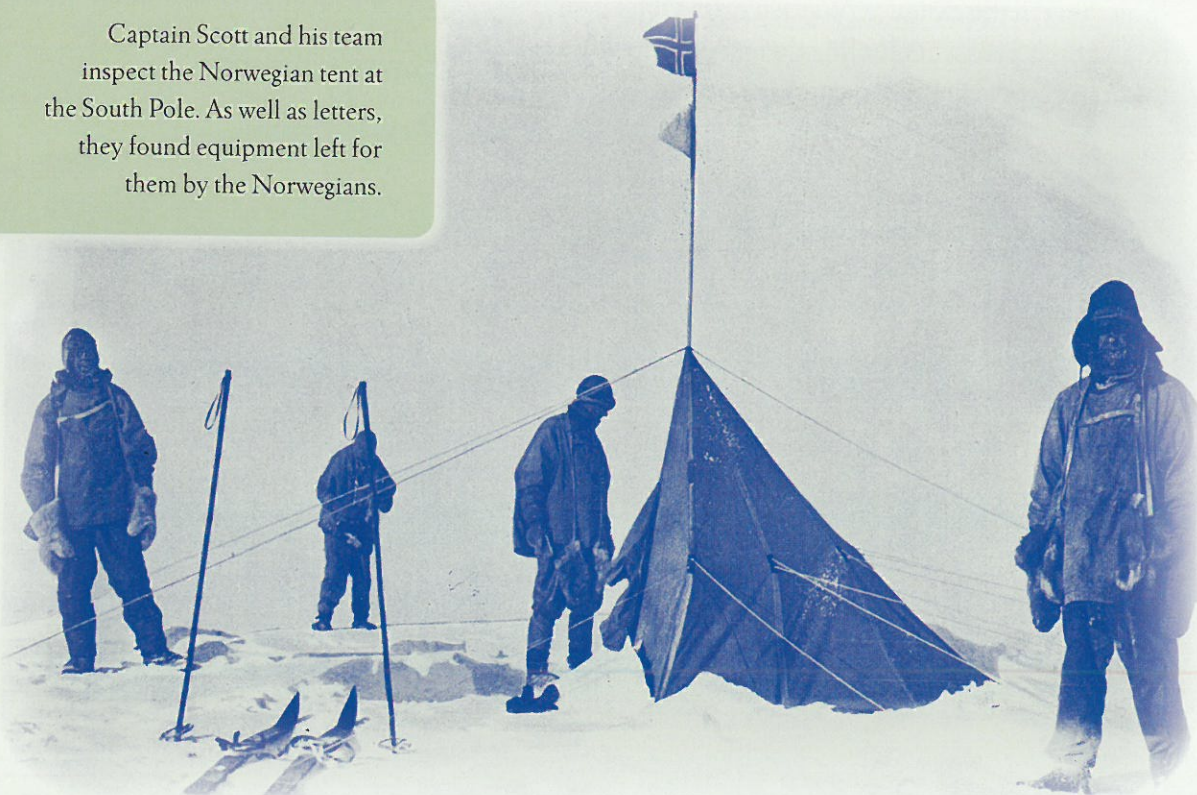


Journey's End

On 17 January, Captain Robert Scott and his team finally reached the **South Pole**. The next day they found the Norwegians' tent. They read Roald Amundsen's letter and discovered that the Norwegians had been there a month earlier.

Captain Scott and his team inspect the Norwegian tent at the South Pole. As well as letters, they found equipment left for them by the Norwegians.



"A Desperate Struggle"

Scott wrote in his diary: "Great God! This is an awful place and terrible enough for us to have laboured to it without the reward of [getting here first]." The next day the British began their homeward journey. Scott wrote in his diary again: "Now for the run home and a desperate struggle. I wonder if we can do it."

For three weeks the men made good time. On 4 February, Evans fell down a **crevasse**, hit his head, and became **concussed**. He kept going but each step was a struggle. As the days went by, he became silent and gloomy. His nose was badly affected by **frostbite** and looked rotten.



Heavy science

Even when the going was tough, the British team collected scientific information. The rock samples they gathered on the journey weighed about 15 kilograms (35 pounds). This made the sledges even heavier. Some critics say they should have dumped the rocks and fossils to lighten the load.

Amundsen returns

While the British team struggled, Roald Amundsen and his men were on the home run. For a while they got lost and couldn't find the next **depot**. They were in danger of running out of dog food. On 5 January, they finally found their depot, and began their climb down the **Axel Heiberg Glacier**. On 6 January they were back on the Ice Shelf. For the first time, the men really felt the cold. They made it back to Framheim on 26 January 1912.

The British suffered greatly because they pulled the equipment themselves for most of the journey. On the final leg of the expedition they were exhausted.

Celebrations

One of the Norwegians, Oscar Wisting, recalled the first morning back at Framheim:

"Have you been there?" "Yes, we've been there," answered Roald Amundsen, and then there was a hullabaloo. Soon after, we were all seated around the table and savoured Lindstrom's [the cook at Framheim] hot cakes and heavenly coffee. How good a cup of coffee can really taste one only realizes when, like us, one has had to go without so long."