

All About

Modern Explorers



twinkl

Explorers

An explorer is someone who explores a new or unfamiliar area.
You may already know about explorers, such as:



Christopher Columbus



Captain Cook



Sir Francis Drake

These explorers discovered and explored new lands around the world.

We are going to learn about some modern explorers who have done amazing things on their travels.

Ellen MacArthur

Ellen MacArthur is a British sailor. She was born in 1976, in a small village in Derbyshire. Her first experience of sailing was when she was just a child – she went out to sea on her aunt's boat. From then on, Ellen wanted to get her own boat. So, she saved her school dinner money for three years and finally managed to buy her first boat.

After Ellen had finished school, she worked at a sailing school in Hull. At 17 years old, she bought another boat called Iduna.



Think
About
It

How do you think Ellen felt when she bought her first boat?

Sailing Alone

In 1995, aged 19 years old, Ellen sailed around Great Britain on her own.

In 2001, Ellen decided she wanted to do more sailing and exploring. So, she completed a special sailing race in which she sailed all around the world single-handed. She was the youngest person in the race and came second.



Think
About
It

How do you think Ellen felt during the race?

Around the World

In 2004, Ellen set off on an even bigger adventure.

She sailed around the **whole world** on her own!

After 71 days, Ellen had sailed 26,000 miles and became the fastest person to sail around the world on their own.



Think
About
It

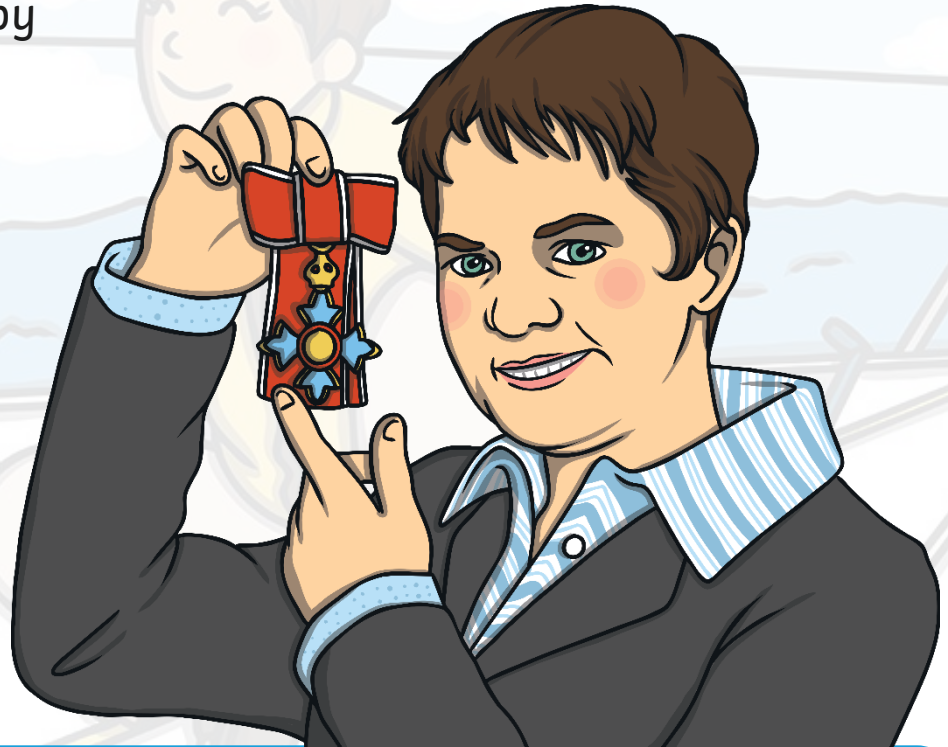
What sort of things do you think Ellen had to deal with while she sailed around the world with no one to help her?

Dame Ellen MacArthur

In 2005, Ellen was knighted by The Queen.

Ellen became **Dame Ellen MacArthur**.

Ellen has retired from professional sailing now.



Think
About
It

Ellen launched a charity in 2003 which helps to take young people sailing while they recover from an illness. It is to help them get their confidence back after being poorly.

David de Rothschild

David de Rothschild is an explorer who works hard to raise awareness about environmental problems.

He was born in 1978.

In 2006, David became the youngest British person to reach both the North Pole in the Arctic and the South Pole in the Antarctic. He spent 100 days crossing the Arctic in extremely cold weather.



Think
About
It

What do you think travelling across the Arctic was like?

Greenland

David was part of a team – they held the record for crossing the Greenland ice caps in the quickest amount of time.



Think
About
It

Which animals do you think David might have seen in the Arctic?

Plastiki

David de Rothschild is very interested in recycling and how plastic is affecting our planet.

In 2012, David made a trip in a type of boat called a catamaran, which was named Plastiki. Part of it was made from 12,500 recycled plastic bottles. The batteries were powered by solar energy (energy from the sun) and even the glue used on the boat was made from cashew nuts and sugar.



He and the rest of the crew spent two months sailing the boat from America to Australia, telling people all about the importance of recycling plastic and looking after our planet.

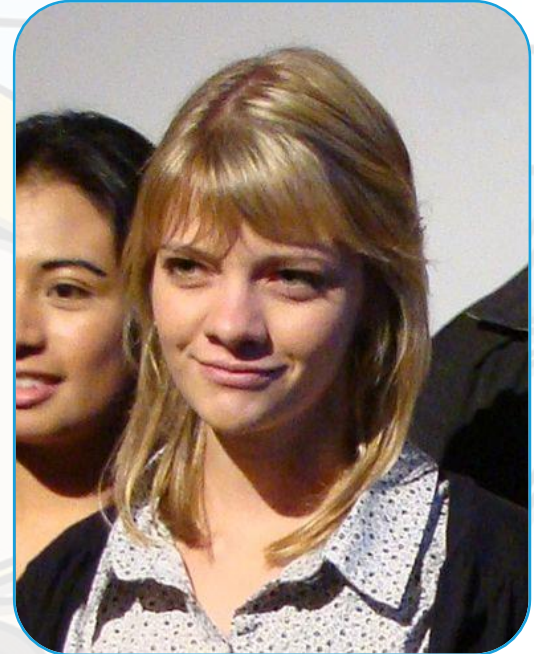
Think
About
It

Why is it important for us to look after our planet?

Jessica Watson

Jessica Watson was born in Australia in 1993.

When she was 13 years old, Jessica told her mum and dad that she wanted to explore and sail around the world on her own!



Think
About
It

Would you want to sail around the world on your own? What might it be like?

Nearly a Disaster

When she told everyone she was ready to explore and sail around the world, Jessica was just 16 years old and a lot of people thought that she was too young to go. However, she had a lot of training before the trip and she was well prepared.

Before she set sail on her boat, called Ella's Pink Lady, it collided with a carrier ship. Jessica managed to fix the broken mast herself and this gave her the confidence to carry on.



Facing Problems

On the 18th October 2009, Jessica set off from Sydney in Australia on her sailing adventure around the world on her own.

During the trip, Jessica faced storms with waves reaching 15ft high! She also had times when the boat was rolled upside down by the waves and some days when there was no wind and she couldn't sail very far at all.



Think
About
It

Why do you think Jessica carried on when things went wrong?

Success!

After spending 210 days at sea, Jessica returned to Sydney on 15th May 2010, three days before her birthday.

Huge crowds of people cheered and greeted Jessica.



Think
About
It

How do you think Jessica felt when she returned home?

Jessica Now

Jessica was named **Australian Young Person of the Year** in 2011.

She has also been to university, worked with a number of charities and carried on sailing.



"Jessica Watson Sydney" by [Life@Microsoft Australia] is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

