



# In the footsteps of Sir Douglas Mawson Gallery

## Middle Years: Year 6-7



**Government of South Australia**  
Department of Education and  
Children's Services

This Outreach Education Program for schools is made possible by the partnership between the South Australian Museum and the Department of Education and Children's Services. Outreach Education is a team of seconded teachers who are based in public institutions.

© **Department of Education and Children's Services and SA Museum**

This work may be reproduced by South Australian teachers for use with their students. For all other uses contact the S.A. Museum Education Service.

Authors: Chris Nobbs and Simon Langsford



### South Australian Museum Education Program

Phone: (08) 8207 7429 • Fax (08) 8207 7430 • Email: [education@samuseum.sa.gov.au](mailto:education@samuseum.sa.gov.au) • Web: [www.samuseum.sa.gov.au](http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au)

### Mawson's **work**

Write down something you have learnt about Sir Douglas Mawson using the following headings.

**Exploring the Outback**

**Radioactive minerals**

**Seeking the South Magnetic Pole**

**Science from Ships**

**Living in the Antarctic**



Select one of the computer stations. What did it explain?

---

---

Find two photographs that show something about the work that Mawson did.

For each photo write what it shows.

Photo 1




Photo 2



**Look at the southern end of the gallery.**

Find Mawson's medals.

Name one of his awards. \_\_\_\_\_

### Geology

#### *Look along the western wall*

Mawson was a geologist. He studied rocks. Some rocks could tell him about what happened in the past.

*Find the ripple stone in the Flinders Ranges section.*

What did this type of rock tell Mawson about the past?

---

---

---



Choose another rock and explain what story it told Mawson.

---

---

---

### Glaciers

#### *Look along the eastern wall*

Mawson used rocks as clues to the past. Find two rocks that show evidence of glaciers. Draw/explain what is special about them that shows they were affected by glaciers?

--	--

Look at the computer animations in the exhibit about glaciation to explain one of the following – drop stones, striated pavements, chattermarks, moraine.



## Activity page

### Animals

Some of the scientists with Mawson studied Emperor penguins and Leopard seals, which both live in the Antarctic.

Complete the table below by describing some features that:

- only Emperor penguins have
- only Leopard seals have
- are the same for both.

Emperor penguins only 	Same for both	Leopard seals only 

How do these features suit each animal to its way of life?

---



---

Look in the section called **Science from Ships**.

Name one of the ships that Mawson used on his expeditions to Antarctica.

---

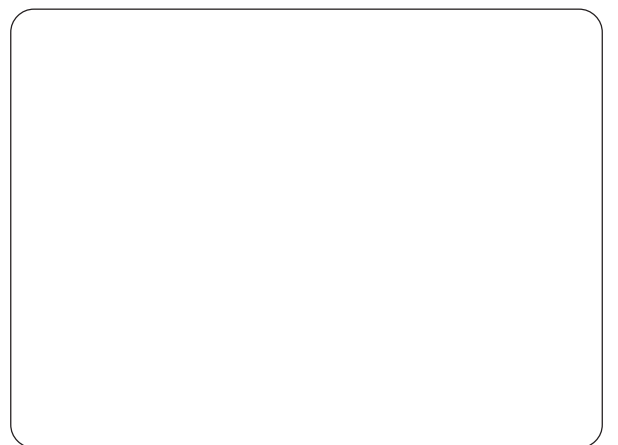
Why was it important to collect and preserve animals caught on these expeditions?

---



---

Draw one of the animals Mawson's expeditioners caught from their ship.



This is a \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity page

### Equipment

*Look in the section on weather*

Compare today's temperature here with the temperature in Antarctica.

What is the difference?

---

What did Mawson discover about the weather in Antarctica?

---

---

Mawson's expeditions were for scientific discovery.

Choose a piece of scientific equipment taken to Antarctica on one of Mawson's expeditions.

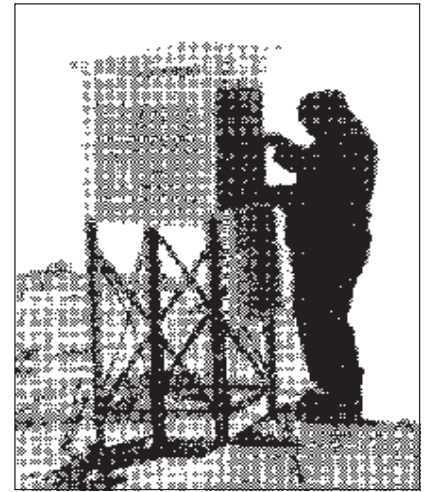
Draw it and describe what it was used for.

---

---

---

---



Taking weather readings

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine you are setting off for a two-month expedition to Antarctica.

What would you like to find out? (*Look around the exhibition to get some ideas.*)

What equipment would you need for your scientific study?

---

---

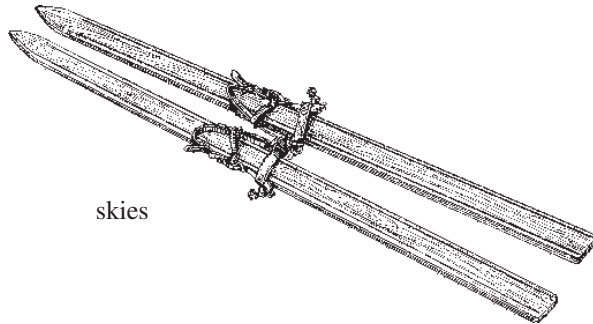
---

---

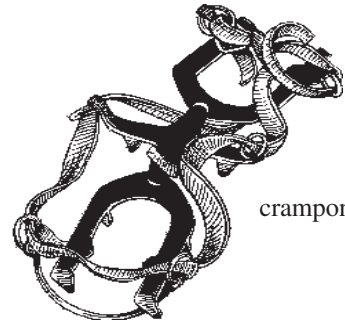
---

### Surviving in the **cold**

Travelling in Antarctica was a problem for Mawson and the other early explorers. What are these made of? Why were they used?



skies



crampons

What was used by Mawson's expeditioners to pull the sledges?

---

*Find the story of Mawson's Epic Sledge Journey.*

What happened that caused the problem for this expedition?

---

---

Why did Mawson cut his sledge in half.

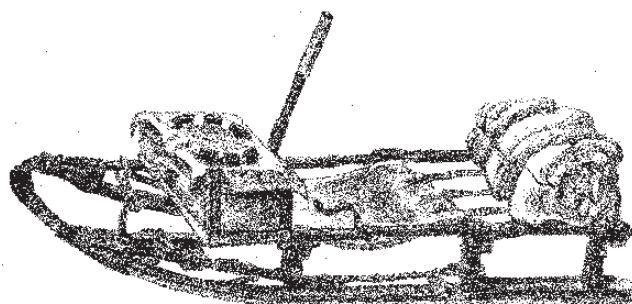
---

---

How would a positive attitude have helped Mawson on the return journey?

---

---



### Surviving in the **cold**

The invention of radio and the more recent invention of satellites have greatly changed communication between Antarctica and the rest of the world.

Mawson's first radio station could not send voices.

What did they use instead? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the table below to show what you think communication between Antarctica and the rest of the world would be like.

Early Antarctic exploration before radio	With Mawson's first radio communication	Modern times with satellite communication

### Photography

What differences do you notice between modern cameras and those Mawson took to Antarctica?

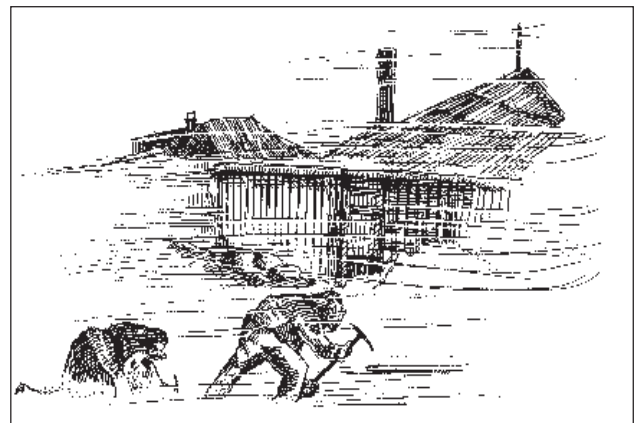
\_\_\_\_\_

What different types of cameras can you find?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why was photography important for Mawson's expeditions?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Activity page

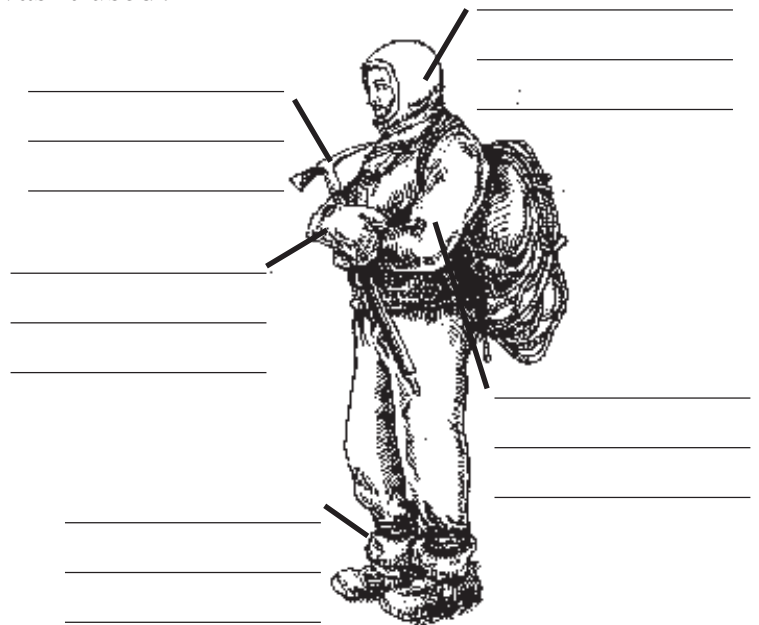
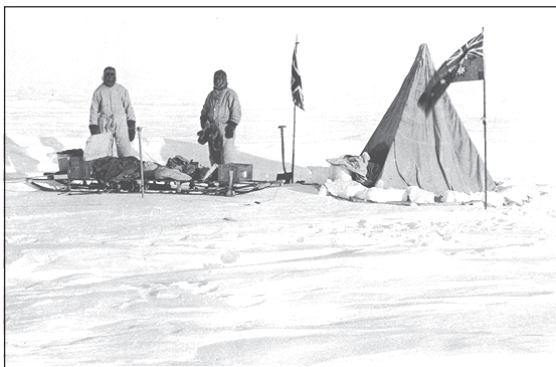
### Living in **Antarctica**

**Look at Mawson's hut to find these objects**

The cold conditions require expeditioners to have special clothing and equipment while working in Antarctica.

On the drawing of an expeditioner below write the names of each item indicated.

What you think it is made from and why was it used?



Why was the Nansen cooker useful in Antarctica?

---

---

On the picture of the Nansen cooker, draw in the inside parts and explain how it worked.

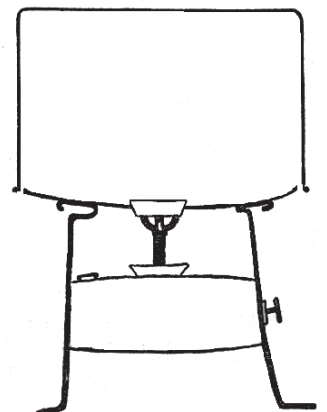
---

---

---

---

---





### Summary of 'In the footsteps of Sir Douglas Mawson'

Inventions, discoveries and world events affect everyone's lives. Mawson did most of his work in the first half of the 20th century.

Find examples of each to fill in the table below.

How Mawson's life was different from life today.	How Mawson's life was the same as life today.

Find three things that Mawson found during his exploration of outback Australia.




---

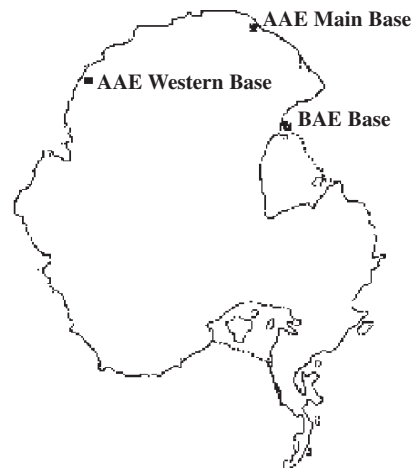


---



---

Find three things that Mawson found during his Antarctic expeditions.




---



---



---