

# Finding Endurance



**Mini Fact:**  
*Endurance's* crew included 28 men and one cat, Mrs. Chippy.

In the early 1900s, explorers were competing to reach the South Pole. Doing so was a huge challenge, but two men in particular were determined. Roald Amundsen, a Norwegian, reached the pole in November 1911, and Englishman Robert Scott was close behind him in January 1912.

Ernest Shackleton, who was born in 1874 in Ireland but grew up in England, had missed his chance to be first to the pole. Instead, he hoped to be first to cross the continent of Antarctica.

His expedition didn't go as planned, though, and his ship, the *Endurance*, eventually sank in the Weddell Sea. This February, an expedition called Endurance22 set out to find Shackleton's ship on the ocean floor. This week, The Mini Page learns more about the original adventure and the attempt to locate the ship's remains.

## Shackleton's idea

Shackleton hoped to cross Antarctica from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea by way of the South Pole. His plan called for two ships, the *Endurance* and the *Aurora*. The second ship would sail to the far side of the continent and leave supplies for Shackleton's crew so they could complete their journey home.

*Endurance* and its crew began their journey on Dec. 5, 1914, almost immediately sailing into icy waters. By Jan. 19, 1915, the *Endurance* was completely frozen in an ice floe in the Weddell Sea. (A floe is a floating sheet of ice.)

## Living on the ice

Shackleton and his crew moved onto the ice and used the trapped ship as a winter station. But in October 1915, the *Endurance* began to break up because of the pressure of the ice pressing on the wood. On Nov. 21, the ship sank below the surface.

## Saving his crew

The men had saved the lifeboats from the *Endurance*, and after floating on ice for five months, Shackleton ordered them into the boats. After rowing for five days, they landed at Elephant Island, but there was no help there.

Shackleton chose five of the crew to make a risky crossing of more than 700 nautical miles to South Georgia whaling stations, where he knew there would be help. They left in an open boat on April 24, 1916, and landed on May 9 on the southern shore of the island, where there were no people. Eleven days later, after crossing 32 miles of mountains on foot, they reached the whaling station.

## Rescue

When a small tugboat borrowed from the Chilean navy reached Elephant Island, all 22 men were still alive after being stranded for 4 1/2 months. They were welcomed home as heroes.



S.A. Agulhas II

## Scientific tools

Scientists planned to use Sabertooth sub-sea (AUV) vehicles to survey and film the wreckage of *Endurance*. The AUVs can create 3D models of the wreck and surrounding debris.

## A shorter expedition

The *S.A. Agulhas II* got underway on Feb. 5, and plans were for the adventure to wrap up within 35 days — before this issue of The Mini Page was published.

## Resources

### On the web:

- [endurance22.org](http://endurance22.org)

### At the library:

- “Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the *Endurance*” by Jennifer Armstrong

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the *Endurance* are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AGULHAS, AMUNDSEN, ANTARCTICA, AURORA, CONTINENT, CREW, ENDURANCE, FLOE, ICE, ISLAND, POLE, RESCUE, SCIENTIFIC, SCOTT, SEA, SHACKLETON, SHIP, SOUTH, SURVEY, WEDDELL, WRECK.

S A I S X A W A C A S O U T H  
H G Z U T X E E R C C E U V A  
A U T R N A D C E I I O D T R  
C L M V E M D N W T E L N T O  
K H R E N U E A R C N F A O R  
L A E Y I N L R E R T G L C U  
E S S E T D L U C A I S S S A  
T S C L N S O D K T F H I E X  
O B U O O E U N Q N I I S C R  
N J E P C N N E L A C P S B E

## Cook's Corner

### Stellar Baked Stew

#### You'll need:

- 1 pound lean ground beef, cooked and drained
- 1 (16-ounce) can pinto beans, drained
- 4 large carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups tomato juice

#### What to do:

1. Combine all ingredients in a 9-by-13-inch casserole dish. Mix well.
2. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 1 hour. Serves 6.



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Crush, Sink, Wooden, Journey.

1. To break into pieces, destroying by pressure (5-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □

2. To move down in a body of liquid (4-letter verb)

□ □ □ □

3. Made from the trunks and limbs of trees (6-letter adjective)

□ □ □ □ □ □

4. To travel a long and often difficult way (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Ice was able to \_\_\_\_\_ the sides of *Endurance*.
2. Sadly, bad weather and ice caused the ship to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Barry drew a \_\_\_\_\_ ship with three large sails.
4. The sailors will \_\_\_\_\_ for many months on the ocean.

## Mini Jokes

**Ernie:** What do sea monsters eat?  
**Emmett:** Fish and ships!

## Eco Note

Chimpanzees have for the first time been seen treating wounds with a balm of crushed insects. Scientists say they saw the behavior among chimps in the West African nation of Gabon. They said the apes not only treated their own wounds, but also those of others around them. One chimp named Suzee was seen inspecting a foot wound of her adolescent son before catching an insect out of the air, putting it in her mouth to squeeze it and then applying it on the wound.

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## For later:

Look through your newspaper for news about the Endurance22 mission and its discoveries.

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