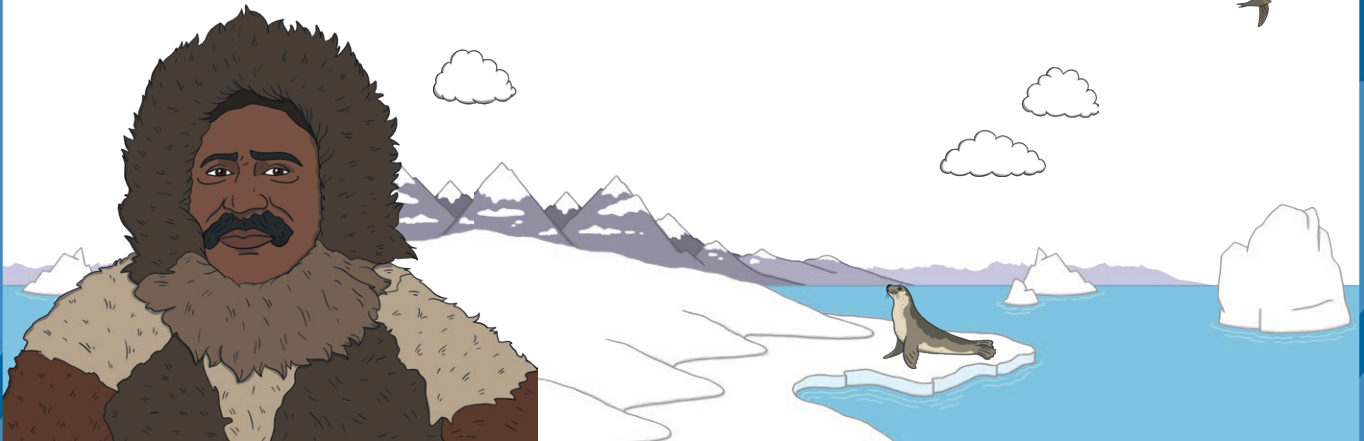


# Matthew Henson

Matthew Henson was born in 1866. He was an explorer.

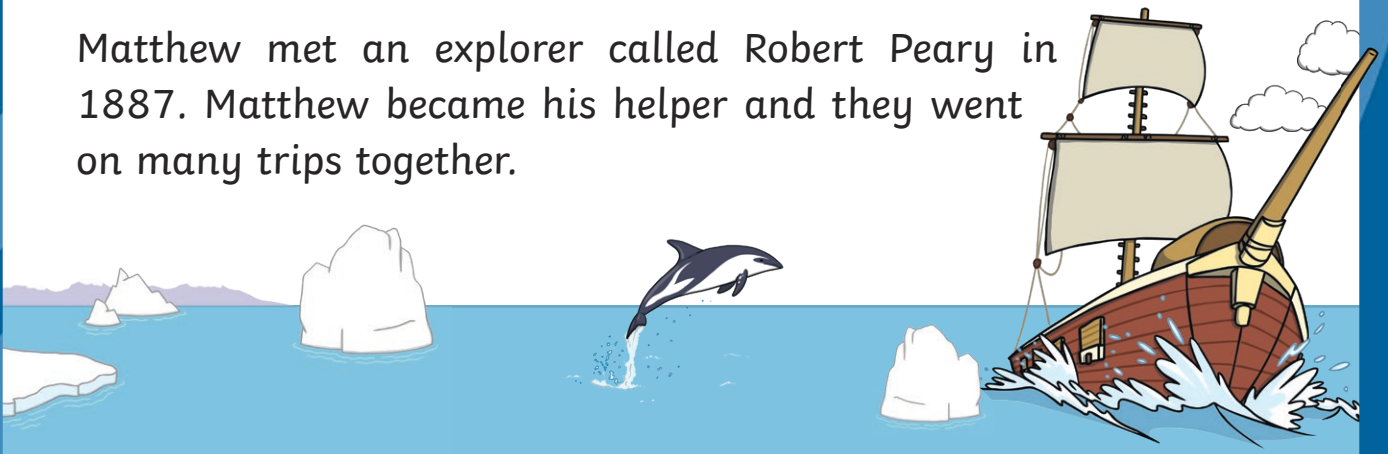


## Matthew as a Child

Matthew got a job on a ship. He was about 12 years old. The captain of the ship showed him how to plan trips.

## Exploring

Matthew met an explorer called Robert Peary in 1887. Matthew became his helper and they went on many trips together.



## The North Pole



Matthew and Robert tried to reach the North Pole many times. They got to the North Pole on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1909. Matthew may have been the first person to find the North Pole. People did not believe him.

Matthew and the team got a medal in 1944.

# Questions

1. What was Matthew Henson? Tick one.

- a doctor
- an explorer
- a teacher

2. What did the captain of the ship show Matthew? Tick one.

- how to plan trips
- how to steer the ship
- how to clean the ship

3. When did Matthew meet Robert Peary? Tick one.

- 1866
- 1870
- 1887

4. Who may have been the first person to find the North Pole? Tick one.

- Robert
- Matthew
- the team

5. What were Matthew and the team given for their work? Tick one.

- a cup
- a flag
- a medal

# Answers

1. What was Matthew Henson? Tick one.

- a doctor
- an explorer**
- a teacher

2. What did the captain of the ship show Matthew? Tick one.

- how to plan trips**
- how to steer the ship
- how to clean the ship

3. When did Matthew meet Robert Peary? Tick one.

- 1866
- 1870
- 1887**

4. Who may have been the first person to find the North Pole? Tick one.

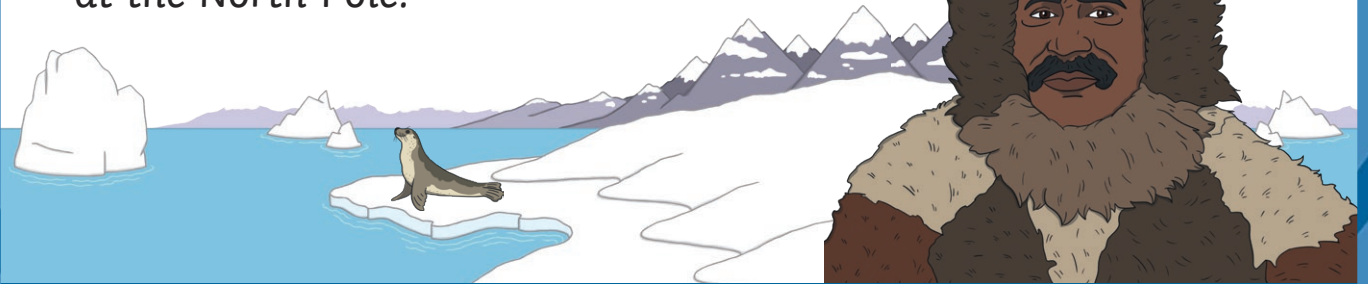
- Robert
- Matthew**
- the team

5. What were Matthew and the team given for their work? Tick one.

- a cup
- a flag
- a medal**

# Matthew Henson

Matthew Henson was born in August 1866 in the USA. Matthew was known for being an explorer and may have been the first person to ever stand at the North Pole.

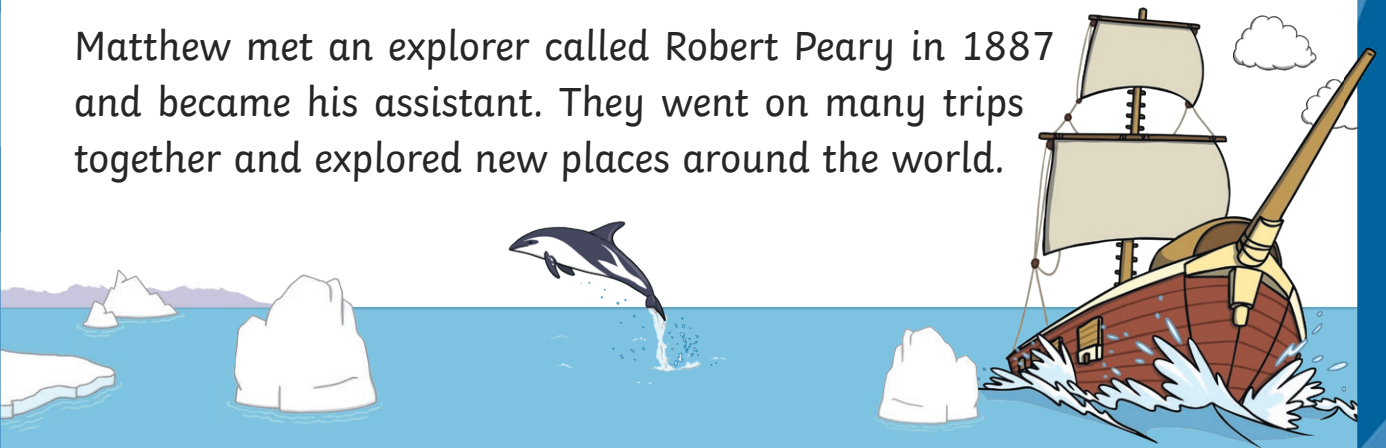


## Matthew as a Child

Matthew lived in Washington with different members of his family. He got a job on a ship when he was about 12 years old. The captain of the ship taught him how to read, write and plan trips.

## Matthew as an Explorer

Matthew met an explorer called Robert Peary in 1887 and became his assistant. They went on many trips together and explored new places around the world.

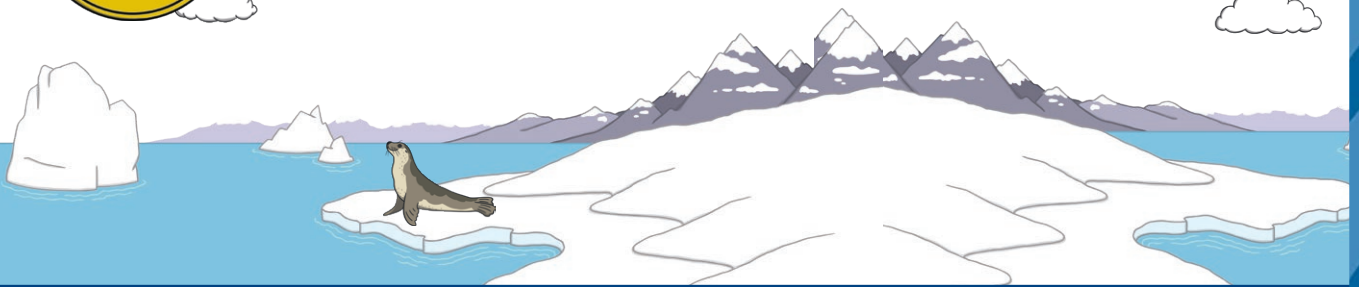


## Reaching the North Pole

Matthew and Robert tried to reach the North Pole many times. They set off on their last trip in 1908. It was a hard journey so many men gave up and turned back. It took many months but they finally reached the North Pole on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1909.



It is thought that Matthew might have been the first person to find the North Pole. Robert said that he was the first person to find the North Pole and people believed him. Matthew and the rest of the team were finally given a medal for their work in 1944.



# Questions

1. Where was Matthew Henson born? Tick one.

- England
- the USA
- the North Pole

2. What was Matthew Henson known for?

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3. Fill in the missing word.

The captain of the ship taught him how to read, write and \_\_\_\_\_ trips.

4. Number the events from 1-3 to show the order that they happened in.

- Matthew met the explorer Robert Peary.
- Matthew and Robert tried to reach the North Pole.
- Matthew got a job on a ship.

5. Which **two** things were true about their last trip in 1908? Tick **two**.

- They reached the North Pole in June.
- Many men gave up and turned back.
- The journey took many months.

# Answers

1. Where was Matthew Henson born? Tick one.

- England
- the USA**
- the North Pole

2. What was Matthew Henson known for?

**Matthew Henson is known for being an explorer.**

3. Fill in the missing word.

The captain of the ship taught him how to read, write and **plan** trips.

4. Number the events from 1-3 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** Matthew met the explorer Robert Peary.
- 3** Matthew and Robert tried to reach the North Pole.
- 1** Matthew got a job on a ship.

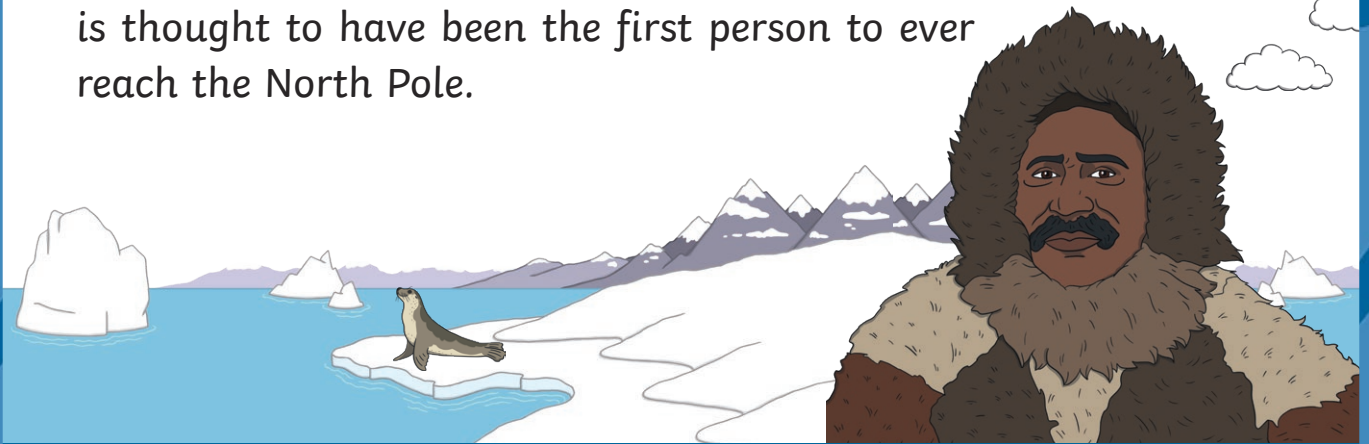
5. Which **two** things were true about their last trip in 1908? Tick **two**.

- They reached the North Pole in June.
- Many men gave up and turned back.**
- The journey took many months.**



# Matthew Henson

Matthew Henson was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1866 in Maryland in the USA. Matthew is best known for being an explorer and he is thought to have been the first person to ever reach the North Pole.

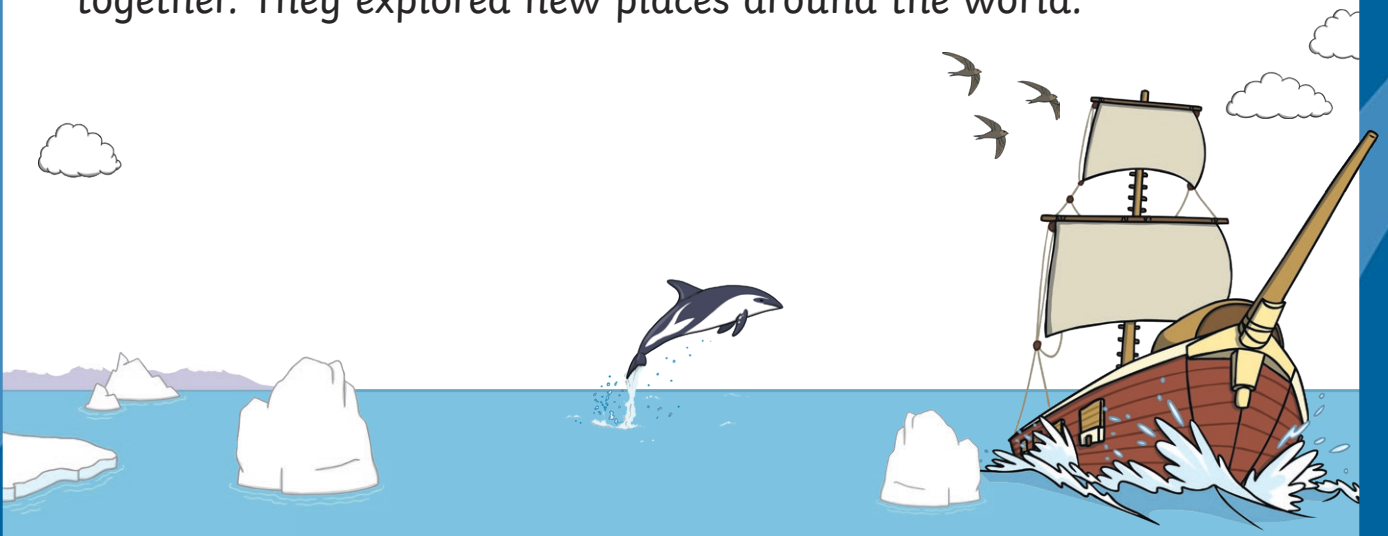


## What Was Matthew's Childhood Like?

Matthew lived in Washington with different members of his family when he was a child. He was an orphan. Matthew got a job as a cabin boy on a ship when he was around 12 years old. The captain of the ship taught him how to read, write and plan routes.

## How Did Matthew Become an Explorer?

In 1887, Matthew was working in a shop when he met Robert Peary. Robert was an officer in the navy and an explorer. Matthew became Robert's assistant and they went on many expeditions together. They explored new places around the world.





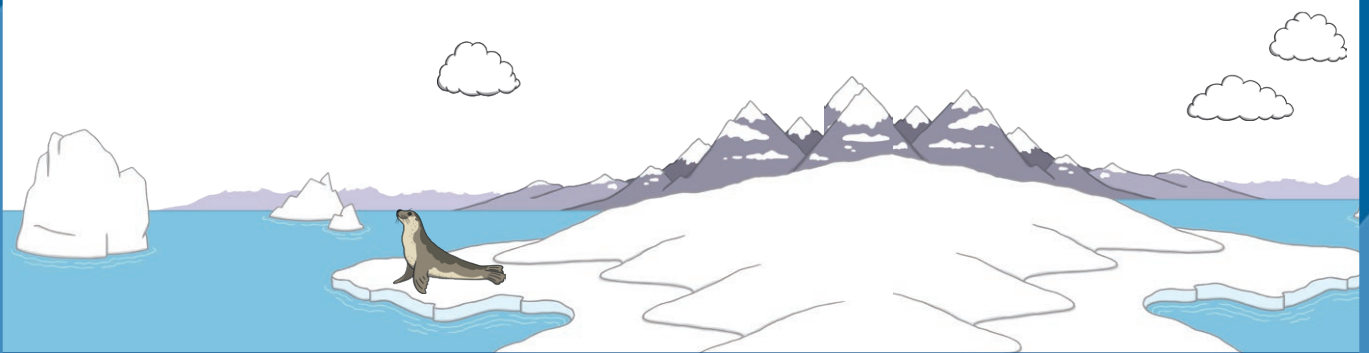
## When Did Matthew Reach the North Pole?

Matthew and Robert tried and failed to reach the North Pole many times. In 1908, they set off on their eighth and final expedition. It was a very difficult journey so many men gave up and turned back along the way. The journey took many months but they finally reached the North Pole on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1909. It is thought that the team did not stay together and that Matthew was the first person to find the North Pole. Robert disagreed and said that he was the first person to reach their destination. Matthew's success was ignored for many years.

## When Was Matthew's Work Remembered?

Matthew was a skilled explorer and played a very important role in the team that reached the North Pole. Only six men had managed to finish the journey but no one talked about Matthew's part in the trip until 1937.

Finally, Matthew and the rest of the team were given a Congressional Medal to celebrate their work in 1944.



# Questions

1. Fill in the missing word.

Matthew Henson was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1866 in \_\_\_\_\_  
in the USA.

2. What did the captain of the ship teach Matthew?

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3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happened. The first one has been done for you.

- Matthew met an explorer called Robert Peary.
- 1 Matthew got a job as a cabin boy on a ship.
- Matthew and Robert reached the North Pole in 1909.
- Matthew became Robert's assistant.

4. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'not noticed or thought about'.

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5. Which **two** things are true about the final expedition? Tick **two**.

- Many men gave up on the journey and turned back.
- The team reached the North Pole in August 1909.
- Only six men managed to finish the journey to the North Pole.

6. Why did only six men manage to complete the journey to the North Pole?

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# Answers

1. Fill in the missing word.

Matthew Henson was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1866 in **Maryland** in the USA.

2. What did the captain of the ship teach Matthew?

**The captain of the ship taught Matthew how to read, write and plan routes.**

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happened. The first one has been done for you.

**2** Matthew met an explorer called Robert Peary.

**1** Matthew got a job as a cabin boy on a ship.

**4** Matthew and Robert reached the North Pole in 1909.

**3** Matthew became Robert's assistant.

4. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'not noticed or thought about'.

**ignored**

5. Which **two** things are true about the final expedition? Tick **two**.

**Many men gave up on the journey and turned back.**

The team reached the North Pole in August 1909.

**Only six men managed to finish the journey to the North Pole.**

6. Why did only six men manage to complete the journey to the North Pole?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that only six men managed to complete the journey to the North Pole because it was so difficult and took many months.**