea searching for the garden of Eden! As his journeys took place so long ago in 500 AD, it is hard to know what is fact and what is legend about his adventures.

## MARCO POLO

People continued exploring, and in the 13th century the famous explorer Marco Polo made a name for himself by travelling from Italy to China along a great trade route known as the Silk Road. This journey took him 24 years to complete, although he made many stop offs along the way!



Christopher Columbus travelled to America

Marco Polo travelled the Silk Road

## THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

The Age of Exploration or 'Age of Discovery' took place in the 15th – 17th centuries. During this time a great many people from Europe travelled around the world by taking to the seas.



James Cook, explored Australia.

# A HISTORY OF... Exploration



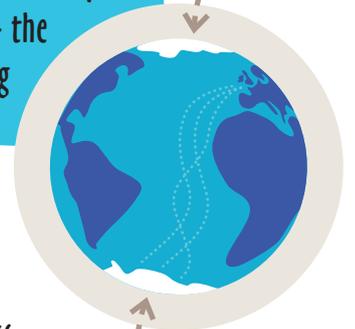
Tom Crean on the Discovery expedition

## THE ARCTIC EXPLORERS

Once most of the lands had been discovered, in the 19th and 20th centuries explorers turned their attention to reaching the North and South Poles. There were many famous Irish explorers that took part in this race, including Ernest Shackleton and Tom Crean on the Discovery expedition, and Francis Crozier - the man responsible for mapping the Antarctic!



North Pole (Arctic)



South Pole (Antarctic)

## EXPLORING THE SKIES

Explorers weren't just known for their daring expeditions across the lands and sea – they have also accomplished a lot in terms of aviation, taking to the skies in the early 1900s. One well-known Irish aviator was Lady Mary Heath, born in 1896 in Limerick, Ireland. Despite women not being allowed to become pilots at the time, she paid for her own flying lessons and fought with the Commission for Air Navigation to allow her to become Britain's first officially recognised female pilot. She completed a flyover from Africa to Britain in 1928, leading the way for other aviators to follow.



Lady Mary Heath, born in 1896 in Limerick

## SPACE EXPLORATION

While nowadays, most of the earth's surface has been discovered, space exploration is just beginning. One famous Irish space explorer is Neil Armstrong. Born in Ohio, America on 5th August 1930, his family can be traced back to Co. Fermanagh in Ulster. Falling in love with flying from a young age after seeing an air show, he took flying lessons, studied aeronautical engineering and served as a pilot in the Navy, before applying to join the American space program. He joined NASA (America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration) in 1955, and as the Mission Commander of the Apollo 11 mission, he was lucky enough to be the first person to walk on the moon!

Neil Armstrong  
The first person to walk on the moon!



# IRISH EXPLORERS... wordsearch quiz

Now that you've learnt all about the history of exploration, answer the questions below, and then find the answers in the word search.

- 1 The name of the first known explorer.
- 2 St Brendan the Navigator is said to have spent 7 years at sea looking for this garden.
- 3 Marco Polo made a name for himself by travelling from Italy to China along which trade route.
- 4 The famous age beginning with 'E' that took place in the 15th – 17th centuries.
- 5 The surname of the explorer who travelled to America during the Age of Exploration.
- 6 The place that Francis Crozier was responsible for mapping.
- 7 The famous expedition that Tom Crean was on.
- 8 The type of explorer that Lady Mary Heath was.
- 9 Lady Mary Heath flew from this country to Britain in 1928.
- 10 Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on this.

W	Q	Y	N	S	M	C	N	Q	U	E	W	T	S	J
E	N	E	R	G	G	D	W	R	X	T	F	H	U	J
C	Q	I	Y	E	Y	L	O	P	W	M	X	E	B	Y
M	T	C	W	H	V	T	L	P	A	V	E	S	M	D
A	F	R	I	C	A	O	X	S	I	U	F	I	U	O
S	X	E	M	I	R	N	C	Z	S	H	X	L	L	X
P	Z	O	V	A	F	M	N	S	Y	G	G	K	O	E
X	O	A	T	B	O	K	D	U	I	V	C	R	C	N
N	C	I	T	C	R	A	T	N	A	D	W	O	Q	X
N	O	Y	M	L	A	F	I	A	G	C	R	A	K	V
N	C	H	T	N	F	A	S	I	U	E	V	D	U	K
T	D	S	H	L	F	P	R	G	B	J	V	Z	E	S
X	O	N	W	M	G	Q	O	U	N	T	O	P	D	S
M	R	S	J	T	H	W	A	R	K	F	B	L	E	R
V	E	P	X	L	V	K	N	S	X	P	Q	K	N	Y

Answers:  
HANNU  
EDEN  
THE SILK ROAD  
EXPLORATION  
COLUMBUS  
ANTARCTIC  
DISCOVERY  
AVIATOR  
AFRICA  
MOON



## A FOCUS ON

# Ernest Shackleton

Ernest Shackleton was born in Kilkea, County Kildare, the second child of ten. His family emigrated to London in England so that his father could find work as a doctor. As a child, Ernest loved reading, and it was through books that he gained his passion for adventure.

### NAME

Ernest Shackleton

### ALIAS

The Boss

### DATE OF BIRTH

15th February 1874

### PLACE OF BIRTH

Kilkea, Co. Kildare

### MUSEUM LOCATION

Discovering and Inventing Gallery

## MASTER MARINER

At just 16 years old he became an apprentice on board a sailing ship. He was a fast learner and during the following four years at sea, he quickly rose up the ranks to become a master mariner. This was the highest rank, meaning that he could command a British ship anywhere in the world!

## THE NIMROD EXPEDITION

Ernest decided to try to reach the South Pole again on the Nimrod Expedition. On the 9th of January 1909, he reached a new record - just 97 nautical miles from the South Pole. However, he had to turn back again due to lack of food. Not long after that, the South Pole was finally reached by another explorer, Roald Amundsen.

## THE DISCOVERY EXPEDITION

At 27 years old, Ernest became an official explorer when he was invited to join the crew of the Discovery Expedition, searching for the South Pole. On 30th December 1902, they reached within 400 miles of their destination, but they had to give up because most of the crew and all of the 22 of the sled-dogs got very sick from tainted food.



## THE ENDURANCE EXPEDITION

Next, Ernest decided to try to cross the 2000 mile Antarctic continent. However, he never quite made it to the Antarctic, as his ship the Endurance became stuck on an icy shore. With his crew stranded on drifting sea ice, Ernest had to risk his life to get help – going on an 800-mile journey across one of the roughest seas in the world, followed by a trek across mountains, glaciers and snowfields! Eventually, after five months and four attempts, he finally managed to save his crew.

## LATER LIFE

Returning to Britain during WWI, Ernest volunteered for the army and went on a few missions before retiring to lecture. Not put off by the danger of his exploits, he planned a fourth and final expedition to map the ocean of the Antarctic, however he died just after it began in 1922.





# ERNEST SHACKLETON **quiz**



1 Where and when was Ernest born?

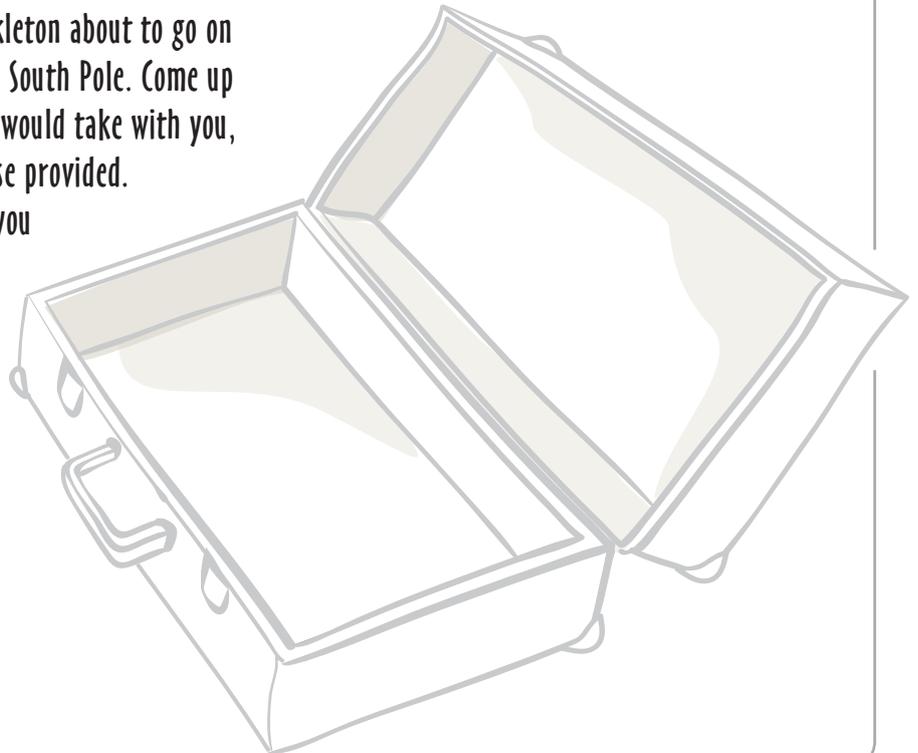
2 What pole was Ernest trying to reach and who got there first?

3 A lot of Ernest's adventures took place in Antarctica. Can you mark it on this map?



4 Ernest was friends with another Irish explorer and even worked alongside him on his Endurance mission. Unscramble the letters below to find out his name  
**TMO ENRCA**

5 Imagine you are Ernest Shackleton about to go on your first mission to find the South Pole. Come up with a list of items that you would take with you, and draw them in the suitcase provided. Don't forget to explain why you are bringing them!



Answers: 1) 1874, Kilkea, Co. Kildare 2) South Pole, Roald Amundsen 4) Tom Crean

# Become an EPIC explorer...at home!



Think you have to go lands far away to be classed as an 'explorer'? Think again! Exploring is as much about how you do something as where you do it. You can be an explorer right here, in your home, just follow the below steps!

## 1 CHOOSE AN AREA TO EXPLORE

This could be something like: 'the kitchen table', 'under my bed', or 'the bookshelf'. Then write it below:

EXPLORER:

AREA:

2

## CREATE A TASK TO COMPLETE

A big part of exploring is setting out to discover or find new information. So, create a task for yourself, or something you want to discover in this area. For example, if you are exploring 'the bookshelf', you might want to discover how many books there are with an author's name beginning with 'S'.

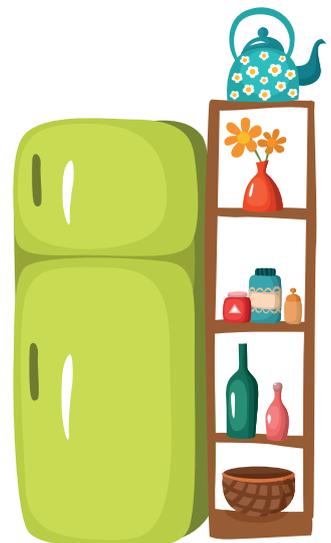
TASK:

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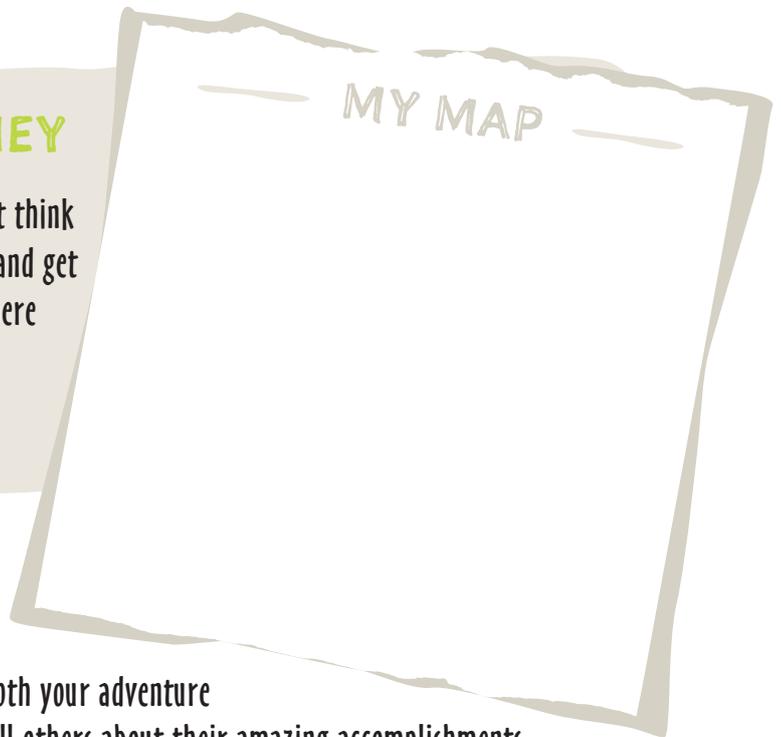
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### 3 PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

It's treacherous out there, and an explorer must think about how they are going to make the journey and get back again! To do this, draw a map charting where you are now to the area that you have chosen. Don't forget to list any dangers you might encounter on the way!



### 4 RECORD YOUR ADVENTURE

An important part of being an explorer is recording both your adventure and your findings. This is because explorers need to tell others about their amazing accomplishments so that everyone will be able to experience them, even if they can't go on the adventure themselves. Write a short description of your experiences on your mission below, under the follow headings:

DESCRIBE SOMETHING...



YOU CAN SEE:

YOU CAN TOUCH:

YOU CAN SMELL:

YOU CAN HEAR:

YOU ARE FEELING:

YOU ARE THINKING:

YOU ARE DOING:

### 4 SOLVE A PROBLEM

As you saw from Ernest Shackleton's story, explorers often have to overcome issues or problems that crop up on their journeys. Come up with a problem or task that you have to tackle or overcome as part of your own adventure. For example, a family member could remove a book from the bookshelf. Or you could realise that there are books in other locations in your house that you have forgotten to include in your task. You must find the missing books to complete your task.

Problem:

Solution

**WELL DONE!!**

*You have made it home safely from your big adventure!*

Now that you've made it home safely, you need to share your findings with the world! Design a newspaper article on the next page describing your experience and your accomplishments.





# Making HEADLINES

Make the front page of THE EPIC EXPLORER newspaper and be in with a chance to win one of 5 family passes to EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum. Simply write your news article in the space below, add your heading and a paragraph about your adventure. Then share a photo of your front page with us on social media (Facebook/Insta/Twitter) using #EPICmuseum for a chance to win.

THE

# EPIC EXPLORER

Daring exploits of exploration from around the globe

## NEWS HEADLINE

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### THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR LADY MARY HEATH

**Record-breaking aviator completes flyover**

Lady Mary Heath becomes the first woman to hold a commercial flying licence in Britain and set records for altitude in a small plane.

She has also become the first woman to parachute from an aeroplane landing in the middle of a football match.

### GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND

**Armstrong takes first step on the moon**

At 3.56am on the 21st July 1969, the first man, Neil Armstrong, stepped onto the moon. His first words upon the moon were: 'That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind.'

Armstrong and his crew spent their time on the moon collecting samples for study back on earth, and noted how the surface varied between soft crumbly fine powder, and very hard ground. Surprisingly, his feet sank about 1/8th of an inch and he could see his footprints clearly!



# ACTIVITY... Make SNOW!

Ernest travelled all the way to the Antarctic for his expeditions. Now you can bring the Antarctic into your home no matter the weather with this easy homemade snow recipe! Just remember to ask an adult for help!



## YOU WILL NEED

- ➔ Child-friendly white conditioner
- ➔ Baking soda
- ➔ A cup
- ➔ A spoon
- ➔ Newspaper or sheets of paper

Only do this recipe with an adult present

Do not eat the snow!

If your snow is too runny, add a bit more baking soda.

## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Lay down newspaper or sheets of paper on a table
- 2 Mix equal parts conditioner and baking soda in a cup with a spoon. We recommend using a  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup conditioner with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of baking soda to start with.
- 3 Keep stirring until crunchy. Don't worry, you might have to stir for quite a while!
- 4 If you can, leave your snow for a half hour or more. The longer you leave it, the more snow-like it will become!
- 5 Give your snow another good stir with the spoon and hey presto – it's snow joke! Your snow is ready!
- 6 Tip out your snow onto the newspaper and design your own snow scene to explore.

# EXPLORERS TODAY

Follow the exploits of these present day Irish pioneers of exploration, who are pushing the boundaries of discovery in Ireland and around the world today.

## Dr Niamh Shaw

Niamh wears many hats: a STEM communicator, presenter, actress, author, scientist, engineer and artist, she's an advocate of curiosity and exploration in all forms, believing that we can be many things at the same time.

Website: <https://niamhshaw.ie/>

Twitter: @dr\_niamh\_shaw [https://twitter.com/Dr\\_Niamh\\_Shaw](https://twitter.com/Dr_Niamh_Shaw)

Instagram: @dr\_niamh\_shaw [https://www.instagram.com/dr\\_niamh\\_shaw/](https://www.instagram.com/dr_niamh_shaw/)

## Liz Bonnin

Liz is a journalist, biochemist, wild animal biologist, nature expert and presenter, who explores animals and nature all around the world, appearing on shows such as Blue Planet Live.

Website: <http://www.lizbonnin.com/>

Twitter: @lizbonnin <https://twitter.com/lizbonnin>

Instagram: @lizbonnin <https://www.instagram.com/lizbonnin/>

## Edward Michael 'Bear' Grylls

Bear Grylls is a scout, royal marine, television presenter, survival instructor and adventurer originally from Co. Down, known for his wild exploits on shows such as You Vs Wild and The Island.

Website: <https://www.beargrylls.com/>

Twitter: @beargrylls <https://twitter.com/BearGrylls>

Instagram: @beargrylls <https://www.instagram.com/beargrylls/>

## Mark Pollock

Mark is an athlete, motivational coach, speaker and explorer from Northern Ireland, who was the first blind man to reach the South Pole as part of a South Pole race in 2009.

Website: <https://www.markpollock.com/>

Instagram: @markpollockexplorer <https://www.instagram.com/markpollockexplorer/>

Twitter: @markpollock <https://twitter.com/markpollock>

## Dr Nora Patten

Nora is from Co. Mayo. An award-winning STEM advocate, aeronautical engineer, astronaut-in-waiting and author of the book Shooting for the stars, she's on track to be the first Irish astronaut in space.

Twitter: @SpaceNora <https://twitter.com/SpaceNora>

Instagram: @SpaceNora <https://www.instagram.com/spacenorah/>

## Pat Falvey

Pat Falvey is a modern day polar explorer and mountaineer who has completed a number of feats including retracing Shackleton's Endurance expedition, and becoming the first person in the world to have climbed the 7 summits twice.

Website: <https://patfalvey.com/>

Twitter: @patfalvey <https://twitter.com/patfalvey>

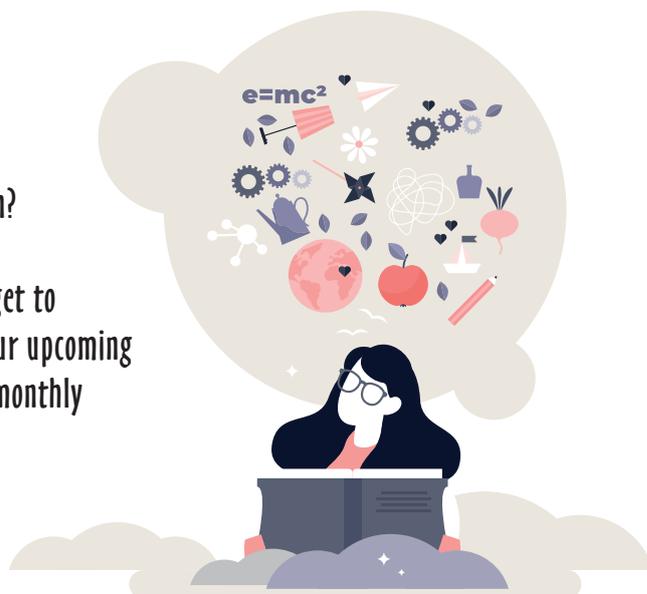
Instagram: @patfalveyexplorer <https://www.instagram.com/patfalveyexplorer/>



# RESOURCES

Want to learn more about Irish explorers and exploration?

Check out these other fantastic resources! And don't forget to join us at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum for one of our upcoming workshops, from making your own explorer's kit to our monthly EPIC Explorer's club, there's something for everyone! Head to our website [epicchq.com](http://epicchq.com) for more info.



## Books

**Tom Crean: The Brave Explorer** by John Burke and Fatti Burke – the story of Tom Crean with colourful illustrations.

**Shackleton's Journey** by William Grill – an oversized book with colour pencil illustrations depicting the Antarctic landscape and Shackleton's adventures.

**Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11** by Brian Floca – an illustrated depiction of the moon landings featuring Irish-American Neil Armstrong.

**Around the Word** by Matt Phlan – a graphic novel about three explorers, including Irish-American Nellie Bly who travelled around the world in 72 days.



## EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

Discover hi-tech history that's truly inspiring at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum. At EPIC we explore the history of Ireland at home and abroad, showcasing the incredible feats of influential Irish figures around the world, such as explorer Ernest Shackleton!

Covering a range of topics – from science and art to storytelling, music and sport – and offering workshops for explorers of all ages, visit us to experience history like you never have before.