



## Modern Explorers

### Felicity Aston

Felicity Aston is an English explorer. Felicity explores the polar regions. The polar regions are the North and South Poles. The North Pole is at the very top of the Earth. The South Pole is at the very bottom. It is very cold in the polar regions.

In 2012, Felicity skied across Antarctica. She was the first woman to do this alone. She was the first ever person to do it without power. She just used her muscles. It took Felicity 59 days. This was a world record!

### VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

Which places are known as the polar regions?

**R**

What is the weather like in the polar regions?

### Ranulph Fiennes

Ranulph Fiennes is a British explorer. He has led lots of expeditions. Ranulph travelled around the world from pole to pole. He was the first person to do this! He was also the first person to walk across the whole of Antarctica!

In 2000, Ranulph explored the North Pole. He got very bad frostbite on his left hand. The ends of his fingers froze. The skin and muscle died. They were very painful. Ranulph couldn't wait for an operation. He cut the ends of his fingers off himself! Ouch!

In 2004, Ranulph climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. In 2009, he climbed Mount Everest. This is part of an ongoing challenge. It's called the Global Reach Challenge. It's to cross

both poles and climb the world's highest mountains. He has already crossed both poles. Now he has to climb all the highest mountains. Ranulph wants to be the first person to complete this.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**E** What happened to Ranulph's left hand?

**E** What does Ranulph have to do to complete the Global Reach Challenge?

## Ann Bancroft

Ann Bancroft is an American explorer. She has explored the North Pole. She got there on foot and by sled. She was the first woman to do that. She also led a team of women to the South Pole. They were the first women's team to get there on skis. This also made Ann the first woman to have stood at both poles.

Ann likes to explore the water as well. She wants to help people protect the waterways. She wants to show how important it is to keep our water clean.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R** Where else apart from the polar regions does Ann like to explore?

**S** Where did all 3 of the explorers explore?



## Ibn Battuta

Hello, my name is Ibn Battuta. I am 21 years old, and I live in Morocco. My journey started in June 1325. I wanted to undertake the Hajj. This is a special journey for Muslims to visit Mecca, the holy city. Mecca was 3000 miles from my home. A very long way! I travelled by land, and I never used the same road twice. It meant I was able to see many wonderful and interesting places.

It was very hard to get to Mecca. It took me a year and a half. I travelled on foot and by camel. I used the sun, moon and stars to guide me. I could look at them and work out which way to go.

Mecca is a very special place for Muslims. I was in awe when I finally arrived. Mecca was wonderous. I loved it so much that I came back many times. I spent many months there. Going to Mecca showed me I loved travelling. I liked seeing new places. I liked having new experiences. I liked meeting new people. I wanted to explore more.

I didn't return home until 1354. My whole journey had taken 29 years. I had travelled 75,000 miles. I had visited 44 countries. I had seen some of the greatest wonders of the world – like the great wall of China and the pyramids in Egypt. I had met princes and princesses, kings, queens and emperors!

When I returned home, I started a new life. I wrote the story of my travels and became a judge.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

Why did Ibn start his journey? What did he want to undertake?

**E**

What is the Hajj?

**R**

How long did it take Ibn to get to Mecca?

**R**

How did Ibn know where he was going?

**V**

Ibn thought Mecca was wonderous. Can you think of any other words he could have used?

**V**

Ibn 'travelled on foot'. What does this mean?



## Exploring The Atlantic

### By Sea

Christopher Columbus was a sailor. He lived over 500 years ago. Columbus wanted to travel to India and China. India and China are in the East. Columbus thought it would be quicker to go west. He wanted to travel around the world to them. The King of Spain gave Columbus three ships. In 1492, Columbus set sail. He travelled across the Atlantic Ocean. He didn't get to India and China. He found a new land, The Americas. The King of Spain was very happy. The King sent soldiers to take over the land. There were already people living there. The King was cruel to the people. He sent soldiers to steal their treasures. The King became rich. He turned the people into slaves.

### VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

Where was Columbus trying to get to?

**R**

Why did Columbus travel west?

**I**

How do you think the People in America felt when the soldiers arrived?

### By Plane

Amelia Earhart was a pilot. She flew planes in the 1920s and 30s. Flying was a lot different then. It could be dangerous. People thought only men should fly.

In 1932, Amelia set out on an adventure. She wanted to be the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic. She started in Newfoundland, Canada. The weather was very bad. Amelia had to fly through thick clouds. Sometimes her windshield and wings



were covered in ice. The flight was very tough. Amelia flew 3,230 km. The flight took 15 hours. She landed in Northern Ireland. She had made it across the Atlantic!

Amelia continued flying. She broke many records. She wanted to be the first woman to fly around the world. In 1937, she took off with Fred Noonan, an American pilot. They got across Africa and Asia. They reached New Guinea. Then, they disappeared. Amelia and Fred were never seen again. Many people think they must have crashed in the Pacific Ocean.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

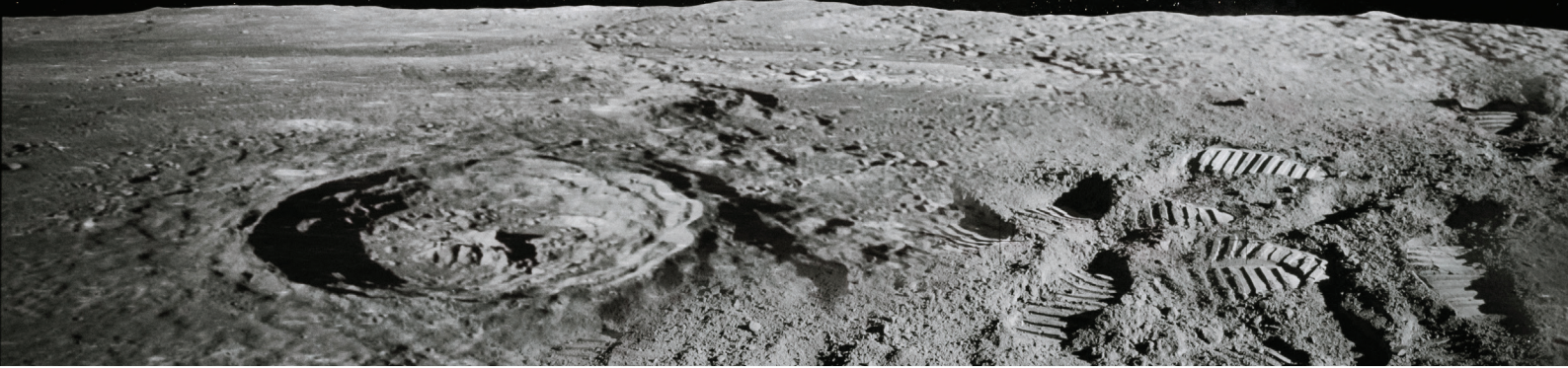
What was Amelia the first woman to do?

**P**

How do you think it might feel flying alone all that way for the first time?

**R**

What was Amelia trying to do when she disappeared?



## Exploring The Moon

Neil Armstrong loved flying. He flew fighter planes for the American Navy. He tested rocket-powered planes. Later, he became an astronaut.

Neil was part of the Apollo 11 mission. The mission was to go to the moon. No one had been there before. America wanted to be first.

Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins were Neil's crew mates. Neil and his crew trained for 6 months. Being an astronaut is tough. There was lots to prepare. They had to make sure they were ready for the flight.

Their rocket was called Saturn V. It was the most powerful machine ever built. It launched on July 16th, 1969. It travelled 200,000 miles. It took four days. It was Neil's job to fly the lunar lander. The lunar lander is a small craft. It travels between the rocket and the moon. The lunar lander took Neil and Buzz to the surface.

Neil was first to walk on the moon. The first man ever. As he stepped down, he said, 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.' Billions of people watched on TV back on Earth.

Neil and Buzz spent three hours on the moon. They took samples. They did experiments. They took photographs. Michael spent the time orbiting the moon. That means he travelled round it.

Only 12 people have ever walked on the moon. Neil and Buzz's footprints are still there. There is no wind on the moon to blow them away.



## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

What was the name of the mission?

**R**

Who was the first man on the moon?

**R**

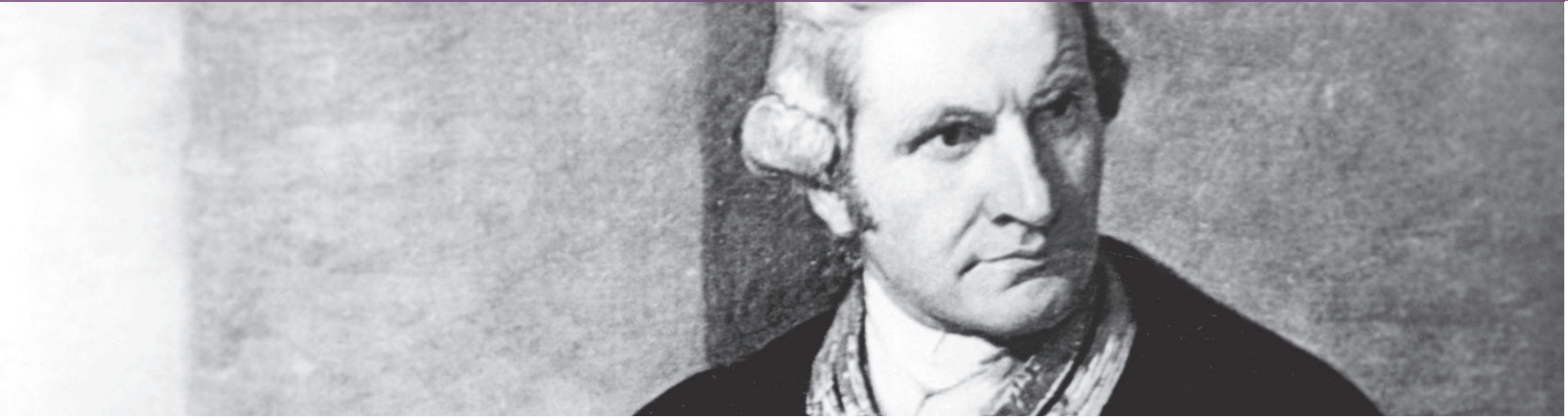
How long did it take to get to the moon?

**P**

How do you think the crew might have felt travelling to the moon?

**P**

What samples do you think the astronauts might have taken from the moon?



## James Cook

Captain James Cook was a British sailor. He lived in the 1700s. A lot of the world was unexplored back then. We didn't know what was there. We didn't know what it looked like. Cook led three big expeditions to find out.

Cook had new ideas about sailors' health. He made rules the sailors had to follow. They had to bathe every day. They had to keep the ship clean. They had to air their bedding twice a week. They had to eat plenty of fresh fruit. These rules kept the sailors healthy.

### VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

Which of the following were rules Captain Cook's sailors had to follow?

Wear clean pants everyday

Bathe everyday

Eat plenty of fish

Eat plenty of fruit

Air your socks every week

Air your bedding twice a week

Write home once a week

Keep the ship clean

### First expedition - 1768

Captain Cook had 2 missions on this adventure. First to watch the planet Venus. He needed to see it pass between Earth and the Sun. This was to calculate how far the sun was from Earth. His second mission was to find a large body of land, the southern continent. Cook searched but didn't find the continent.

On his trip, Cook visited Tahiti, the Society Islands and New Zealand. Then he sailed to Australia. In Australia, he found lots of new interesting animals. He found lots of new



interesting plants. Cook was a master at map-making. He made maps of everywhere he travelled.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**I** Captain Cook went to Australia by boat. How would we travel there today?

**P** Captain Cook found new and interesting animals. Name 2 Australian animals

## Second expedition – 1772

Captain Cook took 2 ships. Cook tried to find the southern continent again. Cook travelled the furthest south that he could. He proved there was no southern continent.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R** Does the southern continent exist?

## Third expedition - 1776

Captain Cook's final adventure was to find a shortcut through the Arctic Ocean. He wanted to find a passage to connect Europe, Asia and America. This would make trade quicker. He searched but couldn't find one. Cook found the Hawaiian Islands. There were people living there. Captain Cook and his crew got on well with the people. Then, one day, an islander stole a sailboat. There was a big fight. Captain Cook was killed.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S** How many expeditions did Captain Cook have?

**V** What is another word for expedition?