

## Every One a Hero?

On 8 March 1912, news of Amundsen's triumph spread around the world. His victory in the race to the **South Pole** was headline news. In Norway, people hung out flags to celebrate. The Americans regarded Amundsen as a hero, and President Theodore Roosevelt sent a telegram to congratulate him.

### The success story

Amundsen was praised for his careful planning. He had made more **depots** than Scott, and he marked them clearly so they were easy to find. The Norwegians were expert skiers and used dogs instead of ponies. Amundsen also knew how to dress properly in polar conditions, having learnt from the Netsilik people. Today we know more about the importance of diet and vitamins. At Framheim, the Norwegians ate a well-balanced diet. They were fit for their journey to the Pole. And, once they were on that journey, they always had plenty of food.

### Risky business

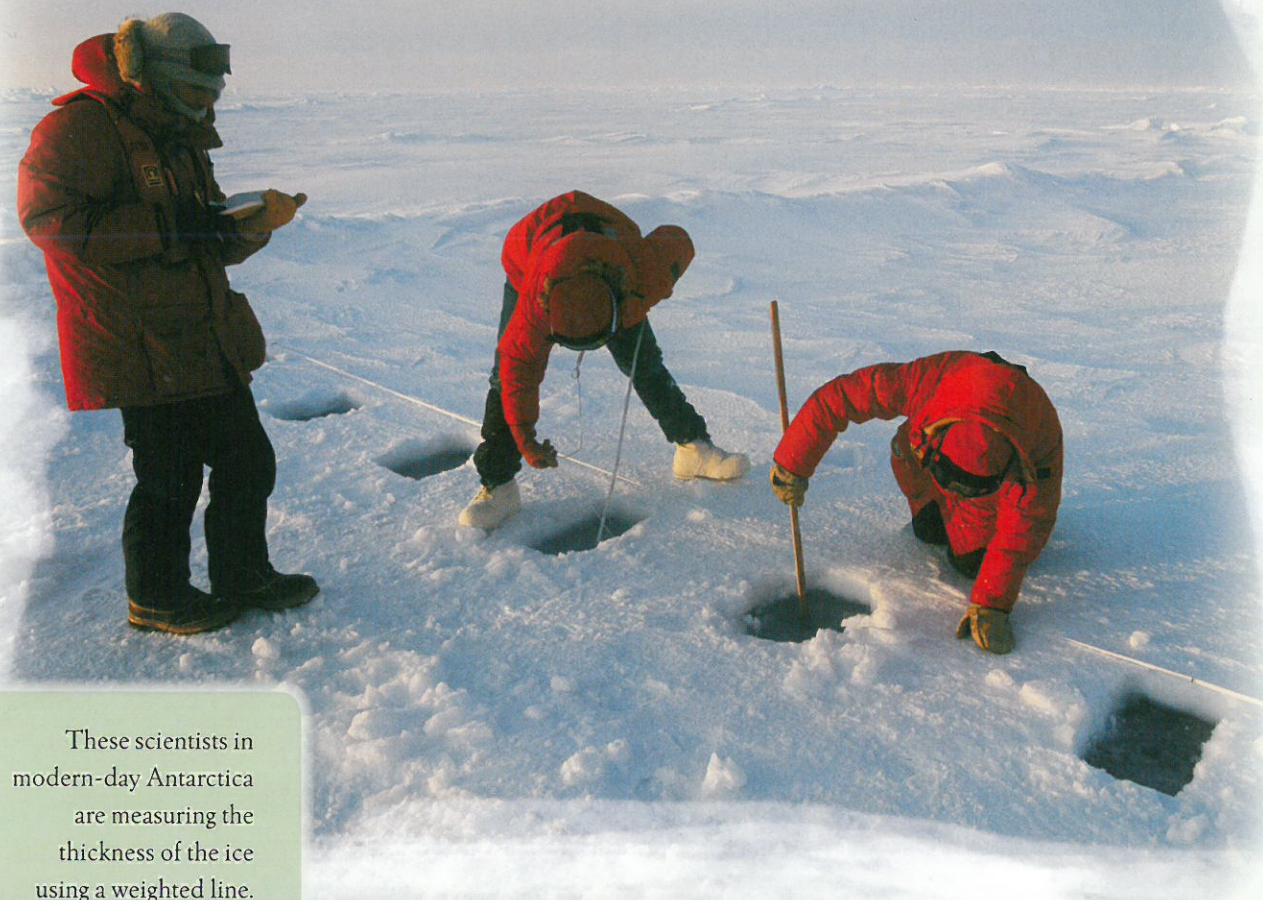
At first the tragic story of Captain Scott touched people's hearts. For many years, he was considered a hero too. Later, some historians criticized Scott for taking risks. One of his greatest mistakes was the position of One Ton Depot. It was 58 kilometres (31.5 miles) further from the Pole than he had planned. Perhaps this cost Scott and his men their lives. Some historians have praised Scott's team for being the first people to haul sledges to the South Pole.

### Scientists in Antarctica

Today, there are research stations all over Antarctica, including the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station (see page 33). Some of the stations are the size of small towns, with hundreds of people living and working there. Scientists study everything from the climate, dry land, seas, and lakes to plant life, animals, and birds. The first child was born on the Antarctic mainland in 1978, at an Argentine scientific base. Now several children live and go to school there.

### Global warming

Today we know that the average temperature of Earth is slowly rising. This is called global warming, and it is changing the planet. In Antarctica, scientists are measuring the size of glaciers. In recent years, the glaciers have been shrinking, which may be connected to global warming. Melting glaciers, flowing into the sea, might be a serious problem in the future. Rising sea levels could cause severe floods, swamping land and even wiping out whole communities.



These scientists in modern-day Antarctica are measuring the thickness of the ice using a weighted line.