

Arctic Mystery Teacher's Notes **B1**

This **B1** article will allow pupils to discover the mysterious disappearance of the 1845 Franklin Expedition to find the North-West Passage, and the subsequent search expeditions and forensic archaeology which has begun to provide answers.

Grammar

- comparative.
- past simple of regular verbs + some irregular verbs.

Vocabulary

- ships and the sea.
- geography.
- the Arctic.
- science, archaeology, forensics

Pronunciation.

- /ed/ ending of simple past verbs

- **Activity A** has pupils anticipate from the title. We've provided a word cloud in these Teacher's Notes, that you may want to give to some or all the pupils.
- They then move on to comprehension of the first part of the text in **Activity B**.
- **Activity C** has pupils work in groups on different paragraphs of the second part of the article, before exchanging the information to build a full picture. In the first instance, provide each group with one of the blank mindmaps. For the recap phase, give each pupil the four mindmaps, so they can take notes.
- **Activity D** makes sure everyone understands the more difficult vocabulary.
- In **Activity E**, pupils put the story into chronological order on a timeline.
- **Activity F** encourages them to pick one element from the story to express in

telegram style.

- **Activity G** checks that they can pronounce the /ed/ ending of simple past verbs from the text correctly, while **Activity H** provides a summary.
- **Activity I** is optional and gives you the opportunity to show them a video from the exhibition about the expedition (sub-titled). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t9lFFViMj0>
- **Activity J** is their final task, where pupils prepare an interaction in pairs, where one pupil tries to persuade the other to go to see the exhibition.

Solutions

B. 22 April 1848: the 105 surviving men abandoned the ships

11 June 1847: Franklin died

September 1846: the two ships were trapped in ice

Danger: being trapped in the ice

Place: Canada (Baffin Bay)

John Franklin: was the expedition leader; left England with 128 men; was trying to find the North-West Passage

C. 1. A Very Cold Case

Date: 1981

Place: University of Alberta, Canada

Investigation: forensic examination of objects and bodies preserved in the permafrost

Problem in 1845: poisonous led was used in

tin cans that preserved food

Conclusion: the men were possibly poisoned by lead

2. Inuit Stories

Inuit said: They saw white men, and an abandoned ship that disappeared.

2014: Scientists found the *Erebus*.

2016: Scientists found the *Terror*.

Problem: It is impossible to go inside the ships, they are too fragile.

Solution: special underwater cameras

3. Genetic Identification

What scientists found: fragments of human skeletons

Unexpected surprise: four out of 24 skeletons seem to be women. **Goal of genetic**

identification: to identify some of the people who died

4. The North-West Passage At Last

Franklin: never found the Passage

1903-6: Roald Amundsen found the Passage but only in a small boat

2007: Climate change made it possible for big ships to use the Passage.

Now: ships can do what Franklin imagined.

D.1. solve **2.** faster **3.** cheaper **4.** ship
5. forensic **6.** permafrost **7.** sonar **8.** found
9. climate change **10.** less

E. May 1845: Franklin expedition left England

Sept 1846: the ships were trapped in ice.

1847-1880: over thirty search expeditions

11 June 1847: Franklin died

22 April 1848: 105 surviving men abandoned the ships

1859: a note found explaining that the two

ships were trapped in ice in 1846

1903-1906: Norwegian explorer Roald Amundson proved the North-West Passage existed,

1981: Canadian scientists used modern forensic techniques to examine objects and bodies preserved in permafrost.

2014: A Canadian scientific expedition found *The Erebus*.

2016: *The Terror* was found.

F. solved: /d/

wanted: /id/

trapped: /d/

tried: /d/

died: /d/

abandoned: /d/

happened: /d/

decided: /id/

preserved: /d/

looked: /t/

contaminated: /id/

used: /d/

discovered: /d/

existed: /id/

imagined: /d/

F. History, Death, mission, Passage, 129, Inuit, winter, wrong, died, England, ships, clues

I.2.a. different, belonged to someone, direct link to a human being

b. gave their lives for their country, for the advancement of human knowledge, going into the unknown, didn't come back

c. phenomenal

Documents for different groups

A. Word Cloud

1845
science ships **2** maritime
Arctic **British**
expedition **mystery**

B. Mind Maps for different groups :

