

Sir Douglas Mawson

An Investigation



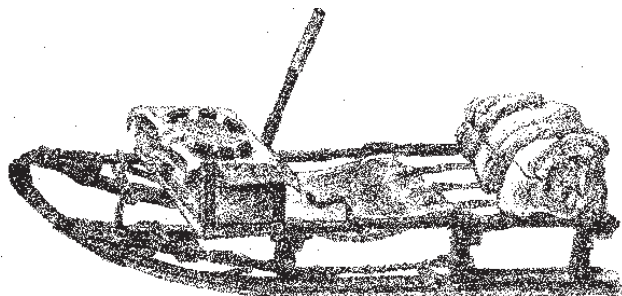
Government of South Australia
Department of Education and
Children's Services

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Visiting the museum

Student expectations

We would like you, and all our visitors, to enjoy visiting the museum.

- Please stay with your group.
- Walk safely around the exhibitions.
- Share the space with other visitors.
- Talking is an important part of learning. Please remember to use a quiet voice.
- The museum glass cases can get dirty or scratched. Please enjoy looking without touching.
- Please use the stairs and avoid the lifts. (They are slow and are needed by people who can't use the stairs.)
- Help keep the museum clean. Please eat and drink outside on the lawns.



Visiting the museum

Teacher expectations

Bookings are essential for all school visits to the museum.

Please supervise your groups of learners at all times. If your visit involves visiting more than one gallery, divide your class into small supervised groups. Respect the needs of other classes that have booked particular galleries. **Parents must specifically consent to students under 18 participating in activities involving indirect supervision.**

When you arrive please let the staff at the front desk know. If the weather is fine, your students can enjoy the outside lawn area while they wait.

Do not use clipboards with metal backings and clips. For your convenience and for the safety of our exhibits, cardboard backings are available at the front desk.

The coffee shop and the museum shop do not cater for large groups. Small groups can visit, with adult supervision. Bags must not be taken into either shop.

Only students with special needs should use the lifts. (Many students visit the museum and using the lifts would cause excessive delays for people who really need them.)

Unfortunately the museum has limited capacity to store bags. A large crate or two for lunches is easier to keep secure.

Supervisors' bags must be left at the security desk, or be inspected and tagged by the security officers.

Going to Antarctica

Douglas Mawson was interested in rocks, and that is why he went to Antarctica. He had found some rocks in Australia that had been scratched by glaciers sliding over them, and he wanted to see real glaciers in action. He managed to visit Antarctica by working for Ernest Shackleton, who led an expedition there in 1904. Mawson realised there was much to learn about Antarctica, and so led two more expeditions of his own.



What a way to live!

When Douglas Mawson explored Antarctica, many years ago, the equipment he used was very different to what is used today. He relied on natural materials such as woollen underwear, cotton wind-proof coats and mittens made of wolf fur. Some of his boots were made of reindeer skin with dried grass stuffed in for extra warmth. Even his sleeping bags were made of reindeer skin - with the fur on the inside. The fur made the bags prickly, but warmer.

Antarctica is a dangerous place. People can go blind from snow glare, lose fingers or toes from frost-bite and even die, if they are not careful and well prepared. Mawson took goggles to protect his eyes from glare and freezing wind, skis for moving over snow and spiky steel crampons to tie to his boots when walking on slippery ice.

In the Mawson exhibition visitors can see these, and other amazing old pieces of equipment. Of course no visit to the gallery would be complete without seeing one of Mawson's balaclavas, the woollen hood that he is wearing in the most famous picture taken of him.



Science from Ships

Not all of Mawson's expeditions involved trekking across the snow and ice. His scientists also worked from ships. They caught animals, tested the water,

checked the weather and did many experiments. They brought back over 100 different kinds of animals to Australia that did not have names yet! In the Mawson exhibition, visitors can see some of these animals. There is even an octopus that lives in the freezing waters off the Antarctic.



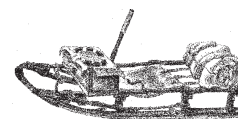
A disaster!

On one famous expedition both of Mawson's sledging companions died. One explorer Ninnis, and the sledge he was driving, fell into a deep crevasse. Mawson and the other survivor, Mertz, were left with little food and equipment. They tried to return to the Main Base hut, eating their dogs to fend off starvation. Mertz died in the attempt. Mawson struggled on for many days. His courage and determination to survive show his strength of character. Students can use a computer interactive dedicated to the epic sledge journey as well as see the sledge which Mawson cut in half so he could pull it on his own.

Check out www.mawson.sa.gov.au for more information.

Your Investigation

The Mawson Gallery gives visitors a really good understanding of Mawson's life and work. After visiting the gallery you might consider a trip to Antarctica yourself one day, or perhaps you will be inspired to work in Antarctica in future, or take up a career as a scientist.



In any case, by completing the activities in this booklet you will share some of the excitement and interests of this famous Australian. You will also improve your research skills and see some very unusual objects.

What do you know about Mawson and Antarctica?

Search the gallery and find things that you already know about Mawson or Antarctica. Pick five significant things you find and record them here.

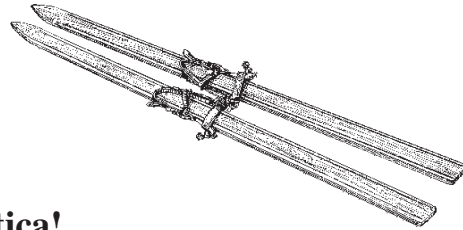
1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____



What I discovered about Mawson and Antarctica!

Repeat your search of the gallery, but this time find five things about Mawson or Antarctica that you do not already know and record them below. Explain what you found and why others might find it significant.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

What you think?

Select one display window and explain what the exhibition is about using the spaces below.

The main idea of the exhibit is.....

The most important thing in the exhibition is.....

Draw a diagram/picture of two significant items.....

Something that is not very good about this exhibit is.....

This could be improved by.....

What is on the Mawson computers?

Find a computer and explore one program thoroughly.
Report on the program below.

How good was the program? (/10)

What were the main ideas in the program you selected? _____

Pick two more computer programs. (They can be on the same computer, or different computers). List the three programs in order, starting with the best.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



An important South Australian

Use the evidence in the gallery to explain why some people think Sir Douglas Mawson is one of South Australia's most important people.

On the back of this sheet create your own newspaper heading for a story about the things you think are the most important about Sir Douglas Mawson's life.

Treasure Hunt

Try to find all these items. Tick the boxes when you have found them.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Mawson's half sledge | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. A reindeer skin sleepingbag and reindeer skin boots. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. A huge slide projector that used glass plate pictures. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. A radio that sends Morse code. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. A boulder from Antarctica | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Lady Mawson (Paquita Mawson) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. A Greenland sledge dog | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. A leopard seal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. An Antarctic octopus | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Minerals or rocks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. An albatross | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. A sewing machine | <input type="checkbox"/> |

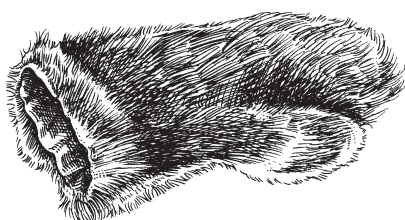
Select two of these Antarctic treasures and, in the boxes below ...

- * draw two of the objects
- * OR write an explanation of why they are important,
- * OR how they were used.

Treasure number.....



Treasure number.....



Amazing Antarctica

Record something useful to share at school about Antarctica using the some of the themes below.

Weather

Transport

Beauty

The sea

Animals

Rocks

Glaciers

Problems