

# Who Was Really First to the South Pole?

The race to the South Pole was one of the most epic and dangerous adventures in human history. Two teams, led by Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott, set out to be the first to reach the geographic South Pole. Amundsen's team reached the pole first, on December 14, 1911, just over a month ahead of Scott's team. But who was really first to the South Pole?



## Neither Amundsen Nor Scott: Who Was Really First to the South Pole? by Mick Harney

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The answer to this question is not as simple as it seems. Both Amundsen and Scott made valid claims to have reached the pole first. Amundsen's team was the first to reach the geographic South Pole, but Scott's team was the first to reach the magnetic South Pole. So, who was really first to the South Pole?

## Roald Amundsen

Roald Amundsen was a Norwegian explorer who led the first expedition to reach the South Pole. He was born in Borge, Norway, on July 16, 1872. Amundsen began his career as a sailor, but he soon became interested in exploration. In 1903, he led an expedition to the Arctic, and in 1906, he led an expedition to the Antarctic. In 1911, Amundsen led an expedition to the South Pole. His team reached the pole on December 14, 1911, just over a month ahead of Scott's team.

Amundsen's expedition was a success due to a number of factors. First, Amundsen had a well-prepared team. He chose experienced explorers who were physically fit and mentally tough. Second, Amundsen had a well-planned route. He chose a route that was relatively safe and that would allow his team to make good progress. Third, Amundsen had the best equipment available. He used skis and sleds to travel across the ice, and he had warm clothing and food to keep his team alive.

### **Robert Falcon Scott**

Robert Falcon Scott was a British explorer who led the second expedition to reach the South Pole. He was born in Devonport, England, on June 6, 1868. Scott began his career as a naval officer, but he soon became interested in exploration. In 1901, he led an expedition to the Antarctic, and in 1910, he led an expedition to the South Pole. Scott's team reached the pole on January 17, 1912, just over a month after Amundsen's team.

Scott's expedition was a tragedy. On the return journey from the pole, Scott and his team became trapped in a blizzard. They ran out of food and fuel, and they all died. Scott's death was a major blow to British pride, and it led to a reassessment of the risks of polar exploration.

## Who Was Really First to the South Pole?

So, who was really first to the South Pole? Amundsen or Scott? The answer is not as simple as it seems. Both Amundsen and Scott made valid claims to have reached the pole first. Amundsen's team was the first to reach the geographic South Pole, but Scott's team was the first to reach the magnetic South Pole. Ultimately, it is up to each individual to decide who they believe was really first to the South Pole.

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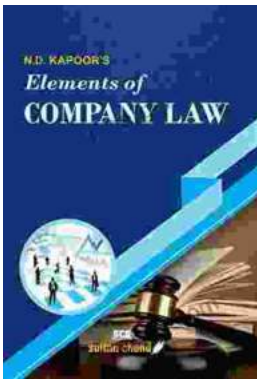
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