



EXPEDITION REPORTER

The New Georgia Gazette is the first ever known polar expedition 'newspaper'. It was produced by a sailing ship's crew while they were searching for the Northwest passage. Upon their return to the UK, the paper was published for sale.

It includes adverts for performances, news articles, mock adverts, expedition themed songs and even some grumpy letters to the editor.

DID YOU KNOW?

Producing a newspaper became an expedition tradition. It kept the crew busy and focussed during bad weather, and helped to boost morale.

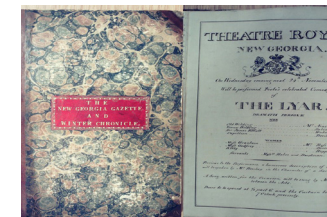
Many expeditions took printing presses with them. Unfortunately operating a printing press is quite complicated and things were often smudged and even the wrong way up.

In our collection we even have some hairy presentation copies of the South Polar Times bound in weddell seal-skin!

Image: The New Georgia Gazette and Winter Chronicle, SPRI Archive Collection, MS 438/12

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR HOME SCHOOLING

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



BACKGROUND	ACTIVITY IDEA	RESOURCES	CURRICULUM LINKS
Producing a newspaper is a longstanding tradition for polar explorers. Our favourite newspaper names include the <i>Adelie Mail</i> and <i>The Blizzard</i> .	Planning a newspaper or news programme involves lots of decisions. What will it be called? Who is the audience? Should it be free or will there be a cost? Is there just one reporter or many different reporters? Will it be published regularly, occasionally or just once? Design the lettering for the title of your newspaper or programme.	Pencil, paper, <i>computer (optional)</i> .	ART AND DESIGN: lettering and graphics IT: newspaper layout/format/ filming DISCUSSION: deadlines, morale, audience, planning
Explorers often wrote about the events that they were experiencing. They wrote under assumed names such as <i>Mr Funny Dog</i> (Bernacchi), <i>Nemo</i> (Shackleton), <i>Cross Stick</i> (Scott) and <i>Bluebell</i> (Levick).	Pick a headline story. Could you interview someone? What can you write about? Plan your report. What can you do to make it even better? Think up a short, snappy headline for your top news story. Does it need an image? Either write it up for your newspaper or rehearse it for your news programme. What will you call yourself?	Paper, pencil, computer, someone willing to be interviewed, <i>camera or camera phone (optional)</i> .	LITERACY: reporting, summary, word count, edit, interviewing, questions, writing for different audiences, Speaking and Listening ART: photography IT: image format
Researchers trapped in an ice cave over an Antarctic winter wrote a poetic advert: <i>To let, modern dwelling at Cape Adare. Each time the wind blows plates rain off the shelves, its all yours every splinter but hurry up it won't last out next winter</i>	Design an advert for your newspaper. What could you advertise? Maybe something that you have made or a skill that you have? How much do you think it is worth to others? Think of some persuasive language to use in your advert. Add a picture or an image too. Where in your newspaper/programme should your advert be placed?	Paper, pencil, <i>computer, camera or camera phone (optional)</i> .	LITERACY: persuasive language, ART AND DESIGN: illustration DISCUSSION: persuasion, product placement, value, assumed names, interviewing, audience
Every expedition includes some sport. During Shackleton's <i>Endurance</i> expedition the men played rugby on the ice.	Think about the other types of news articles you might see: sports commentary, travel, weather reporting. How do they differ? Have a go at writing an article yourself.	www.bas.ac.uk/about/antarctica/geography/weather/	LITERACY: pace, reporting style SCIENCE: weather GEOGRAPHY: understanding maps
During bad weather many explorers spent lots of time producing detailed cartoons to share with their colleagues. One of our favourites shows Dr Wilson as a penguin egg!	What sort of entertainment do you like? What might your readers/listeners/viewers like? Competitions, cartoons, puzzles, recipes, restaurant reviews, film reviews, gardening, gossip, good news stories? Decide which to include in your news.	Paper, pencil, <i>camera or camera phone (optional)</i> . Dr Wilson Cartoon: www.bit.ly/OurBillCartoon	ART AND DESIGN: illustration MATHS: measurement