

# WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHO?

THE  
POLAR MUSEUM

SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE



## GEOLOGICAL HAMMER

This hammer was used in the Antarctic to break rocks.

The head of the hammer is metal. The short wooden handle has a hole at one end with a leather thong through it.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Geological hammers could also be used for other things. Over a century ago, a group of six men became stranded and were running out of food. Worried that they would starve, they used their geological hammers to throw up in the air in the hope of killing sea birds to eat. Thankfully all the men in the group survived. The birds weren't so lucky.

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE OBJECT:** [bit.ly/PM-Y-2010-34-2](https://bit.ly/PM-Y-2010-34-2)

**SHORT FILM ABOUT THIS OBJECT:** [www.vimeo.com/polarmuseum/science](https://www.vimeo.com/polarmuseum/science)

**DOWNLOAD A HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGE:** [bit.ly/PM-resources](https://bit.ly/PM-resources)

Accession number: Y: 2010/34/2 – Dimensions: width 135mm, length: 280mm, depth: 30mm

This object is part of the collection at the Polar Museum, Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge – see more online at: [www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum](http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum)

# ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM



Visit our website for a short film about this object, high resolution image and more: [www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum](http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum)

BACKGROUND	ACTIVITY IDEA	RESOURCES	CURRICULUM LINKS
Geological research in the Antarctic has shown that over 500 million years ago Antarctica was joined to Africa, Australia, India and South America.	Cut up a map of the world and see if you can piece together Africa, Australia, India, South America and the Antarctic. Discuss why they are no longer connected. What do they think happened? Work out how long ago the pieces broke apart on a timeline.	Copies of world map, scissors, calculators, glue	GEOGRAPHY: location, plate tectonics and movement, Gondwanaland MATHS: time, scale, subtraction, addition, division of large numbers
As well as being the coldest place on earth, Antarctica also has active volcanoes. Igneous rocks are formed by volcanic action.	Imagine that you are climbing Mount Erebus to study the volcano and collect some igneous rock samples. What sort of equipment would you need to pack? What sort of experiments might you want to do?	Image: <a href="http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/picturelibrary/catalogue/article/p54.16.108/">www.spri.cam.ac.uk/picturelibrary/catalogue/article/p54.16.108/</a>	SCIENCE: rocks and volcanoes, planning experiments, theories, predictions
The search party that went looking for Captain Scott found 35lbs (approximately 17.5Kg) of rocks and fossils on the sledge outside Scott's tent. The men had been determined to keep the rocks because of their scientific importance.	Homework: collect rocks, then sort, group and classify them. Are there any igneous rocks? Weigh the rocks, work out the total weight. If you were only allowed to carry half of that weight, which ones would you take back?	Image, rock samples: <a href="http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/catalogue/article/y80.1/">www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/catalogue/article/y80.1/</a> Image, collecting rocks in Antarctica <a href="http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/picturelibrary/catalogue/article/p48.14.14/">www.spri.cam.ac.uk/picturelibrary/catalogue/article/p48.14.14/</a>	MATHS: weight, addition SCIENCE: classification and labelling
In 1912 a group of Scott's men climbed up the Antarctic volcano, Mount Erebus. They were there to study the volcano and collect rocks to help with their research.	Write a diary entry for this day in 1912. What does it feel like to climb a volcano? In 2012 their camp was discovered by another geologist. Read his account. What would the men of 1912 have thought about this?	Image, at the top of Mt Erebus: <a href="http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/picturelibrary/catalogue/article/p54.16.505/">www.spri.cam.ac.uk/picturelibrary/catalogue/article/p54.16.505/</a> News article: <a href="http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/heroic-age-campsite-location-discovered-near-summit-of-antarctic-volcano">www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/heroic-age-campsite-location-discovered-near-summit-of-antarctic-volcano</a>	LITERACY: diary writing,
The Scott Polar Research Institute was founded by the geologist Frank Debenham in order to continue the polar research that Scott had started.	Imagine that you are setting up your own research institute, what type of research would you want to support? Present your ideas to the rest of the group. Ask and answer questions about your ideas.	Image, Frank Debenham grinding geological specimens: <a href="http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/picturelibrary/catalogue/article/p2005.5.457/">www.spri.cam.ac.uk/picturelibrary/catalogue/article/p2005.5.457/</a>	PSHE: speaking and listening, performance, questioning, interviewing, assessment opportunity