

## Tom Crean – Antarctic Explorer

Mount	Robert Falcon Scott	compass	The South Pole Inn
Terra Nova	Fram	Amundsen	camp
Endurance	coast-to-coast	Annascaul	food
glacier	Ringarooma	experiments	scurvy
			Elephant
			Georgia
			south
			wrong

Tom Crean was born in \_\_\_\_\_, Co. Kerry in 1877. When he was 16 he joined the \_\_\_\_\_. While serving aboard the \_\_\_\_\_ in New Zealand, he volunteered for the Discovery expedition to the Antarctic. The expedition was led by Captain \_\_\_\_\_. The aim of the expedition was to explore any lands that could be reaching and to conduct scientific \_\_\_\_\_. Tom Crean was part of the support crew and was promoted to Petty Officer, First Class for all his hard work. Captain Scott did not reach the South Pole on this occasion but he did achieve a new record of furthest \_\_\_\_\_.

Tom Crean was asked to go on Captain Scott's second expedition called \_\_\_\_\_ to Antarctica. This time Captain Scott wanted to be the first to reach the South Pole. There was also a Norwegian expedition called \_\_\_\_\_ led by Roald \_\_\_\_\_ who wanted to be the first to reach the South Pole. Tom Crean was chosen as part of an eight man team to go to the South Pole. With 250km to go to the South Pole, Captain Scott narrowed his team down to five men and ordered Tom Crean, Lieutenant Evans and Lashly to return to base \_\_\_\_\_. Captain Scott made it to the South Pole but were beaten to it by Amundsen. They died on the return journey to base camp.

During Tom Crean's return journey to basecamp, Lieutenant Evans became ill with \_\_\_\_\_ and had to be hauled in a sledge by Crean and Lashly. With 56km remaining to base camp and Evans close to death, Crean walked the distance on his own without \_\_\_\_\_ or a compass so he could get help for Lt. Evans. Evans was rescued made a full recovery.

The third and final trip made by Crean to Antarctica was on the \_\_\_\_\_ expedition in 1914, led by Kildare man, Ernest Shackleton. Shackleton's ambitious aim was to make the first ever \_\_\_\_\_ crossing of the Antarctic continent.

The Endurance sailed to the \_\_\_\_\_ Sea in Antarctica and became trapped in ice in January 1915. Despite efforts to free the ship, it was abandoned in October 1915. They remained on the ice for six months until they decided to sail 160km north to the uninhabited \_\_\_\_\_ Island in three lifeboats.

Shackleton picked Tom Crean and four of his fittest and strongest men to make a 1300km journey across open seas in the lifeboat *James Caird* to a whaling station on South \_\_\_\_\_ Island. Worsley, the navigator, took a \_\_\_\_\_ and a sextant with him on the journey. He used these instruments to stay on course and find South Georgia.

After 17 days Shackleton, Crean and the four other crew members arrived at South Georgia. However, they quickly realised that they were on the \_\_\_\_\_ side of the island. Shackleton, Tom Crean and Worsley had to cross the island which meant going into uncharted territory and climbing a \_\_\_\_\_ over 1000m high.

It took Crean, Shackleton and Worsley 36 hours to climb 1000 meters over a glacier to reach the whaling station on the other side of South Georgia.

When Tom Crean retired from the Royal Navy, he returned to his native Annascaul. He opened a pub called \_\_\_\_\_. Tom Crean had a glacier, 'Crean Glacier' named after him in South Georgia as well as '\_\_\_\_\_ Crean' in Antarctica.

## Tom Crean Quiz

Q1. In which town was Tom Crean born?

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Q2. What was Captain Scott's middle name?

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Q3. What was the name of Captain Scott's ship?

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Q4. What rank was Tom Crean promoted to after his first Antarctic expedition?

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Q5. What was the name of the Norwegian expedition to Antarctica?

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Q6. Who was the leader of the Norwegian expedition?

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Q7. What did Captain Scott and his team find at the South Pole?

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Q8. What illness was Lt. Evans suffering from on the return journey to base camp?

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Q9. How far did Tom Crean walk on his own back to base camp to save Lt. Evans?

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Q10. In which Irish county was Ernest Shackleton born?

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Q11. What was the name of the sea in which the Endurance became trapped?

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Q12. What was the name of the island that the crew of the Endurance first sailed to?

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Q13. What was the name of the lifeboat that Shackleton sailed to South Georgia?

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Q14. How far did they have to sail to get to South Georgia?

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Q15. In what year did Tom Crean retire from the Royal Navy?

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Q16. What rank had Tom Crean attained by the time he retired?

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Q17. What was the name of Tom Crean's pub?

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Q18. By what nickname was Tom Crean known locally?

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Q19. Where is the Crean Glacier?

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Q20. How many Antarctic expeditions did Tom Crean go on altogether?

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# Tom Crean Word Search

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

AMUNDSEN  
ANNASCAUL  
ANTARCTICA  
BEREHAVEN  
CAPTAINSCOTT  
COBH  
COMPASS  
DINGLE  
DISCOVERY  
ELEPHANTISLAND  
ENDURANCE  
EVANS  
GLACIER  
JAMESCAIRD  
ROYALNAVY  
SHACKLETON  
SOUTHERNSKY  
SOUTHGEORGIA  
SOUTHPOLE  
SOUTHPOLEINN  
TERRANOVA  
TOMCREAN  
TOMTHEPOLE  
WORSLEY

## 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.