

YEAR 1 UNIT 2 – THE GREATEST EXPLORERS:

Who were the greatest explorers?

Related units: *Year 2 Unit 3: Our Local Heroes*

Unit overview

In this unit, the children will investigate the lives and journeys of five explorers from various eras: Ibn Battuta, Captain Cook, Roald Amundsen, Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sunita Williams. They will study an explorer from different perspectives, discussing what makes an explorer 'great', and who might not think that. You may wish to select different individuals dependent on where you live, or to make a link to recent events. If you do so, it is important to include at least one female explorer and maintain a culturally diverse set. You may decide to incorporate a visit to a local museum into the unit, and some ideas have been included on potential locations.

The Big Finish provides opportunities for the children to design and possibly create their own memorial to an explorer. If you plan to construct the memorials, you will need to plan for additional support in week 6, and collect appropriate materials.

Places to visit

- Captain Cook Museum, Whitby
- Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, Marton
- National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Knowledge, skills and concepts

In this unit, the children will:

- know where the people they study fit within a chronological framework
- develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time
- understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past
- identify different ways in which it is represented
- ask and answer questions, choosing and using sources to show that they know and understand the key features of events
- use parts of sources to show that they know and understand key features of events
- use common words and phrases relating to the passing of time.

Key vocabulary

Explorer, map, discover, equipment, adventure, trade, great, desert, caravan, Hajj, uncharted, navigation, botanist, naturalist, indigenous, pirate, territory, replica, polar, hero, equipment, race, recent, astronaut, space, memorial, achievement, significant.

Cross-curricular links

- **Art:** creating a memorial
- **English:** debating, diaries and journals
- **Geography:** transport, regions, map work, climate
- **Science:** materials, space

Related books for wider reading

- *The Amazing Adventures of Ibn Battuta* by Fatima Sharafeddine
- *Travelling Man: The Journey of Ibn Battuta, 1325–1354* by James Rumford
- *Scott of the Antarctic (Young Explorer series)* by Evelyn and Julian Dowdeswell & Angela Seddon
- *Tom Crean's Rabbit: A true story from Scott's Last Voyage* by Meredith Hooper
- *Game Changers: Intrepid Explorers* by Helen Chapman (Rising Stars Reading Planet)

Assessment

Opportunities for assessment for learning are built in throughout the unit through questioning and activities. Children can both self and peer assess as appropriate using approaches familiar to them. The quiz is intended to be used during week 6, and will review knowledge, skills and concepts acquired during the unit. The Rising Stars Progression Framework assessment focuses on: *significance and interpretations; understand why a person, event or development could be considered to be significant*. **The assessment should be completed in Week 6. Detailed information on the task can be found on the key assessment opportunity sheet.**