

Belgian Antarctic Expedition (1897-1899)

- * Amundsen went to sea at age of 15 reaching rank of mate (much like Nansen).
- * Read all books on polar exploration –immersed in preparations for life as polar explorer and obtained skipper’s license.
- * Joined Adrien de Gerlaches’ 1899 *Belgica* Expedition to Antarctica as First Mate at age of 25.
- * *Belgica* goal to locate South Magnetic Pole’s position during a summer cruise.
- * First ship’s crew to go on land (Palmerland on Peninsula) and overwinter in Antarctica.
- * De Gerlache and ship’s capt. died of scurvy.
- * Trapped in Bellingshausen Sea ice for over 1 yr., Frederick Cook and Amundsen led crew to safety.

