

## Tom Crean – Project Topics

- Tom Crean was awarded 3 polar medals and attained the rank of Warrant Officer (the highest rank he could achieve). Why did Tom Crean not tell everyone about his adventures? What was happening in Ireland in 1920 when he retired? Were people aware of Tom Crean's heroics in Antarctica?
- The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914–17), also known as the Endurance Expedition, was an attempt to make the first land crossing of the Antarctic continent. In order for Shackleton to be successful in crossing Antarctica, another expedition had to lay depots of food and supplies on the other side of Antarctica. What was the name of the supply laying expedition? Did they encounter problems like the Endurance did? Did all the men on the expedition survive?
- Roald Amundsen beat Captain Scott in a race to be the first at the South Pole by about a month. Why was Amundsen successful? What was the difference in the type of transport Amundsen and Captain Scott used? Did Captain Scott make any mistakes? Did they wear the right clothes? Did they eat the right food? If Captain Scott had decided to bring Tom Crean to the South Pole, would they all have survived?
- Why did all the Antarctic expeditions take place during the months of November, December, January and February? What features are unique to Antarctica at this time of year? What causes these unique features at the Earth's poles?
- When Tom Crean, Amundsen, Captain Scott and Shackleton were exploring Antarctica, it was a remote and hostile environment. It was not unusual for expeditions to be cut-off from the outside world for months if not years at a time. Is this still the case today? Has modern communications changed how people explore? Does anybody live in Antarctica nowadays? Why would people want to live in Antarctica? Which country has laid claim to Antarctica? Are there any advantages to living in Antarctica?

Use [Scoilnet](#), [World Book Online](#), the [Irish Newspaper Archive](#) and the [Irish Times Archive](#) as well as Michael Smith's (Polar Exploration Author) [links](#) for research, creating timelines and help on researching these topics.