

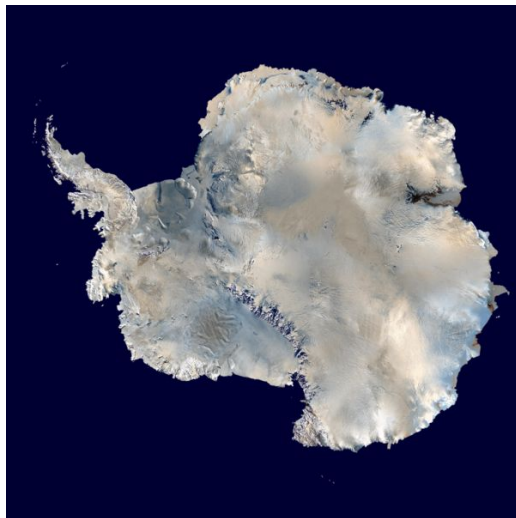
HMS Endurance Tracking Project 2007/8 – www.visitandlearn.co.uk



Communication Objectives of the Project

Many environmental impacts are the consequence of growing resource consumption created by the spread of industrialisation and affluence. Environmental improvement is therefore dependent on changes in public opinion and lifestyle choices.

The HMS Endurance Tracking Project seeks to support projects that counter environmental degradation by developing online partnerships with organisations such as BAS (British Antarctic Survey), FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), the Scott Polar Research Institute, the National Oceanographic Centre, the UK Hydrographic Office and many others.



While a young person may not be able to vote before the age of 18, they can still be encouraged to become a responsible citizen and make a positive contribution to the community in which they live - this is the basis of the Citizenship Curriculum. To help facilitate these changes, schools need to develop partnerships with organisations around them that already act for a better world, such as the Royal Navy.

By acting as a teaching 'tool' on the Internet, the HMS Endurance Tracking Project aims to allow young people the opportunity to see how the Royal Navy

shapes their lives beyond their military capabilities and support changes that are of global importance.

Description of the Project

HMS *Endurance* is a one-of-a-kind vessel – a Royal Navy ice-patrol ship deployed to the Antarctic for unique surveying and scientific work.

HMS *Endurance* is tasked by four main stakeholders: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and, of course, the Ministry of Defence. As such, she is an excellent example of cross-government co-operation, supporting the UK's role as a

key member of the Antarctic Treaty and a leading player in the science of the polar regions.

The UK has been involved in Antarctic exploration and science for more than 200 years; the Royal Navy played a formative role during the 'Heroic Age' of exploration in the early 20th century. From James Cook to James Clark Ross, to Captain Scott and Shackleton, the Royal Navy has been intimately involved in Antarctic matters.

Approximately 2.5 times the size of continental USA, Antarctica is the world's highest, coldest and windiest continent. Although its ice cap contains 75 per cent of the globe's fresh water (and 90 per cent of its ice), very low precipitation means much of this remote, inhospitable continent is classed as desert.

Antarctica is an engine of our environment; the processes there are inextricably linked to the oceans and the world's climate, and affect living conditions thousands of miles away in the northern hemisphere. Its ice cap (in some places up to 4km deep) contains a 500,000-year-old climate record with an archive of ice-trapped air bubbles indicating global pollution levels and ozone depletion through time. Studies of the ice sheet's behaviour are vital to our understanding of climate change and sea-level rise, while the rich fauna of the Southern Ocean provides vital evidence of the impact of global warming.

HMS *Endurance*'s mission is 'to patrol and survey the Antarctic and South Atlantic, maintaining Sovereign Presence with Defence Diplomacy and supporting the global community of Antarctica'. This encapsulates the requirements of her major stakeholders and the planning that underpins her annual deployments to Antarctica.

HMS *Endurance* has two ice-modified Lynx Mk 3 helicopters that enable the ship to support BAS fieldcamps in remote areas of the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and the South Shetlands whose scientists are working on four of BAS's eight core scientific programmes.

From 28th November 2007, the website will contain information such as the current track of HMS *Endurance*'s deployment (including maps); information on her work in Antarctica with BAS (British Antarctic Survey); the locations visited on route, as well as a diary from the Ship, photographs, and Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 Science, Geography and Citizenship supporting material which is added each week.

Children can also use the website to ask the ship a question about Antarctica or other aspects of HMS *Endurance*'s deployment.

Geographical region: Antarctica, South Africa, West Africa, South Atlantic, Southern Ocean, UK.

World History period: Ancient History, 18th Century, 19th Century, 20th Century, 21st Century.

The HMS *Endurance* Tracking Project: www.visitandlearn.co.uk