

## Following in the footsteps of Scott.

**Time:** 1 hour

**Introduction** Antarctica is a huge continent, bigger than Australia, the United States and even Europe. Walking from the edge to the centre takes an extremely long time and is a journey fraught with dangers with deep crevasses and extreme weather conditions to overcome.

### Learning Objective:

To be able to calculate the length of time it took Robert Swan and his team to walk from Cape Evans to the South Pole 'in the footsteps of Scott' in 1986.

To convert distances from miles to kilometres by dividing the distance in miles by 5, then multiplying by 8.

### Resources:

Map of Antarctica with the South Pole and key starting points for the treks marked (available on [www.2041.com](http://www.2041.com)) 2. A blank world map for each student (available on [www.2041.com](http://www.2041.com))

**1** Tell the children the following:  
Robert Swan and his team headed to the South Pole from Cape Evans on skis, pulling their provisions behind them on sledges. Each day they had to deal with treacherous conditions from the ice continent beneath their feet and the harsh weather above and around them.

**2** On average, the team travelled for 15 hours a day and made 9 miles of progress in that time.

Ask the class to work out the following:  
How many miles an hour did they travel?

**Ans: 0.6 miles / hour**

How many miles did they travel in a week?

**Ans: 63 miles**

To the nearest day, how many days did it take to travel 100 miles?

**Ans: 11.1days (11 days).**

How many miles did they travel in the month of November?

**Ans: 270 miles**

How far did they travel to reach the South Pole if they travelled for 71 days to get there?

**Ans: 639 miles**

**3** Now ask the children to mark out on the map of Antarctica the journey to the South Pole from Cape Evans with the distance in miles marked out on the line and the number of days it took.

Next, ask the children to work out the time it would take to travel from other parts of the Antarctic to the South Pole, travelling at the same 9 miles a day.

Start by building up a scaffold of information on distance travelled over a certain number of days:

1 day = 9 miles      5 days = 45 miles      25 days = ?  
2 days = 18 miles      10 days = ?      50 days = ?  
3 days = 27 miles      15 days = ?      100 days = ?  
4 days = 36 miles      20 days = ?

Now get the children to work out these journeys in days. Ask the class to do the calculations on paper first and then check them with a calculator by dividing the distance by 9. The children can then draw the lines and distances on the map.

	Easier	Harder - Exact Distance
Hercules Inlet	720 miles    Ans: 80 days	700 miles    Ans: 77.8 days
Ronne Ice Shelf	765 miles    Ans: 85 days	750 miles    Ans: 83.3 days
Bay of Whales	1,800 miles    Ans: 200 days	1,700 miles    Ans: 188.9 days
Shackleton Base	2,250 miles    Ans: 250 days	2,150 miles    Ans: 238.9 days
Larsen Ice Shelf	3,600 miles    Ans: 400 days	4,000 miles    Ans: 444.4 days

Finally ask the children to calculate these journey distances in km by dividing the distances by 5 and multiplying by 8.

Answers as below:

Hercules Inlet	1,120km
Ronne Ice Shelf	1,200km
Bay of Whales	2,720km
Shackleton Base	3,440km
Larsen Ice Shelf	6,400km

### Success Criteria

The children gain a better understanding of how long it would take to walk from the edge of Antarctica to the South Pole.

The children are able to convert distance from miles to km and vice versa.