



SPQ Module 1: The Race to the South Pole - an Educational Opportunity

Ray Zahab, Richard Weber and Kevin Vallely are trying to break the speed record for crossing continental Antarctica to the South Pole. This modern day attempt mirrors the race that occurred almost 100 years ago when British and Norwegian expeditions were attempting to be the first to reach the South Pole. The Norwegians, led by Roald Amundsen got to the Pole first, while the British led by Robert Falcon Scott reached the Pole a month later and died on the return journey. What lessons can our modern day adventurers learn from those who have gone before?

To enhance educational opportunities Impossible2possible (I2P) has chosen to set the South Pole Quest education resource in a historical context. The Norwegian and British expeditions that brought the first human beings to the South Pole in 1911 - 1912 have been chosen as the historical focus. Juxtaposing the successes and failures of the Amundsen and Scott expeditions with the experiences of the I2P team some 97 years later will provide an excellent opportunity to reflect upon advances in science and technology, and the changes wrought in the world by human activity.



figure1: Roald Amundsen (Source: National Library of Canada”)



figure 2: Robert Falcon Scott(source: the sphere)

Amundsen and Scott opened the Antarctic continent to generations of explorers and scientists. The continent is now home to fifteen active research stations

operated by nine nations. Antarctic research has played a central role in many branches of science, providing seminal evidence that has helped prove theories of geomorphology, and establish the relationship between human activity and global warming. Antarctica truly offers a remarkable educational experience.

Among the many topics we will investigate during Ray, Richard and Kevin's trek to the South Pole include:

- Using green technology at minus 65
- How not to fall into a crevasse!
- Greenhouse gases and Antarctic ice core samples
- Antarctic dinosaurs and plate tectonics
- How Robert Falcon Scott died and lessons in human physiology
- The miracle of the Antarctic's 'Anti-freeze' fish
- How to Sleep in a land with no nighttime
- How traditional Inuit knowledge contributed to the success of Roald Amundsen
- ...and many more

Join us as the I2P expedition team members cross the 1130 kilometers to the South Pole, and learn the fabulous lessons this adventure across Antarctica has to offer.

Let the Quest begin!



figure 3: Scott and his team at the South Pole, January 17 1913. Standing: Wilson, Scott, Oates. Sitting: Bowers, Evans (source: Henry Bowers)