

# Exploration and Endurance: Teaching about significant explorers at KS1



**Andrew Wrenn**

**Teacher Fellow of the Historical Association**

**[andrew\\_\\_wrenn@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew__wrenn@btinternet.com)**

# Young Historian Primary Prizes in 2023

- **Spirit of Normandy Trust Prize for Primary Schools:** for individual or group work on any aspect of British involvement in the Second World War
- **Primary Local History Prize:** for individual or group work on any Local History theme
- **Primary Ancient Civilisation Prize:** for individual or group work relating to an Ancient Civilisation
- **Mid-Trent Historical Association Prize for the Best Primary School History Magazine**

# Spirit of Normandy Trust Prize Winner for Primary Schools - 2022



My name is Jonathan Hibbs and I am 8 years old. I want to tell you the tale of Cyril Walter Tideswell, who is my great great uncle on my father's side. He was killed by the Japanese in Singapore. I learnt about him from my grandfather David Hibbs who calls him "Uncle Cyril", so that is how I will refer to him in this paper.

Uncle Cyril served in the Royal Navy as a marine. He was sent to the war in the Pacific on a battlecruiser called HMS Repulse to defend Singapore. His name is one of those on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. This is the first time his story has been told.



## How did knowing that your Uncle died in the war affect you?

As a child I often saw Cyril's photo on the dresser in Granny's house. It was a larger version of the one in the folder. Granny often looked at it and spoke of him. He was just 19 when he died on 15 February 1942 and had only been a Marine for a short time. Uncle Cyril's death did not affect me as a child – it was only later when I began to be interested in my family history. I often thought of how I would have liked to meet him, what he could tell me about the war and his life. I often wonder what he would have done with the rest of his life after the war.



Appendix 3

Log of Signals Received in Singapore  
from Force Z\*

**SECRET**  
MICROGRAM.  
Non-Ligand.

The British Naval Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet,  
20th December 1941.

No. 781/4734.  
The Secretary of the Admiralty.

LOSS OF PRINCE OF WALES AND REPULSE.  
LOG OF MESSAGES.

In continuation of my submission No. 730/4742 of 17th December  
1941, I enclose a log of the messages received in the War Room at  
Singapore in connection with the operations on 10th December 1941.

G. LAYTON VICE-ADMIRAL, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Time of receipt in War Room	From	To	Report
12.04	REPULSE	Any British Man of War.	Enemy aircraft bombing My position 13°N 102°22'E (11.38).
12.40	PRINCE OF WALES	Emergency	Have been struck by a torpedo on port side. 5°17'N 022°06' E torpedoes. Send Destroyers. (12.20.)
13.04	SENIOR OFFICER, FORCE Z.	Any British Man of War.	Emergency. Send all available tugs. My position 08° 40' N, 104° 30' E. (12.04.)
13.10	ELECTRA.	Any British Man of War.	Most Immediate. H.M.S. PRINCE OF WALES hit by 4 torpedoes in position 06° 45' N, 104° 10' E. STRIKE sunk. Send Destroyers. (05.30.)*
13.17	COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, EASTERN FLEET.	CHIEF OF STAFF, Singapore.	Most Immediate. Am disembarking men not required for fighting ship. Send 1-2-3- (as possible). (13.11.)
13.10	SENIOR OFFICER, FORCE Z.	Any British Man of War.	Most Immediate. H.M.S. PRINCE OF WALES disabled and out of control. (13.06.)
13.11	PRINCE OF WALES.	Any British Man of War.	Emergency. Send all available tugs. My position now is 08°19' 40(?). (05.21.)
13.17	ELECTRA.	Any British Man of War.	Most Immediate. My 05.30s send tugs.
13.21	ELECTRA.	Any British Man of War.	Most Immediate. H.M.S. PRINCE OF WALES sunk. (05.48Z.)

\* Public Record Office ADM 109/1149.

Appendix 3 857

\*The 'Z' times are Greenwich Mean Time, 7½ hours ahead of the Singapore Time used elsewhere in these signals and in the narrative of the book.

The book records that “a young Repulse marine was killed in his slit trench when a mortar bomb hit a tree above the trench.” Though not named, this must have been Uncle Cyril, as he was the only Repulse marine to be killed on the 13th of February 1942 in Tyersall Park.

**Primary Local History Prize:** for individual or group work on any Local History theme

## How important was Croydon Airport during WW2?



It is clear that Croydon Airport was very important during WW2. It played a leading role in aviation developments before the war that helped prepare it and Britain for war. Then during the war it was important during the Battle of Britain and the remaining years of the war. Despite being closed and forgotten by many people locally it deserves a more appreciation for the significant role it played during WW2.

# Young Historian Primary Prizes in 2023

- The Young Historian Project, 36 Heritage Court, Lichfield Staffordshire WS14 9ST.
- Or phone to discuss the details with Dr Trevor James on 01543-301097.
- *The closing date for entries is 21 July 2023.*



## THE INVESTITURE



<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/crown-jewels/#gs.ig9nlq>



## AN ANCIENT CEREMONY



© National Portrait Gallery, London



<https://www.hrp.org.uk/schools/the-tower-of-london-schools-coronation-competition/coronation-learning-resources/primary/>





Westminster Abbey  
Learning

# Coronation ceremony assembly



©2023 Dean and Chapter of Westminster

Westminster Abbey  
Learning

## Westminster Abbey is the coronation church – what is a coronation?



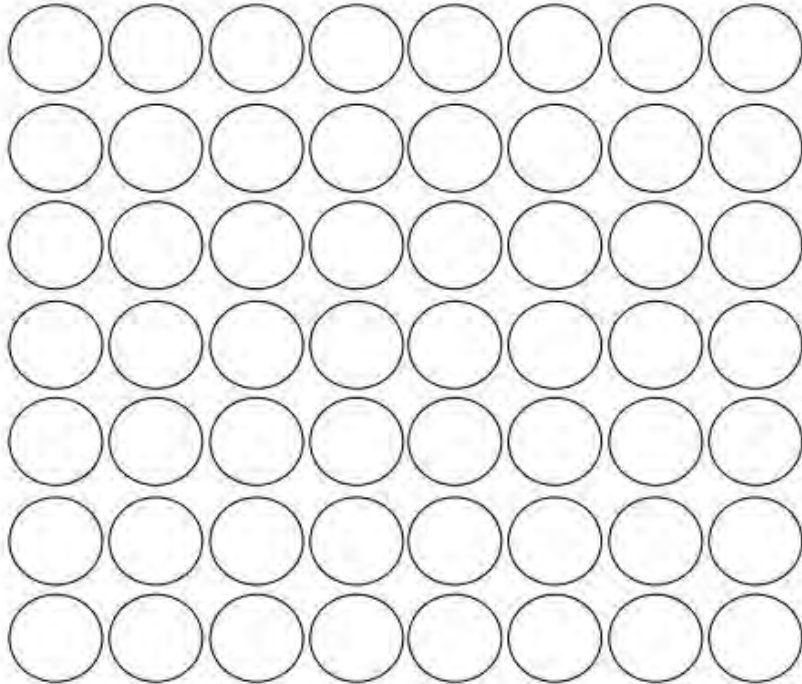
High Altar

Crowns x 2, Sceptres x 2, Orb, Jug, Spoon, Chalice, Bible

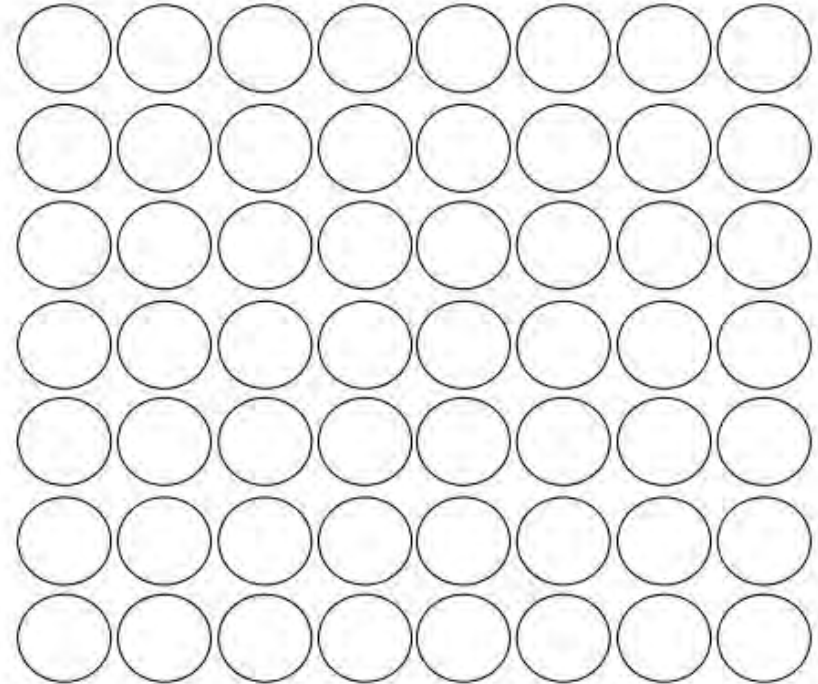
Coronation  
Chair

Chair of  
Estate

Throne



Pupils



Pupils

*Monarch begins here with ladies in waiting/footmen to  
carry the train of the cloak.*



Westminster Abbey  
Learning

Script cards – Archbishop of Canterbury

(1) "Sirs, I here present unto you [name], your undoubted King/Queen". All pupils in the hall to respond with "God save King/Queen [name]!"

(2) "Do you swear to govern faithfully, with justice and mercy, to uphold the gospel, and to maintain the Church of England?"

(3) "Receive this orb, set under the cross and remember that the whole world is under the power of Jesus Christ"

(4) "I, the Archbishop of Canterbury, will be faithful and true unto you, so help me



<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/teaching-resources/coronation-ceremony-assembly>





**LIVE**

Q&A









# Royal Geographical Society with IBG



< Back to Teachers

# Endurance22

The Endurance22 Expedition located the wreck of Endurance, the lost ship of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton in March 2022

The Endurance22 Expedition aimed to locate the wreck of Endurance, the lost ship of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, and departed for Antarctica's Weddell Sea from Cape Town, South Africa, on 5 February 2022. The expedition team successfully located the wreck of the Endurance in March 2022.

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is working with Endurance22 to produce free resources for Key Stage 1 and 2 geography and history lessons, which will draw on the Society's Collections of polar maps, photographs, documents, and artefacts.

These resources will allow pupils to explore changes in polar exploration from the early 20th Century to today and the different motivations for why people visit Antarctica, as well as this continent's unique frozen environment.

The resources will be available here and also within our [resources section](#) in due course. You can [sign up to our Primary Teacher mailing list](#) to find out when the resources are released.

[VIEW THE ENDURANCE22 WEBSITE](#)



**ENDURANCE22**

## **Shackleton's Endurance - A story of adventure and leadership**

A first-person narration of the voyage of Endurance

[VIEW THIS RESOURCE](#)



**Teaching Ernest  
Shackleton as a  
significant  
individual in  
Primary History at  
KS1**

## **Shackleton's life and expeditions**

Interactive timeline outlining Shackleton's life, expeditions and wider work

[VIEW THIS RESOURCE](#)

## **Make your own model of Endurance**

With instructions from @DarrellWakelam

[VIEW THIS RESOURCE](#)

- **Why did Rosa Parks refuse to get out of her bus seat in 1955?**
- **Did her arrest change the life of Rosa Parks for the better?**
- **Why did Emily Davison die at the Derby Horse Race in 1913?**
- **Why did the suffragettes treat Emily Davison as a martyr?**
- **Why has Emily Davison been remembered in different ways?**
- **How similar and different were Rosa Parks and Emily Davison?**



# How similar and different were Rosa Parks and Emily Davison?

**Rosa Parks**

**Emily Davison**

Rosa Parks was a Black American

Rosa Parks fought for equal rights for black and white people

Emily Davison fought for women to have the vote

Emily Davison was white British

Both were women

Rosa Parks married

Rosa Parks died as an old lady

Rosa Parks experienced racism

Both were brave

Emily Davison went to university

Emily Davison died after the Derby

Emily Davison came from a wealthy family

Rosa Parks never went to university

Rosa Parks became famous in her lifetime

Both believed in equality

Emily Davison was most famous after she died

Emily Davison was put in prison and force fed.

Emily Davison never experienced racism

Rosa Parks did not use violence

Rosa Parks was poor for much of her life

Both were Christians

Emily Davison used violence

Emily Davison never married

Both never had children

# How significant were Rosa Parks and Emily Davison?

## The 5 r`'s of Historical Significance

**Remarkable** – it was remarked on at the time and/or since

**Remembered** - it was important at some stage in history within the collective memory of a group or groups

**Resulted in change** – consequences for the future

**Resonant** - people like to make analogies with it; it is possible to connect with experiences, beliefs or situations across time & space

**Revealing** - of some other aspect of the past



## Christopher Columbus

Many Caribbean people died because they were made slaves and died from European diseases

Columbus worked for the King and Queen of Spain

Columbus and his crews were the first Europeans to reach North America in ships since the Vikings

Columbus made Spain rich by making slaves of Caribbean people

Columbus lived from 1451 and 1506

Columbus wanted to make Caribbean peoples Christians

Columbus was Italian

Columbus believed he had reached India

Columbus is a villain in Central and South America

Columbus wanted to make Spain and himself rich by trading with India

Columbus and Armstrong were white men

Columbus and Armstrong were Christians

Columbus and Armstrong believed the world was round

Columbus and Armstrong were brave explorers

Columbus is a hero in Spain

Armstrong is a hero in America

## Neil Armstrong

Armstrong was American

Armstrong and two other astronauts were the first people to reach the moon in a rocket

Armstrong became famous but not particularly rich after 1969

Armstrong worked for the American government

Armstrong was the first man on the moon

Armstrong lived between 1930 and 2012

# How significant was Christopher Columbus?





# Viking Exploration



“None of the sailors had ever been so long away from the sight of land, and as the days passed, they grew increasingly restless and fearful. The Ocean Sea was known also as the Sea of Darkness. ... And if the Earth was flat, as many of the men believed, then they might fall off the edge of the world and plunge into that fiery abyss where the sun sets in the west.” *Weiner, Eric, and Russell Freedman. “Coming to America: Who Was First?”*





*"Our European civilization will bring light to the natives in their darkness, but for ourselves we will gain gold and with gold we will be able to do what we want in the world, and bring souls to paradise".*







848 x 627







**NORTH AMERICA**

**EUROPE**

**ASIA**

**ATLANTIC OCEAN**

**AFRICA**

*Caribbean Sea*

Tobacco

Pumpkin

Quinine



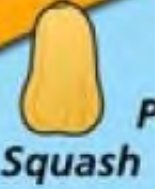
Turkey

Sweet Potato



Avocado

Pineapple



Squash

Peppers



Cassava



Peanut



Potato



Tomato



Corn



Beans



Vanilla



Turnip



Grape



Onion



Sugar Cane



Olive



Banana



Citrus Fruits



Honeybee



Grains  
• Wheat  
• Rice  
• Barley  
• Oats

Livestock  
• Cattle  
• Sheep  
• Pig  
• Horse

Disease

- Smallpox
- Influenza
- Typhus
- Measles
- Malaria
- Diphtheria
- Whooping Cough











**DÍA DE LA HISPANIDAD**  
*Spain's National Day*







# How significant was Christopher Columbus?

## The 5 r`'s of Historical Significance

**Remarkable** – it was remarked on at the time and/or since

**Remembered** - it was important at some stage in history within the collective memory of a group or groups

**Resulted in change** – consequences for the future

**Resonant** - people like to make analogies with it; it is possible to connect with experiences, beliefs or situations across time & space

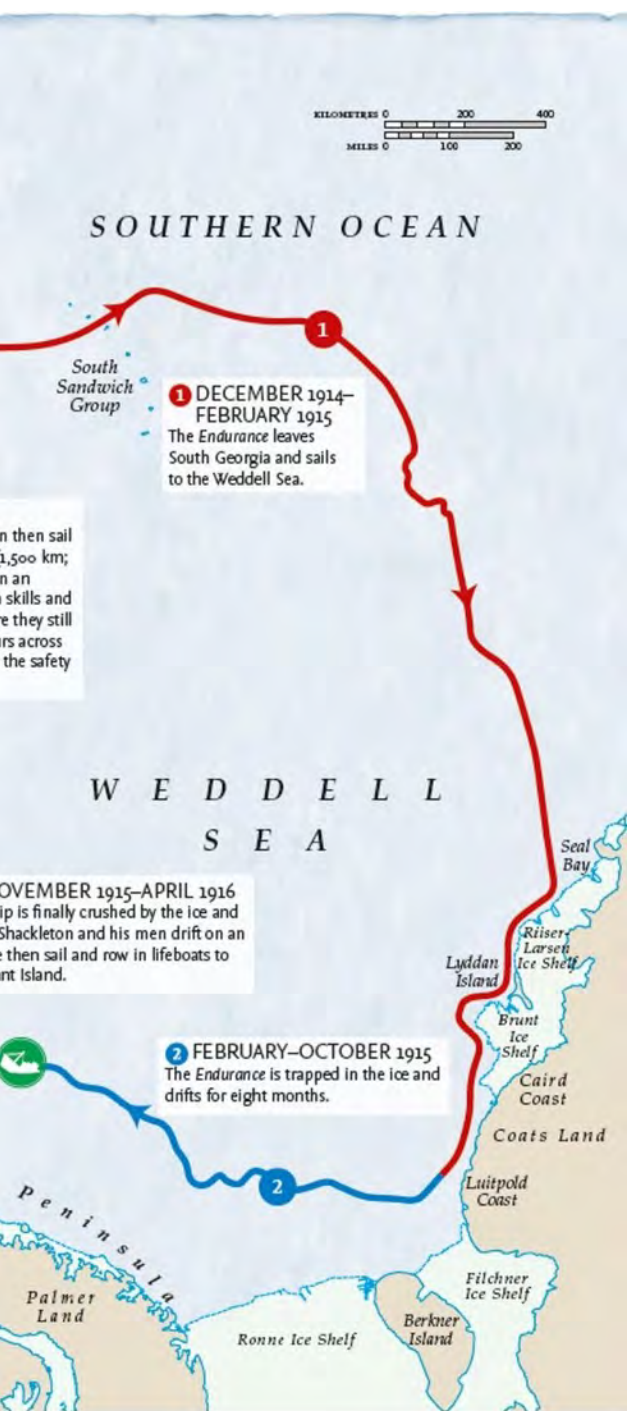
**Revealing** - of some other aspect of the past

# How significant was Christopher Columbus?

- One reason Columbus was significant is because.....
- Another reason Columbus was significant is because.....
- A third reason Columbus was significant is because.....
- Overall, I think that.....









# Shackleton's Endurance

A story of adventure and leadership

All images © Royal Geographi



Click map to enlarge

# Who might we compare Shackleton with to ensure diversity of coverage?

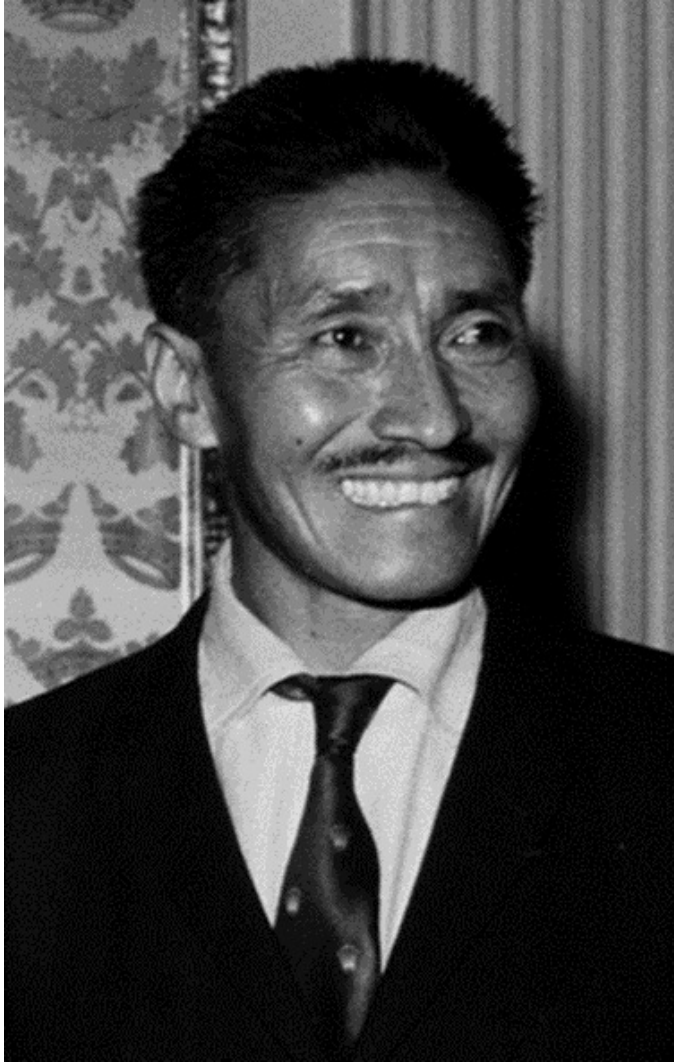
Shackleton is.....

- White
- Male
- British/Irish/European
- Christian

# Gudrid Thorbjarnsdottir Viking explorer 980 - 1019 CE (?)



# Tenzing Norgay - Tibetan mountaineer 1914 – 1986 CE



# Jean Baret - First woman to circumnavigate the globe 1740-1807 CE



# Himilco- North African explorer of Northern Europe 6th century BCE

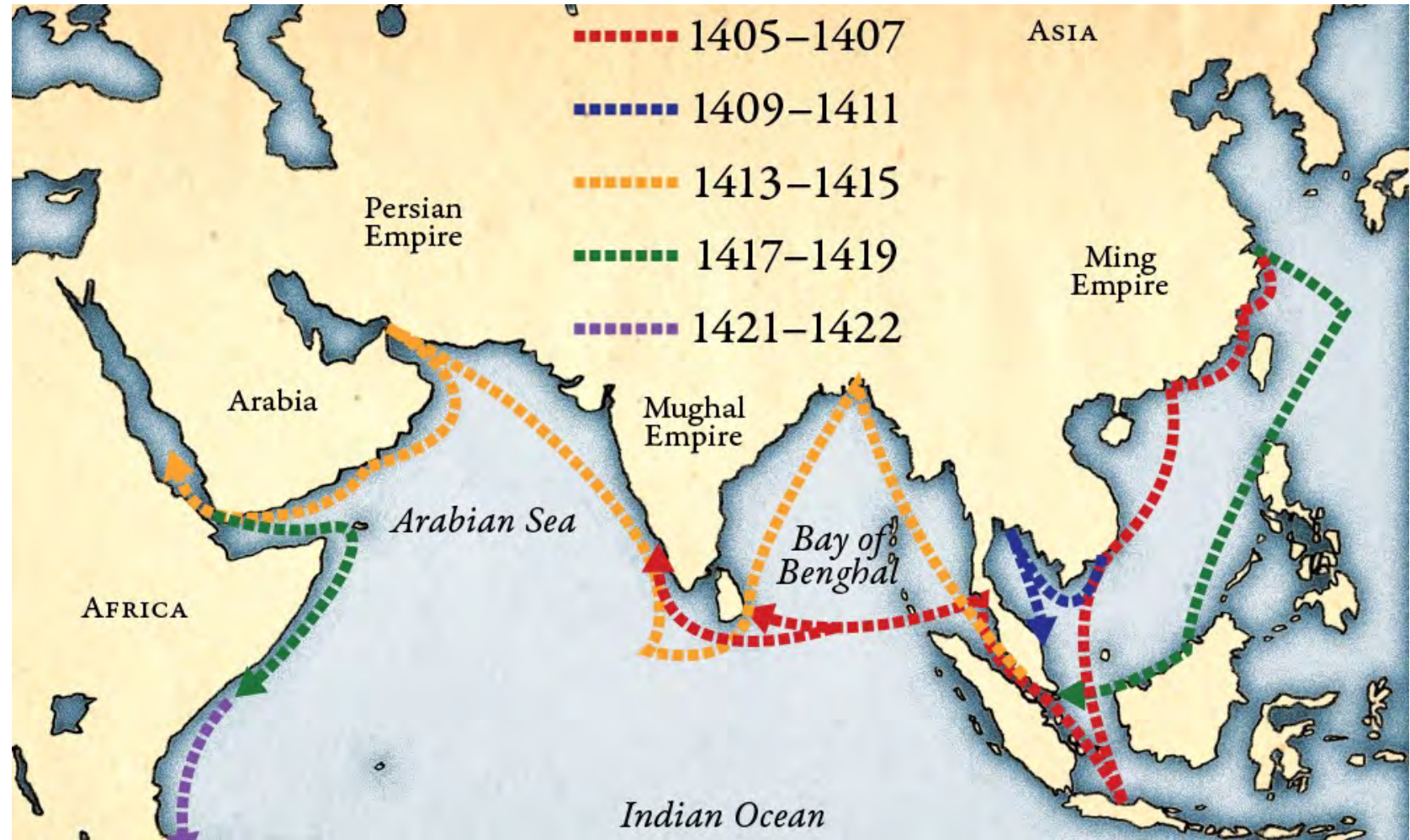


# Ferdinand Magellan - First European to cross the Pacific Ocean and planner of the first circumnavigation of the world 1480–1522 CE

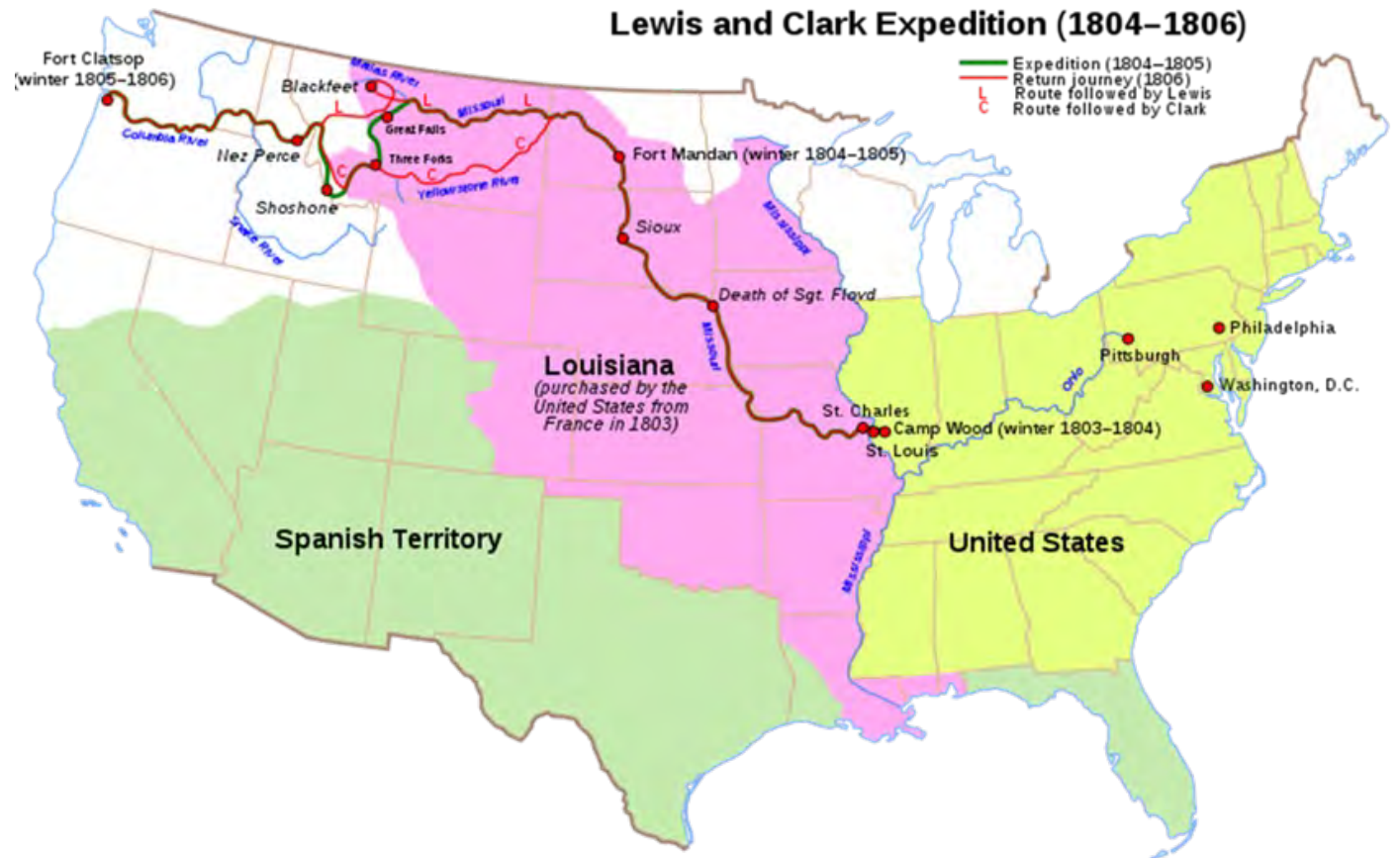




# Zheng Hi - Chinese Muslim explorer of South-east Asia and the Indian Ocean 1371-1433 CE



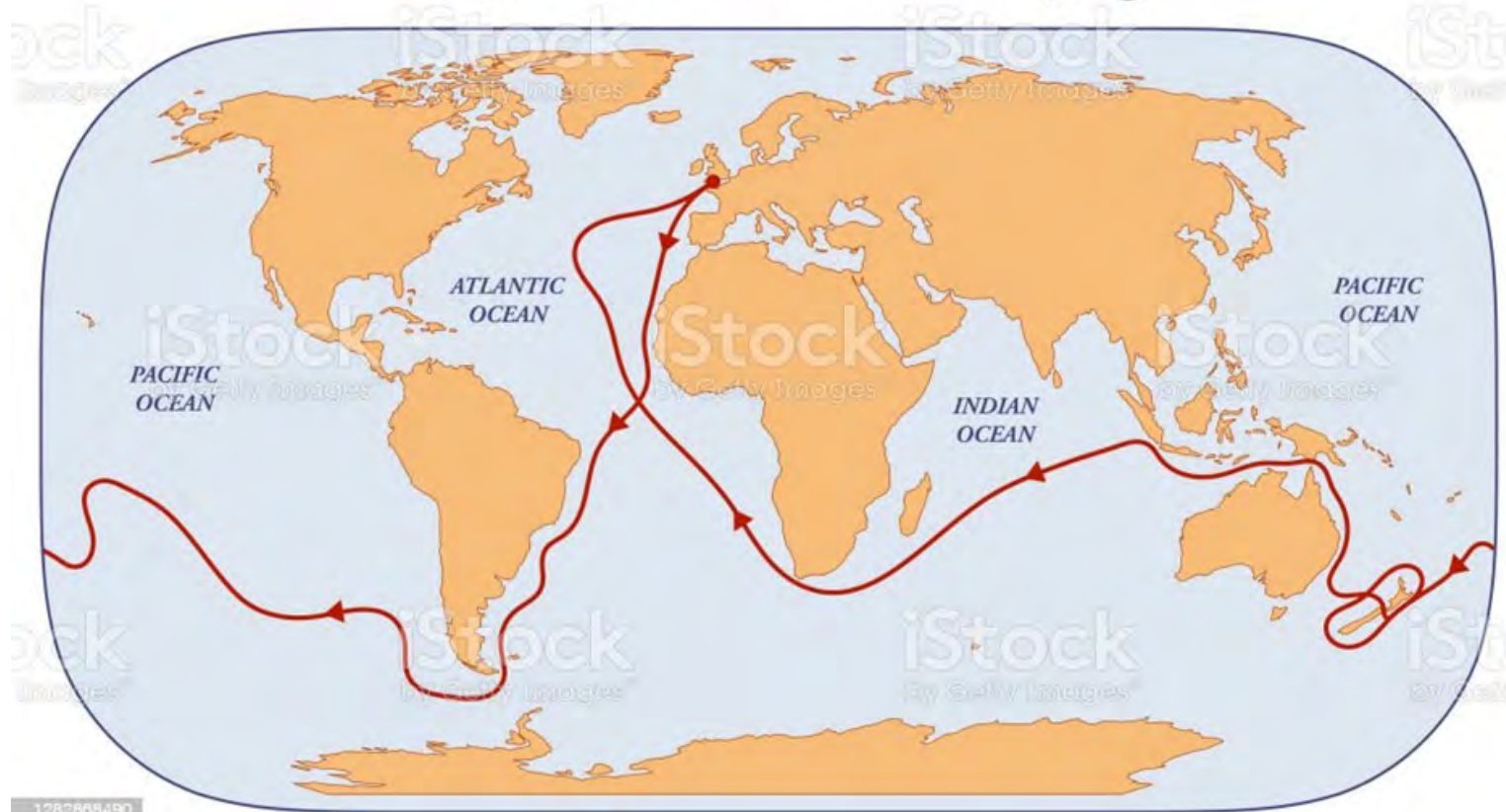
# Sacagawea Native American guide, interpreter, and explorer 1788 – 1812 or 1884 CE



# James Cook- British explorer, navigator and cartographer 1728-1779 CE



The James Cook first voyage



1282608490

# Sidi Mubarak Bombay- African explorer and traveller 1820-1885 CE



# Ibn Battuta - North African Muslim traveller and explorer



# **Who might you choose to partner Shackleton with? What criteria might you use to do this?**

- **Gudrid Thorbjarnsdottir - Viking explorer**
- **Jean Baret - First woman to circumnavigate the globe**
- **Himilco- North African explorer of Northern Europe**
- **Ferdinand Magellan - First European to cross the Pacific Ocean and planner of the first circumnavigation of the world**
- **Zheng Hi - Chinese Muslim explorer of South-east Asia and the Indian Ocean**
- **Sacagawea - Native American guide, interpreter, and explorer**
- **James Cook- British explorer, navigator and cartographer**
- **Sidi Mubarak Bombay- African explorer and traveller**
- **Ibn Battuta - North African Muslim traveller and explorer**
- **Anyone else?**

# *Cause and Consequence*

- **Why did Ernest Shackleton want to explore the Antarctic?**

Was he seeking fame? Was it the appeal and excitement of exploring the unknown? Did he think it would make him rich?



- **Why did Jean Baret want to sail around the world?**

Was it because her probable lover Commencou asked her to accompany him? Was it her scientific curiosity? Might it have been a sense of adventure or to prove what a woman could do?



# *Cause and Consequence*

- **How did Ernest Shackleton save all his men on his last expedition?**

What might have happened if Shackleton had decided that his crew should remain on board the Endurance when it was trapped in the ice? What might have happened if he had not trekked across South Georgia to the whaling station?



- **What contribution did Sacagawea make to the success of the Clark and Lewis expedition?**

How important was retrieval of important items from the capsized boat? Would the expedition have been able to cross the Rocky Mountains without her translation skills?





# *Similarity and Difference*

- **How similar and different were Ernest Shackleton and Sidi Mubarak Bombay?**

Shackleton led expeditions directly while Sidi Mubarak Bombay was the indispensable organiser who helped make them happen. However, they both shared a love of travel and exploration and were well organised and disciplined managers.



# *Handling Evidence*

- **What evidence proves that Ernest Shackleton really did explore the Antarctic?**
- **What evidence proves that Ibn Battuta really did travel as far as he said he did?**



# *Significance*

- **How significant was Ernest Shackleton?**

## **The 5 R`s of Historical Significance**

- **Remarkable** – the event/individual was remarked upon by people at the time and/or afterwards (this applies to Shackleton whose exploits were followed closely in the British and Irish press in his own lifetime).
- **Remembered** – the event/individual has been remembered by groups of people over time (Endurance 2022 is an example of how Shackleton still fascinates people in the present, over a hundred years after his death)
- **Resonant** – the event/individual still connects with people`s experiences and feelings today (Shackleton is very well respected as a leader because despite the failure of his third expedition he ensured all the men under his leadership returned home alive)
- **Resulting in change** – the event or the actions of an individual had consequences for the future (Shackleton advanced geographical knowledge of Antarctica through his explorations of a hostile landscape)
- **Revealing of some aspect of the past** – (Shackleton`s expeditions reflected the values of the period in which he lived, for example no women were invited to come on his expedition. It would have been assumed that they were not fit or strong enough to participate and that they were not the equal of men).

- **How significant was Zheng Hi?**
- **Who was more significant Zheng Hi or Ernest Shackleton?**



# Exploration and Endurance: Teaching about significant explorers at KS1



**Andrew Wrenn**  
Teacher Fellow of the Historical Association  
[andrew\\_\\_wrenn@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew__wrenn@btinternet.com)

