

St Bernards Primary School – History

Topic: Significant People - Explorers

Strand: Events Beyond Living Memory

Year 2

What should I already know?

Use simple texts to find out about people who lived a long time ago.
 – Pose simple questions to find out about the past. –
 Compare the lives and features of two famous historical figures.
 - Know that life was very different in the past to how it is today.
 - Know that people knew less about the world in the past than we know today.
 - Know that some people's achievements and discoveries can change the world.
 - Distinguish between different periods in time using simple markers such as inventions.

What will I find out by the end of the unit?

Who were the world explorers? World explorers were people who set out on dangerous journeys around the globe in search of new lands.
What motivated explorers to set out on dangerous journeys? Explorers were motivated by wealth, fame and a desire to spread the word of God.
When did they go exploring? World explorers set out during the Age of Discovery. The Age of Discovery ran from roughly 1400 to 1800.
Where were the explorers from? Most world explorers were from Europe. In particular, they came from the powerful countries of the day such as Spain and Portugal. However, some explorers came from Africa and Asia as well.
What impact did their explorations have on the world? The voyages of world explorers changed the world forever. They connected previously unknown parts of the world for the first time and spread new ideas, religion, foods and diseases around the planet.

Historical enquiry

Key Questions
Who was Ibn Battuta? Ibn Battuta was born in 1304. He was a great **explorer** who spent nearly 30 years travelling. It is thought he travelled over 78,000 miles visiting the same as 44 modern countries. In 1354, he told a writer what happened on his journeys and these stories were written up in the **Rihla**.
Was Matthew Henson the first human to set foot on the North Pole? It is not certain whether Matthew Henson and the other **explorers** with him were the first to reach the North Pole in April 1909. Even so, Matthew Henson should be remembered as a skilled **polar explorer**. For years, he did not receive the same recognition as his White co-**explorer** due to racism.
Who helped Neil Armstrong to be the first person to walk on the Moon? When Neil Armstrong took those first steps on the Moon in July 1969, he was joined by Buzz Aldrin. Another astronaut, Michael Collins, stayed in the main spacecraft during the Moon landing. The astronauts were helped by many other people down on Earth.
Why is Felicity Aston in the Guinness World Records? Felicity Aston's **polar exploration** is part of **recent** history. In 2012, Felicity became the first person to ever travel alone across Antarctica, just using her own power and walking with skis.
Why are some people in history considered to be significant?. How are significant explorers remembered? **Significant** people, including **explorers**, are remembered in lots of different ways. Some **explorers** have places named after them. Some have their pictures on stamps or there might be statues to **commemorate** them.

Vocabulary

Explorer A person who sets out to discover a new or unfamiliar area.
Voyage A long journey involving travel by sea or space.
Navigator A person who directs a ship, aircraft, etc. This person uses maps to find out where to go.
Sailor A person whose job it is to work as a member of the crew of a naval ship or boat.
Caribbean A group of islands in the Caribbean Sea.
Astronaut A person who goes into space.
USA United States of America
Orbit To go around
Commander Person in charge
Lunar Module A small craft used to travel between a spaceship and the moon.
NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Pilot A person who flies a plane or a spacecraft

Timeline

1304 Ibn Battuta was born.
 1354 The Rihla was written. This tells people studying history lots about Ibn Battuta and life at that time.
 1909 Matthew Henson and his team reached what they believed to be the North Pole.
 1969 Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the Moon.
 2012 Felicity Aston walked alone across Antarctica. She became the first woman to achieve this and the first human to do this using just her own power.