



Image: Midwinter Day Dinner at Winterquarters Hut. June 22nd 1911. SPRI Picture Library collection, P2005/5/447.

PARTY!

This photograph of the Midwinter celebrations was taken in 1911 during Captain Scott's British Antarctic Expedition (known as the *Terra Nova* Expedition, after the ship).

The photograph was taken by Herbert Ponting, the official expedition photographer. The photograph is in black and white and measures: width: 127mm, height: 177mm.

A number of these flags, items of tableware and clothing are now in the collections of the Polar Museum.

DID YOU KNOW?

Antarctic Midwinter celebrations were started over a century ago by Captain Scott and his team. 21 June is the turning point of the Antarctic winter and people working there celebrate as they look forward to the lengthening of the days and the return of sunlight.

Modern Midwinter celebrations still include a special meal, speeches, the awarding of prizes, entertainments, and the giving and receiving of presents. Modern technology also allows for the exchanging of messages with friends and family via the radio and internet. To find out more about modern celebrations at the British Antarctic Survey visit:

www.bit.ly/BAS-MidwinterCelebrations

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR HOME SCHOOLING

Make your own museum: *find out more at www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum*



BACKGROUND	ACTIVITY IDEA	RESOURCES	CURRICULUM LINKS
Midwinter in Antarctica is on 21 June. There is no sunlight at all, but the day is special as it signals the turning point in the year. From 22 June onwards the days in the southern hemisphere are longer, eventually sunlight returns to Antarctica.	Research: Why will there be no sunlight in Antarctica on 21 June? What will it be like here on 21 June? Challenge: plan a Midwinter party. Who could you invite? Can you still share the festivities with friends or family who can't be with you in person? Produce invitations, place cards, decorations, flags, bunting, decorate your own plates and cups.	Paper, pencil, string or wool, colouring equipment, <i>internet (optional)</i> . Remember in Antarctica there aren't lots of shops! www.bit.ly/BAS-MidwinterCelebrations	GEOGRAPHY: day & night, hemisphere, sun LITERACY: persuasive language, lists, handwriting ART & DESIGN: illustration, design Organisation, planning, scheduling
Midwinter is a time of reflection, a chance to think about friends and family far away. Letters are written and opened. Midwinter presents are made for each other from what is to hand.	Think about friends and family that you miss. Write them a letter or record a message. Make a special present for someone else. So that everyone gets a present, randomly allocate names within the group. What does the person you are making for like/dislike? Think about your skills. What could you make? Could you learn a new skill?	Work with what you have available	LITERACY: letter writing, handwriting DT: design and make Empathy, learning a new skill, speaking and listening, deadlines
Midwinter is a feel-good festival that celebrates being part of a close knit community or group. It's important to relax, have fun and enjoy yourself. Entertainments are always included.	What entertainment will be at your party? Remember your entertainment must be produced by you. What skills do you have? Can you learn a magic trick, try telling jokes, juggling or singing a song? Will there be prizes presented? You could invent some games, write a quiz, invent riddles, produce a music playlist or have a sing-a-long...	Paper and pencil Music activity pack: www.bit.ly/PM-music-challenge	LITERACY: instructions, audience MUSIC: dancing, singing, performance Speaking and Listening, planning and organisation, empathy, performance
Special food is a really important part of Midwinter celebrations. Traditionally menus were produced, these listed the foods, were beautifully illustrated and signed by all the party-goers.	What will you eat? Will it be a polar themed? Over the years there have been some elaborately decorated cakes. Design and make an illustrated menu. Don't forget to decorate your table too.	Short film, <i>Eating in Antarctica</i> : www.bit.ly/PM-EatingInAntarctica Remember that there aren't lots of shops in Antarctica!	DT: party food decorations, baking LITERACY: menu writing, following instructions ART & DESIGN: illustration & design
Captain Scott's men made tissue paper hats for their Midwinter party.	Start getting ready for your party. Are you going to wear something special: a polar themed outfit? Fancy dress? A decorated hat? Put your decorations up, play your music and enjoy your party!	Paper, pencil, colours a handmade hat: www.bit.ly/PM-paper-hat	DT: design and make a hat MUSIC: singing, rhythm, performance