
ENGLISH

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Paper 1 Non-fiction

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Text A

Lewis Clarke: South Pole trek teenager breaks record

A 16-year-old boy has become the youngest person to trek to the South Pole. Lewis Clarke, from Bristol, has spent almost 50 days battling temperatures as low as -40°C and winds of up to 193 kilometres per hour.

The challenge began on 2 December 2013, two weeks after his 16th birthday and finished on 16 January 2014. It brought an end to an expedition which saw Lewis ski for an average of eight hours a day, covering about 29 kilometres, while pulling his supplies behind him on a sled.

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His only help has been from experienced polar guide, and expedition companion, Carl Alvey.

Difficulties encountered by Lewis along the way have included blisters*, coughing caused by being at high altitudes and a broken ski. But the cold itself has not fazed him. He admits to being the type of person who wears shorts in winter and much prefers snow to heat.

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'I knew it would be hard but it's harder than I ever thought it would be' he said, still 80 kilometres from the end. 'However, I think sometimes about how few people have done this. Only 300 in 100 years. And I'm doing it! That's pretty cool.'

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Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes was full of praise, calling it a 'great achievement'. Mr Fiennes said he had not travelled along the same route, but the conditions would have been dependent on the weather, avoiding crevasses, and how good Lewis was at skiing.

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Lewis's record – for the same coast-to-pole route – was previously held by 18-year-old Sarah McNair Landry, from Canada. Aside from making history, Lewis has raised more than £3,000 for the Prince's Trust, a charity helping young people, through the expedition. His father, Steven, said he was 'incredibly proud'.

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Glossary

blisters: a minor foot injury

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Text B**Roald Amundsen**

Roald Amundsen was born on July 16, 1872 in Borge, Norway. He grew up longing to be an explorer and to follow in the footsteps of his hero, the British Arctic explorer John Franklin. Amundsen became the leader of the expedition which, in 1911, became the first to reach the geographic South Pole. Amundsen also reached the North Pole in 1926, making him the first man to stand at both ends of the Earth.

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The Northwest Passage

Amundsen's first great achievement was in 1903, when he captained a ship that found a route from the Atlantic Ocean, through the ice at the North Pole, to the Pacific Ocean. This passage through the ice had been searched for by many others over the centuries. Amundsen's ability to navigate and survive this trip was a great accomplishment.

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The South Pole

Amundsen set out on his most famous adventure in 1910: his race to the geographic South Pole against a British team led by Robert Falcon Scott. They reached their base camp on Antarctica in January 1911, but it was another ten months before they were able to set out to reach the pole from their camp. Amundsen's team reached the South Pole on December 14, 1911, a few weeks ahead of Scott's expedition. It took them 99 days and they travelled for 2,993 kilometres. The Norwegian flag was triumphantly planted at the South Pole to mark this great achievement. Sadly, Scott's expedition team did not make it back.

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