



What was the original name of *Endurance* and where was the ship built?

In which country was Sir Ernest Shackleton born?

Where is Sir Ernest Shackleton's grave site?



HISTORIC: Photos taken of *Endurance* stuck in sea ice in 1915 by ship photographer Frank Hurley.

HOW exciting was the recent discovery of the Antarctic expedition ship *Endurance*, 107 years after it sank beneath sea ice in the Weddell Sea?

If you have been as fascinated by this news as us, you will know that *Endurance* transported Sir Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men on the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

The ambitious aim of this expedition was to make the first land crossing of the Antarctic continent.

Unfortunately *Endurance* became trapped in sea ice in January 1915, and eventually sank, on 21 November, 1915.

What followed next was an amazing story of survival.

The discovery by scientists of the wreck of the ship, in very good condition at a depth of 3008-metres, has added another chapter and created fresh interest in this story.

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ENDURANCE



Can you locate Elephant Island and South Georgia Island on a map?

QUITE A FIND: Images captured by submersibles of the hull of the three-masted barquentine *Endurance* at the bottom of the Weddell Sea.

Story of survival

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Endurance was found only a few kilometres from the final position recorded by its captain Frank Worsley in 1915.

Scientists are amazed by how well the ship has been preserved on the seabed.

While the ship is covered in plenty of marine life, they are filter-feeders - squirts, anemones, sponges and so on - rather than the type that like to munch on the timber of a sunken ship.

You can even clearly see the ship's name across its stern, and directly below it - a five-pointed star.

The *Endurance* 22 expedition to find the ship was led by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, from the United Kingdom, using a South African icebreaker, *Agulhas II*, and remote-controlled submersibles equipped with sensors, lights and cameras to locate and film the wreck.

It has been described as "the world's most challenging shipwreck search".

The modern-day expeditioners had to battle shifting sea-ice, blizzards, and temperatures as low as -18° Celsius.

Imagine then how tough things must have been for Shackleton and his men in the early 1900s.

To recruit a crew for *Endurance*, legend has it that Shackleton placed an advertisement in the newspaper which read:

"Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success."

After the ship sunk, Shackleton and his 27 men drifted on ice flows for five months, before making their way

in life boats to Elephant Island, in the South Shetland Islands, 557 kilometres from where *Endurance* sank.

Shackleton and five others then set out in an open whale boat on a 16-day journey across dangerous waters of the Southern Ocean to the southern side of South Georgia Island.

They encountered stormy seas and hurricane force winds.

Shackleton and his party then made the first crossing of the island to seek help from people at a whaling station on the northern side of the island.

They pushed screws through their boots to help them climb dangerous mountain terrain to reach safety.

If that wasn't enough, Shackleton then led four separate relief expeditions over a four-month period to rescue all of his crew from Elephant Island.

Every member of his party survived.

It is easy to understand then while the wreck of *Endurance* is considered so important, and while scientists will return to the site to gather more underwater footage and study the ship.

But *Endurance* will remain on the sea bed, untouched, because under the international Antarctic Treaty it can not be disturbed in any way.

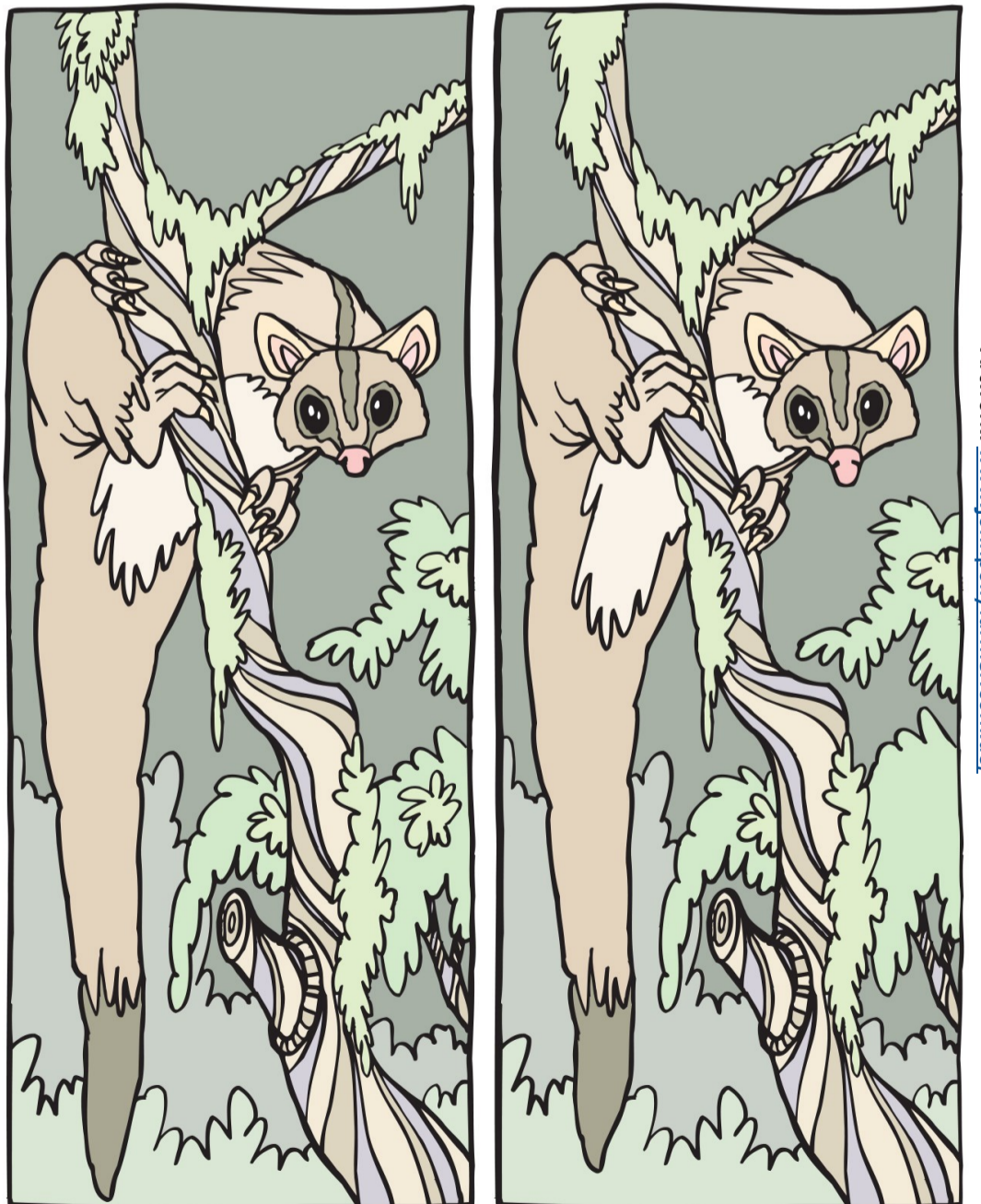
You might like to find out more about Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Imperial Trans-Atlantic Expedition, and the recent discovery of the ship.

Present your facts in a creative way.

Children's University Tasmania members can receive hours in their passports for the this challenge, at the discretion of their school/ hub coordinators.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are seven small differences between the first squirrel glider picture and the second one. See if you can spot them. The solution is below.



SOLUTION: 1. Lichen on branch at top changed, 2. Squirrel glider's underside changed, 3. Toe missing, 4. Tail shorter, 5. Nose bigger, 6. Stripe on back missing, 7. Background tree at right changed.

Artwork: www.johnpollyfarmer.com.au/