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- First to cross Antarctic Circle

Sighted South Shetland Islands and landed on King George Island

Sighted Antarctica continent at Fimbul Ice Shelf

Sighted Antarctica Peninsula at Graham Land

Sighted Antarctica Peninsula at Palmer Land

Claimed to have landed on Antarctica continent – not accepted by all!

Discovered Weddell Sea and reached a farthest south of 74°15'S

Southern Ocean Expedition – discovered Enderby Land

Second French Antarctica Expedition – discovered Adelie Land

United State Exploring Expedition – discovered Wilkes Land

Discovered Ross Ice Shelf, Ross Sea, Victoria Land, Mount Erebus and Terror

First documented landing on Antarctica continent at Oates Coast

Belgian Antarctic Expedition – first to winter in Antarctica due to a ship trap

Landed on Cape Adare and reached a farthest south of 78°50'S

Discovery Expedition – reached a farthest south of 82°17'S

Built the first permanent base (Ormond House) on Laurie Island

First German Antarctic Expedition – discovered Kaiser WilhelmII Land

Swedish Antarctic Expedition – valuable geological exploration

Third French Antarctic Expedition – mapped Graham Land

Nimrod Expedition – reached a farthest south of 88°23'S

Nimrod Expedition – reached the South Magnetic Pole at 72°25'S, 155°16'E

Roald Amundsen's South Pole expedition – first to reach the South Pole!

Second to reach the South Pole, but all died on the return journey

Second German Antarctic Expedition – entered further into Weddell Sea

Australasian Antarctic Expedition – carried out mapping and survey work

Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition – failed due to a ship trap

Ross Sea Party – aimed at supporting Shackleton, but all died

First to fly over Antarctica at Antarctic Peninsula

Built the first permanent base (Little America) on Antarctica continent

First to fly over South Pole!

Discovered Mac. Robertson Land and Princess Elizabeth Land

Made a first trans-Antarctica flight

First woman to land on Antarctica continent and fly over Antarctica

Mapped the coast of East Antarctica using aerial surveying

Established the notion that East and West Antarctica was one single continent

Understood the impact of Antarctica on world's climate

Built a permanent base (Amundsen-Scott) at the South Pole

Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition – first overland crossing

THE HISTORY OF ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION

Antarctica, fifth largest of the Earth's seven continents, is the southernmost, coldest, windiest, highest, and most recently discovered continent. It surrounds the South Pole and is almost completely covered by ice with no permanent human population. The continent is ringed by the Southern Ocean and lies 1,000 km from South America, its nearest neighbor. The air temperatures of the high inland regions fall below -80C in winter and rise only to -30C in summer. Antarctica was first sighted in the early 19th century but remained largely neglected for decades after that. Scientific expeditions and seal hunters had explored only fragments of its coasts by the end of the 19th century, while the interior remained unknown. Explorers first reached the South Pole in 1911 and from that time the pace of exploration accelerated rapidly. Scientists continue to conduct research in Antarctica, and in recent years increasing numbers of tourists have visited Antarctica to appreciate the region's majestic scenery and wildlife.

