

Great Explorers!

Key Questions

Who was Ibn Battuta?	Ibn Battuta was born in 1304. He was a great explorer who spent nearly 30 years travelling. It is thought he travelled over 78,000 miles visiting the the same as 44 modern countries. In 1354, he told a writer what happened on his journeys and these stories were written up in the Rihla .
Was Matthew Henson the first human to set foot on the North Pole?	It is not certain whether Matthew Henson and the other explorers with him were the first to reach the North Pole in April 1909. Even so, Matthew Henson should be remembered as a skilled polar explorer . For years, he did not receive the same recognition as his White co- explorer due to racism.
Who helped Neil Armstrong to be the first person to walk on the Moon?	When Neil Armstrong took those first steps on the Moon in July 1969, he was joined by Buzz Aldrin. Another astronaut, Michael Collins, stayed in the main spacecraft during the Moon landing. The astronauts were helped by many other people down on Earth.
Why is Felicity Aston in the Guinness World Records?	Felicity Aston's polar exploration is part of recent history. In 2012, Felicity became the first person to ever travel alone across Antarctica, just using her own power and walking with skis.
Why are some people in history considered to be significant ?	There are lots of reasons why someone might be considered to be important in history. It might be that their actions changed things for people or that they achieved something great.
How are significant explorers remembered?	Significant people, including explorers , are remembered in lots of different ways. Some explorers have places named after them. Some have their pictures on stamps or there might be statues to commemorate them.

Key Vocabulary

commemorate	To celebrate and remember a person or event.
explorer	An explorer is someone who goes on an exploration .
exploration	A journey where explorers travel to unfamiliar places.
polar	Used when talking about anything to do with the North Pole or the South Pole.
recent	In the past but not long ago.
Rihla	The shortened name of the book where Ibn Battuta's travels were written down. The word ' Rihla ' means 'journey' in Arabic.
significant	Important and worth knowing about.
voyage	A long journey, especially by ship. The word voyage can also be used to describe journeys in space.

Timeline

1304	Ibn Battuta was born.
1354	The Rihla was written. This tells people studying history lots about Ibn Battuta and life at that time.
1909	Matthew Henson and his team reached what they believed to be the North Pole.
1969	Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the Moon.
2012	Felicity Aston walked alone across Antarctica. She became the first woman to achieve this and the first human to do this using just her own power.



Ibn Battuta was born in Morocco in 1304. When he was alive, not many people travelled very far from their home - but he did. He travelled about 78,000 miles, which is like travelling around the world over three times!

Matthew Henson was a polar explorer. Although there is some disagreement on who was the first person to get to the North Pole, it was thought at the time that it was Matthew Henson.



Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the Moon. Another astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, joined him on the Moon about twenty minutes later.



Felicity Aston was the first person to ever travel alone across Antarctica, just using her own strength and walking with skis.

