

Push to the Pole: Polar Explorers

Emergency Lesson Plan

Concept: Geoffrey R. Lorenz
Author: Judy A. Johnson
Editor: Barbara S. Meeks
Book Design: Patti Jeffers

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Understanding What You Read

A fact is a statement that can be proven. An opinion is someone's idea. Read each of the sentences below and mark them "F" for fact or "O" for opinion.

- _____ 1. No 12-year-old boy should be allowed to work on a ship.
- _____ 2. Matthew Henson joined Robert Peary on a trip to Nicaragua.
- _____ 3. Anybody who would risk his or her life to reach the North Pole must be crazy.
- _____ 4. President Theodore Roosevelt supported polar exploration.
- _____ 5. Henson's achievements were recognized when he received the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Tell Your Own Story

Imagine you are part of the team trying to reach the North Pole in 1909. Write a journal entry that expresses what you experience and feel.



Map Moments

Trace the first journeys Matthew Henson took as a cabin boy on ships. What bodies of water would he have sailed to go from Washington, D.C. to the following places?

North Africa _____

Japan _____

Between what two continents is the Black Sea located? _____
