

# Thursday Reading Assessment: Chapters 1-4 of *Last Place on Earth*

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September 11, 2019

## 1 Chapter 1: Rivals for the Pole

1. In what year did Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott (and company) set out for the South Pole?
  - A: 1891
  - B: 1901
  - C: 1911
  - D: 1921
2. From what country was Roald Amundsen and most of his colleagues?
  - A: Sweden
  - B: England
  - C: Norway
  - D: Denmark

## 2 Chapter 2: Forerunners

1. In 1768-9, a renowned British explorer named Captain James Cook sailed to Antarctica by way of Tahiti, along with an astronomer named Charles Green. What was the *public* reason for the expedition? What was the *secret* reason for the expedition, that prompted them to sail to Antarctica in addition to Tahiti?
2. Lieutenant James Clark Ross was a naval officer who was ordered by the Admiralty to complete a “magnetic survey” of Earth’s southern latitudes. When he learned that American and French explorers could reach the *magnetic* South Pole first, he decided to instead explore uncharted Antarctic waters. What are some of his expedition’s major discoveries? What geological feature is named after James Clark Ross?

### 3 Chapter 3: The Last of The Vikings

1. Circle all of the following activities in which the Amundsen family engaged as young people:
  - Sailing
  - Trapping and trading in fur
  - Skiing
  - Doing physics
  - Farming
  - Playing baseball

### 4 Chapter 4: The Nansen Spirit

1. Describe briefly Fridtjof Nansen's introduction to the global stage. What was his first major accomplishment? Why was it important to Norway?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. From whom did Fridtjof Nansen learn to make proper polar clothing (for the time)?
  - The Maori
  - The Godthaab Inuits
  - English naval officers
  - American explorers
  
3. The early Norwegian Polar explorers introduced skis to their technique, which helped them cover long distances and not sink into snow drifts. But sometimes they had to spread pine tar, tallow, melted paraffin and even fatty cheese on the bottoms of the skis. Why did they have to do this?