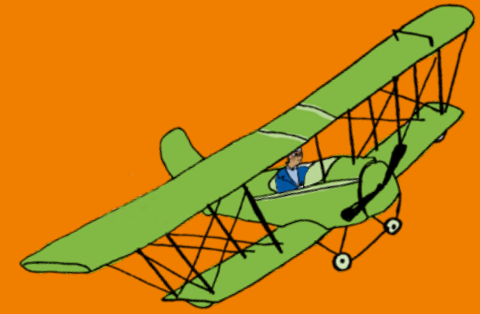


History Home Learning Pack:

Historical Figures





A golden opportunity



"It isn't that life ashore is distasteful to me. But life at sea is better".
- Francis Drake

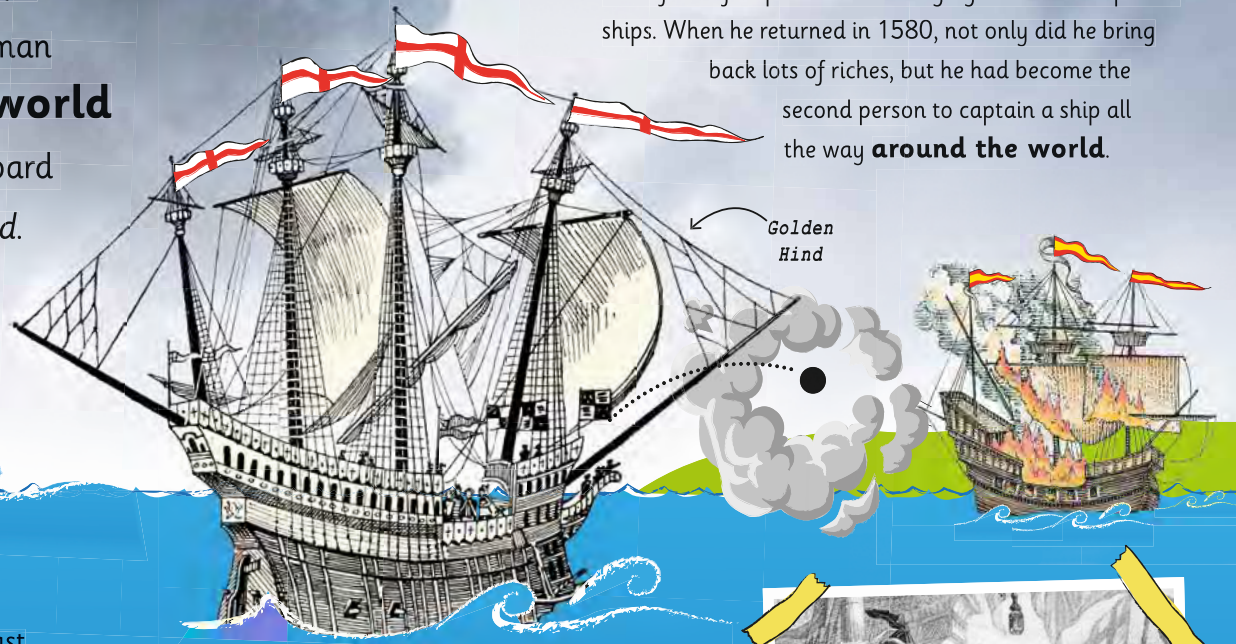
This swashbuckling seaman sailed **around the world** for queen and country aboard the magnificent *Golden Hind*.

Professional pirate
Francis Drake grew up by the coast in England and became a **privateer** (officially approved pirate) in charge of seizing treasures from Spanish ships.

Impressed by his plundering, Queen Elizabeth I asked Drake to head for South America to claim new lands.

The Spanish named Francis Drake

The *Golden Hind* was originally named *Pelican*.



Making waves

In 1577, Drake set sail aboard the *Golden Hind* with a small fleet of ships. He battled raging storms and Spanish ships. When he returned in 1580, not only did he bring back lots of riches, but he had become the second person to captain a ship all the way **around the world**.

A life at sea

A hero to some, but a villain to others, Drake was knighted for his efforts, becoming known as **Sir Francis Drake**. His daring adventures at sea continued when he played an important part in defeating the Spanish Armada, a fleet of 130 ships destined to invade England.



"EL DRAQUE", meaning **"THE DRAGON"**.



• Today we feel some of the things Francis Drake did were wrong. Why do you think that's so? Make two columns so you can list and compare ideas from Elizabethan England and ideas from modern England.

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Queen of the skies

In the early part of the 20th century, very few people could consider a career as a **pilot**. However, one incredible woman defied all expectations...



Bessie Coleman



Big dreams

When she was young, **Bessie Coleman** dreamed of becoming a pilot, but no American flying schools would accept an African-American woman. Determined to find a way, Bessie saved her money, learned to speak French, and moved to France to take **flying lessons**.



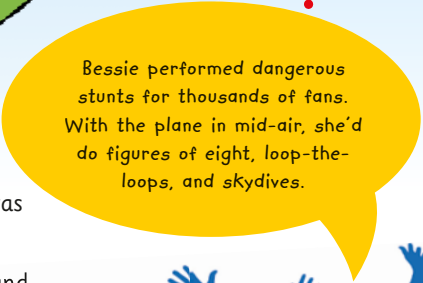
Making history

In June 1921, Bessie earned her pilot's license. She soared into the history books by becoming the **first** African-American – male or female – to do so. When she returned to the USA, she was considered a hero!

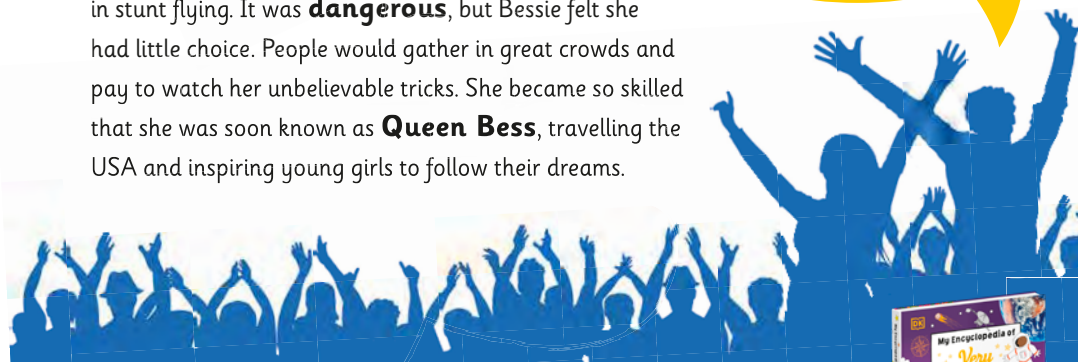


Spectacular stunts

Despite finding fame, the only work Bessie could find was in stunt flying. It was **dangerous**, but Bessie felt she had little choice. People would gather in great crowds and pay to watch her unbelievable tricks. She became so skilled that she was soon known as **Queen Bess**, travelling the USA and inspiring young girls to follow their dreams.



Bessie performed dangerous stunts for thousands of fans. With the plane in mid-air, she'd do figures of eight, loop-the-loops, and skydives.



- Can you spot the similarities and differences between the lives of Francis Drake and Bessie Coleman? Write as many as you can think of.
- Bessie was a trailblazer and pioneer. Look up the words and discuss why Bessie is described using these.

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Trapped in the ice

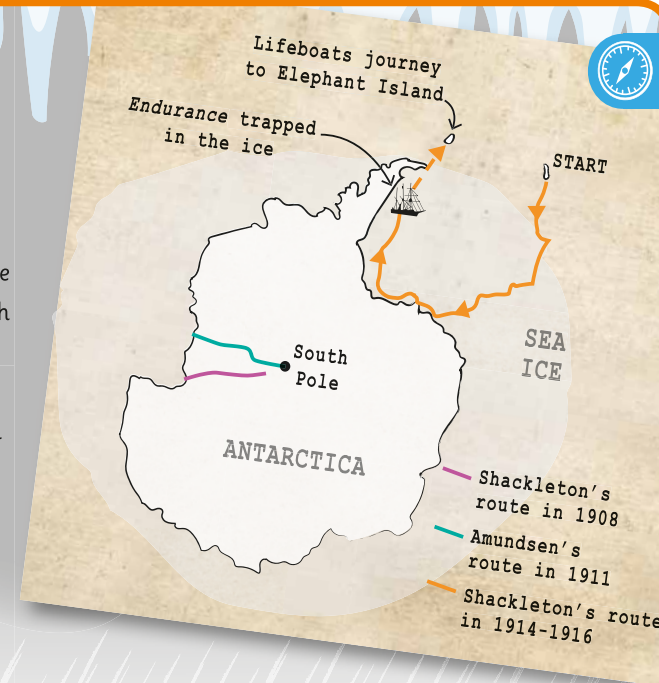
During the age of polar exploration, this **brave adventurer** led an expedition unlike any other and became a hero.



Ernest Shackleton

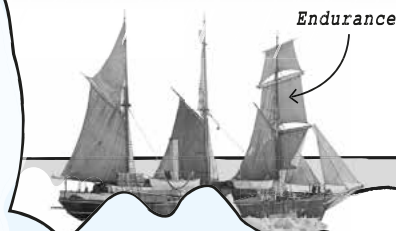
A new plan

In 1911, when Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole, Shackleton set himself a new goal. His plan was to cross the entire continent of Antarctica via the South Pole. In 1914, he and a crew of 28 set off on board the ship **Endurance**.



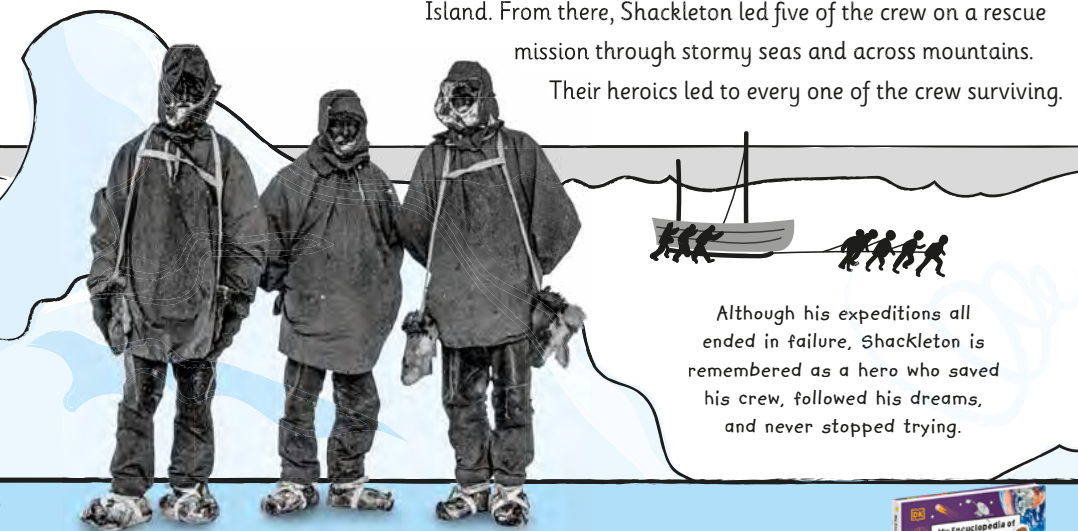
Aborted attempts

Irish explorer Ernest Shackleton was on a mission to be the first person to **reach the South Pole**. He went on expeditions in 1901 and 1908, but had to abandon them. However, these adventures led to a lifelong obsession with Antarctica.



Doomed voyage

Endurance became **stuck in the ice** for 10 months and sank. The crew used floating ice and lifeboats to reach Elephant Island. From there, Shackleton led five of the crew on a rescue mission through stormy seas and across mountains. Their heroics led to every one of the crew surviving.



Although his expeditions all ended in failure, Shackleton is remembered as a hero who saved his crew, followed his dreams, and never stopped trying.

Shackleton's family motto was "BY ENDURANCE WE CONQUER".

- Imagine you were one of Shackleton's team during the 1914 to 1916 expedition. Write a diary entry about what you think it would have been like.
- Shackleton's last expedition took place during the first years of World War I. Do you think that this is why the public saw him as a hero?



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Road to **rescue**

This American saviour risked her own life to help hundreds of people **find their freedom**.



Path to freedom

In the 1800s, many people from Africa were forced to work as slaves in the USA. **The Underground Railroad** was a secret escape route to help enslaved people in the southern states head north to freedom. People called conductors helped escapees stay safe and avoid capture. One conductor was a woman and former slave named **Harriet Tubman**.

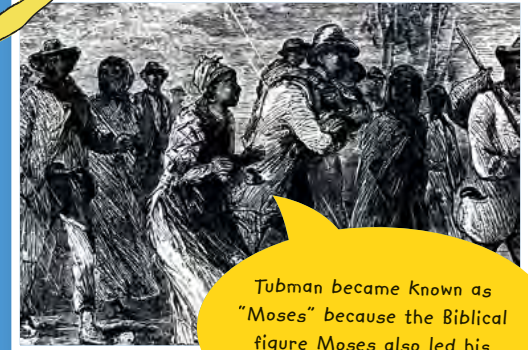
"I was conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say - I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger".

- Harriet Tubman

Slave owners offered a reward of **\$40,000** for the capture of **HARRIET TUBMAN**.

Guiding light

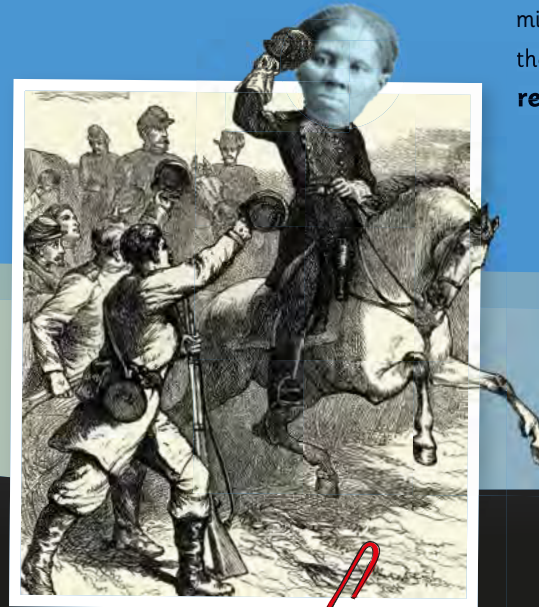
Tubman was a former slave who experienced terrible hardship. After she escaped in 1849, she worked on the Underground Railroad, helping slaves to get away from their owners. She could have been captured, but her **bravery** and **determination** never went away.



Tubman became known as "Moses" because the Biblical figure Moses also led his people to freedom.

Helping hand

Tubman never stopped helping others. When the American Civil War started in 1861, she worked as a nurse and a spy to help the Union Army that wanted to abolish slavery. She also made history as the first American woman to lead a military campaign, taking 300 troops up the Combahee River, South Carolina, to **rescue hundreds of slaves**.



The Civil War ended in 1865 and slavery was abolished in the USA. Tubman opened a home in New York where the elderly and poor could stay.



- Write an article about Harriet Tubman's extraordinary life. Remember to add a headline and picture.
- Think about Harriet Tubman's life. What do you think makes a person a hero?

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