

# The Coldest Place on Earth

Tim Vicary

## 1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a \_\_\_ The first man to find the North Pole was an American.
- b \_\_\_ The name of Scott's ship was *Fram*.
- c \_\_\_ Amundsen had more motor sledges than Scott.
- d \_\_\_ They made depots because they couldn't carry all the food with them.
- e \_\_\_ Ponies are faster than dogs on snow.
- f \_\_\_ The British killed some ponies to eat.
- g \_\_\_ Scott didn't try to learn to ski.
- h \_\_\_ There are no mountains in Antarctica.
- i \_\_\_ The Norwegians killed some dogs to eat.
- j \_\_\_ Amundsen waited for Scott at the North Pole.

20 marks

## 2 Match a word from A with a definition from B.

- A**
- 1 \_\_\_ Sledge
  - 2 \_\_\_ Ski
  - 3 \_\_\_ Ice
- 4 \_\_\_ Pony
- 5 \_\_\_ Snowstorm

- B**
- a A small horse
  - b Something to carry food and equipment across the snow
  - c A lot of wind and snow at the same time
  - d A long piece of wood to put your feet on to travel on the snow
  - e Cold hard water

20 marks

## 3 Match a number from A with a letter from B to make complete sentences.

- A**
- 1 \_\_\_ The Norwegians wanted to be the first men at the North Pole ...
  - 2 \_\_\_ On the *Terra Nova*, Scott's men ate in a room under the ponies ...
  - 3 \_\_\_ Bjaaland wasn't happy with the skis and sledges ...
  - 4 \_\_\_ Johansen told Amundsen he was a bad captain ...
  - 5 \_\_\_ When the Norwegians arrived at the South Pole ...

## B

- a because he started too early and his men nearly died in the cold.
- b so their table was often wet and dirty.
- c there was no British flag there.
- d but Peary, an American, found the North Pole a year before.
- e so he changed a lot of things to make them stronger and faster.

20 marks

## 4 Explain in 3 sentences why Scott did not win the race to the South Pole.

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....

30 marks

## 5 Oates wrote a letter to his mother. Fill in the gaps using: *think, learn, sleep, drive, like*.

We had a very bad winter here. I don't ..... Scott. We were here all winter, but he didn't ..... to ski, or to ..... dogs. Our equipment is bad, and he doesn't ..... about other people. I'm going to ..... in his tent on the journey, but I don't want to.

10 marks

Total marks

## Setting

Choose the best answer.

- The journey to the South Pole began in the \_\_\_\_\_ of 1910.  
a  spring b  summer c  autumn  
d  winter
- Scott's ship was called \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  Fram b  Terra Firma c  Terra  
Nova d  New Land
- In 1910, Scott was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.  
a  31 b  39 c  41 d  43
- Scott and his men wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  be the first at the South Pole b  be the  
first in Alaska c  visit South America  
d  travel around Norway
- He wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ under his clothes.  
a  carry a bottle of whisky b  wear  
something British c  wear another  
jumper d  carry a British flag
- Roald Amundsen decided to go to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  Antarctica before Alaska b  Alaska  
before Antarctica c  Britain d  America
- Amundsen's friends were excellent \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  sailors b  walkers c  swimmers  
d  skiers
- Amundsen's ship first went to a small island to  
get \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  men b  food c  dogs d  clothes
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the first country to the North Pole.  
a  Britain b  Norway c  America  
d  Antarctica
- When Amundsen's men heard where he really  
wanted to go, they \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  left the ship b  were happy  
c  were angry d  went to Scott's ship.

**20 marks**

## Characters

Choose the best answer.

- Robert Scott was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  strong and not very tall b  strong and  
tall c  not very strong or tall d  very thin  
and tall
- Roald Amundsen was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  not very tall with a long face b  quite  
short with a big face c  tall with long  
hair d  tall with a long face

- Olav Bjaaland was the best \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  swimmer in Norway b  skier in the  
world c  leader of the Norwegian team  
d  skier in Norway
- \_\_\_\_\_ thought that Scott made a lot of  
mistakes.  
a  Oates b  Wilson c  Evans  
d  Bowers
- Amundsen \_\_\_\_\_ very carefully.  
a  built Framheim b  drove the dogs  
c  made his depots d  wrote letters
- Johansen told Amundsen that he was wrong to  
start in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  January b  April c  June  
d  September
- \_\_\_\_\_ knew how to drive the dogs in Scott's  
team.  
a  Oates b  Meares c  Evans  
d  Wilson
- Titus Oates' \_\_\_\_\_ became black.  
a  hands b  legs c  feet d  fingers
- Hansen wanted Amundsen to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  go more quickly b  be first at the South  
Pole c  go home d  make more depots
- Edgar Evans was the first of Scott's men to  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
a  feel ill b  ski c  die d  leave

**20 marks**

## Dialogue

Who said or wrote this?

- 'An American flag at the North Pole, a British  
flag at the South Pole.'  
a  Scott b  Johansen c  Evans  
d  Amundsen
- 'It's a ski race, isn't it, and the English can't ski!'  
a  Bjaaland b  Amundsen c  Oates  
d  Johansen
- 'I came here to learn about the Antarctic!'  
a  Scott b  Johansen c  Amundsen  
d  Oates
- 'All the ponies are in a small room at the front  
of the ship.'  
a  Evans b  Scott c  Oates  
d  Bowers
- 'That's too early! We can't start then – it's  
dangerous and stupid!'  
a  Oates b  Johansen c  Bjaaland  
d  Amundsen

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- 26 'You aren't coming to the Pole with me.'  
a  Scott b  Oates c  Amundsen  
d  Johansen
- 27 'This is a wonderful place – but I don't want to stay a long time.'  
a  Amundsen b  Bjaaland c  Scott  
d  Wisting
- 28 'Stop! This is it.'  
a  Scott b  Hanssen c  Oates  
d  Amundsen
- 29 'Great God! This is an awful place!'  
a  Evans b  Oates c  Scott  
d  Wilson
- 30 'I'm going outside for a minute. I may be some time.'  
a  Scott b  Wilson c  Oates  
d  Evans

20 marks

## Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

- 31 when two or more people try to be first  
a  lie b  camp c  race d  journey
- 32 a drawing which shows where places are  
a  plateau b  flag c  pole d  map
- 33 to go from place to place  
a  travel b  ski c  journey d  reach
- 34 thick air which is difficult to see in  
a  ice b  rain c  fog d  wind
- 35 to be the first in something  
a  reach b  win c  lose d  pull
- 36 with nothing in it  
a  dirty b  awful c  lost d  empty
- 37 something to carry food and things on snow  
a  boot b  sledge c  island d  tent
- 38 when you do not know where you are  
a  lost b  quiet c  unhappy d  tired
- 39 a place to leave food and things on a journey  
a  depot b  tent c  house  
d  equipment
- 40 a small horse  
a  body b  boot c  pony d  hole

20 marks

## Plot

Choose the best answer.

- 41 When Scott heard that Amundsen wanted to go to the South Pole, \_\_\_\_\_.

- a  Scott was in front b  Amundsen was in front  
c  Scott was in England  
d  Amundsen was in Norway
- 42 The two teams decided to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  go to the South Pole in winter b  go to the South Pole in the summer  
c  stay in the same place for one year d  play football
- 43 \_\_\_\_\_ before the journey.  
a  No one worked hard at Scott's camp  
b  The Norwegians didn't work hard  
c  Only Scott worked hard d  Amundsen worked the hardest
- 44 The Norwegians travelled more quickly because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  the English team was fatter b  they used motor sledges  
c  they liked the snow and ice d  they skied and used more dogs
- 45 Scott's ponies walked slowly because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  they didn't cost much money b  their feet went down into the snow  
c  they ate too much d  the men were too heavy
- 46 Amundsen thought that \_\_\_\_\_ go up the mountains.  
a  anything could b  only men could  
c  only ponies could d  motor sledges couldn't
- 47 The Norwegians killed thirty dogs because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  the dogs were ill b  they only needed eighteen dogs  
c  the dogs didn't like the cold d  the dogs ate too much food
- 48 Scott wanted to take five men to the Pole, \_\_\_\_\_.  
a  so Bowers went back with Teddy b  and there was food for everyone  
c  but he only had food for four men d  but only three wanted to go
- 49 \_\_\_\_\_ on December 14th, 1911.  
a  Scott arrived at the South Pole first  
b  Amundsen arrived at the South Pole second  
c  Scott arrived at the South Pole second  
d  Amundsen arrived at the South Pole first
- 50 People found \_\_\_\_\_ in November, 1912.  
a  the bodies of Scott, Wilson, Bowers and Oates  
b  Amundsen and his team  
c  the bodies of Scott, Wilson, and Bowers  
d  five bodies

20 marks

Total marks