

HOME SCHOOLING - CHALLENGE 1



EXPEDITION DIARY

During Naval expeditions, including those to the Arctic and Antarctic, every person had to keep a diary.

The diaries were small and portable so that they could be taken on sledging expeditions. Sometimes the paper was printed with the expedition name.

To keep the diaries safe the men made little canvas wallets to keep them in. In polar regions, ink can freeze so diaries were written in pencil.

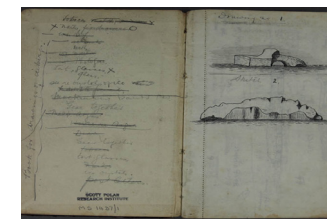
DID YOU KNOW?

Diaries were used to record what happened as well as how people were feeling. Temperatures, weather, changing landscapes and daily life were all recorded. The Navy collected the diaries in at the end of the expedition in order to compare notes and produce reports. Only when this had been completed were the diaries returned to their writers. During Scott's expedition (known as 'Terra Nova' after the ship) some of the men even doodled in the margins!

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE OBJECT: The pictures on the left are from two diaries kept on Antarctic expeditions led by Captain Scott. The first was kept by Charles Silas Wright on the *Terra Nova* expedition (1910-13), the second by Edward Wilson on the *Discovery* Expedition (1901-04).

Diary with open pages written by Charles Silas Wright (SPRI Archive MS 1437/1)
Doodle from a diary by Edward Wilson (SPRI Archive MS 232/1)

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR HOME SCHOOLING



Expedition Diary: find out more at www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum

BACKGROUND	ACTIVITY IDEA	RESOURCES	CURRICULUM LINKS
Diaries were used to record what happened, as well as how people were feeling. They didn't worry too much about the spelling!	Keep a daily diary. Use it to record what has happened, how you feel and what is going on around you.	Pencil and paper Look at a pencil in our collection: www.bit.ly/polar-pencil	LITERACY: diary writing, handwriting, fact / opinion
Temperatures, weather, changing landscapes and daily life were all recorded in journals, diaries and log books.	Collect daily weather recordings from your locality. Compare what you see with webcam footage from the Antarctic / Arctic. Set up a daily comparison between two places. You could plot your data on to a graph, or you could pretend that you are a TV weather presenter and produce an Arctic / Antarctic weather report for your family.	Google Earth, weather reports, an outdoor thermometer www.bit.ly/BAS-ResearchStations www.bit.ly/AntarcticScienceFilm	GEOGRAPHY: location, environment, weather MATHS: scale, subtraction, addition, minus numbers, graphs, averages SCIENCE: data collection
Observation is an essential part of all expedition research. By noticing what is happening around you it helps you to make predictions about the future.	Observe and record what you notice outside each day. What has stayed the same? what is different? Include sketches, photos and descriptions to help you. About 250 years ago, Gilbert White began writing his 'Garden Kalendar', recording the garden outside his house: what he grew, the weather, temperature and other details. Many years later, the famous Antarctic explorer, Lawrence Oates, lived in the same house.	Paper and pencil, camera, magnifying glass www.bit.ly/GWH-resources www.bit.ly/JS-cloud-artworks	SCIENCE: observation, recording ART: observational drawing
Daily life was also recorded in photos, sketches and paintings.	Add photos and/or sketches to your diary to illustrate your daily life as well as your observations.	Camera phone, pencil, paper, colouring equipment	ART: observation
During the dark polar winters the crew learnt how to bind books. They used packing crates as the covers. Wallets were made to keep diaries safe.	Make yourself a diary. If you need some inspiration there are lots of different styles of simple child friendly book making videos to choose from online depending on the age / ability . You could go on to design and make a wallet to keep your diary safe.	Internet, old boxes, paper, glue, scissors, tape, stapler, hole punch, needle, thread. Wallets in our collection: www.bit.ly/polar-wallets	DT: problem solving, design, make, evaluate MATHS: measurement