

National Science and Engineering Week

National Science and Engineering Week **7-16 March 2008** (formerly National Science Week) is an opportunity for people of all ages, areas and organisations to take part in science, engineering and technology activities.

HMS Endurance's contribution to National Science Week will be available on www.visitandlearn.co.uk and www.port.ac.uk/thebigfreeze

National Science and Engineering Week project supported by:



Press Release – 25th February 2008

SCIENCE COMES TO LIFE WITH ROYAL NAVY ICE PATROL VESSEL HMS ENDURANCE

Dame Ellen MacArthur, the Royal Navy and the University of Portsmouth are breathing new life into science lessons for seven - 11 year olds.

Dame Ellen MacArthur and the Royal Navy have joined forces with the University of Portsmouth to create an exciting and new educational partnership, which will be launched in time to support National Science and Engineering Week in March.

Pupils will find their science lessons being brought to life by a series of easy to use downloadable worksheets that will allow them to build their own weather stations, create erupting volcanoes, and build and fly model albatrosses in the project named **BIG FREEZE: SCIENCE FROM ANTARCTICA.**

Experienced in the oceanography, meteorology and climatology of Antarctica, the Royal Navy's Ice Patrol Ship, HMS Endurance will be the focus of a series of National Curriculum supporting Key Stage 2 worksheets in partnership with the University of Portsmouth and supported by round-the-world yachtswoman, Dame Ellen MacArthur.

The downloadable worksheets and lesson plans for 7 - 11 year olds will be available on the **HMS Endurance Tracking Project** www.visitandlearn.co.uk and on the **University of Portsmouth's** website www.port.ac.uk/thebigfreeze from **Thursday 28th February.**

The University of Portsmouth is involved in the partnership through its UP for It Juniors scheme which is aimed at inspiring and engaging children aged from 7 - 11. The scheme focuses on raising attainment and aspirations through a wide range of activities including visits to the University and the provision of exciting educational resources.

As part of her role as an Honorary Royal Naval Reservist, Dame Ellen has joined forces with the Royal Navy and the University of Portsmouth in this unique project as she is passionately committed to raising awareness of the plight of the albatross in Antarctica.

Dame Ellen said:

"I was lucky enough to spend time in Antarctica in 2005/6. It is a wonderful, wild unique place, so full of nature and history. Spending time on Albatross Island was magical, and I felt hugely privileged to spend some time with these magnificent birds. I could not believe how beautiful they are. I really had the impression that we were in their world."

"HMS Endurance gave me the chance to fly in one of their helicopters and this gave the island a whole new perspective for me, not only seeing the huge glaciers flowing across the island towards the sea, but to begin to comprehend the vastness of this awesome place."

"It really made me aware that we need to work hard to save these graceful and incredible birds by raising awareness of the dangers of long line fishing, the birds get caught on huge lines when trying to take bait from hooks - resulting in 10,000 deaths annually. The current trend will lead to extinction, so we need to give these birds the best chance we can."

Admiral Sir Jonathon Band KCB ADC, First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff said:

'Improving our understanding of the natural world is a common theme of many of HMS Endurance's activities supporting the work of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). Much of the work of BAS is concerned with understanding the Antarctic environment, leading to a greater awareness of the global ecosystem and the impact human activity has on it.'

I am immensely proud of the work Endurance is doing in Antarctica as she proves her flexibility and versatility, time and time again, making an important contribution to international co-operation and science, and now the National Science and Engineering Week'.

Speaking from onboard HMS Endurance, Captain Bob Tarrant, commented,

"We are passionate about the role we play for the Royal Navy, which is unique amongst the world's navies, and the contribution that HMS Endurance makes to global scientific output and research."

"We are looking forward to supporting National Science Week with the University of Portsmouth and Dame Ellen MacArthur as our combined knowledge will really bring Antarctica to life, helping children to understand some of the issues this amazing continent currently faces."

The university's curriculum development co-ordinator Peter Wright said: *"These resources are all about doing science. Children get to see science in action in one of the most extreme environments on our planet and then they get to carry out their own experiments. So, whether it's making and using a wind vane or experimenting with their own volcano, they get to see science in context."*

"The resources also contain an important environmental message, showing children how research in Antarctica tells us about climate change. There's also a focus on the plight of the albatross and how human activities are affecting the numbers of these majestic birds."

About DAME ELLEN MacARTHUR – Ellen MacArthur was the youngest person ever to complete the Vendée Globe race, a non-stop voyage through some of the world's most perilous seas. She did so back in 2001, when she became the fastest woman ever to complete a solo non-stop circumnavigation of the globe. And then, in 2005, she went one better. A 27,354-nautical mile voyage round the world took her 71 days, 14 hours, 18 minutes and 33 seconds, and saw Ellen become the fastest single-handed round-the-globe-sailor in history.

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About HMS ENDURANCE - HMS Endurance is the sole Ice Patrol Vessel of the Royal Navy. She spends over half of each year in the freezing conditions of Antarctica and the South Atlantic for unique surveying and scientific work. Although HMS Endurance is a Royal Navy ship, her mission is peaceful – *'To patrol and survey the Antarctic and South Atlantic, maintaining Sovereign Presence with Defence Diplomacy and supporting the global community of Antarctica'*.

Media contact for HMS Endurance: Interviews with Royal Navy personnel and imagery of HMS ENDURANCE can be arranged through the FLEET HQ Media & Comms Newsdesk: Tel: 02392 628825/5381.

About the UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH - The University of Portsmouth is now at the forefront of a rapidly changing, thriving city, with a modern diverse campus, taking pride in its reputation for the provision of a well-structured and supportive learning environment.

UP for It Juniors, UP for It and UP for the Future, comprise the University of Portsmouth's range of programmes for 7-11, 11 -16 and 17 - 19 year olds respectively. Each of the schemes aims to raise the aspirations of its members and increase awareness of the opportunities available to them in Higher Education. Members get the chance to visit the University, take part in a wide range of practical workshops and find out more about what University can offer before deciding what to do with the rest of their lives.

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