

Route to the South Pole

Robert Scott and Roald Amundsen raced across Antarctica to become the first person to reach the South Pole. Note the tables of the coordinates and the dates on which each team reached various locations as they headed for the pole. Plot each man's route on the map of Antarctica below, and then answer the questions.

Amundsen's Route

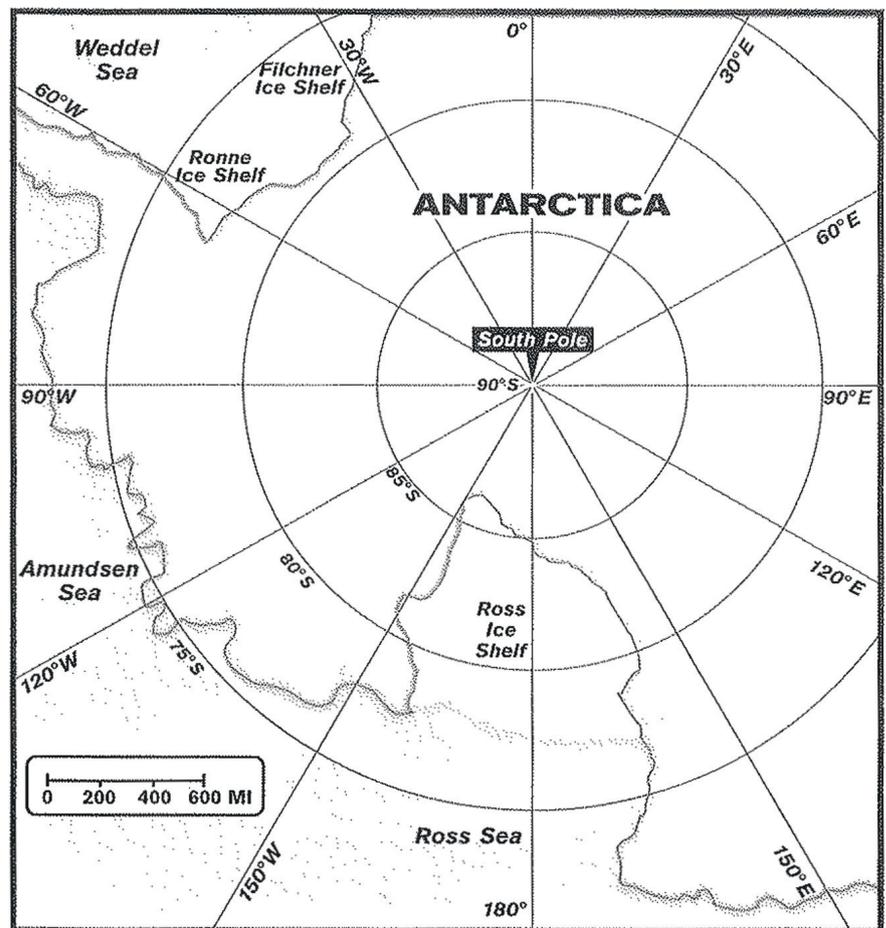
Date	Coordinates
October 24, 1911	79°S, 165°W
October 31, 1911	81°S, 164°W
November 4, 1911	83°S, 165°W
November 13, 1911	84°S, 164°W
November 21, 1911	86°S, 165°W
December 8, 1911	88°S, 165°W
December 14, 1911	90°S, 180°W

SOURCE: FRAM MUSEUM

Scott's Route

Date	Coordinates
November 1, 1911	77°S, 160°E
November 21, 1911	80°S, 167°E
November 30, 1911	82°S, 170°E
December 10, 1911	83°S, 173°E
December 31, 1911	87°S, 166°E
January 10, 1912	88°S, 170°E
January 17, 1912	90°S, 180°E

SOURCE: FRAM MUSEUM



Answer the following in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper:

1. At what coordinates was Scott on November 21, 1911? Amundsen?
2. Ernest Shackleton was another Antarctic explorer. In 1909, he held the record for the world's southernmost journey when he trekked to 88°S. When did Scott reach 88°S? Amundsen?
3. Amundsen reached the South Pole on December 14, 1911. What coordinates had Scott just passed on this date?
4. How many days did it take Amundsen to reach the South Pole? Scott?
5. Scott left for the South Pole only a week after Amundsen did, but he arrived at the South Pole a whole month after Amundsen. After reading the article and tracing their routes, what do you think were the greatest factors that helped Amundsen win the race to the South Pole?