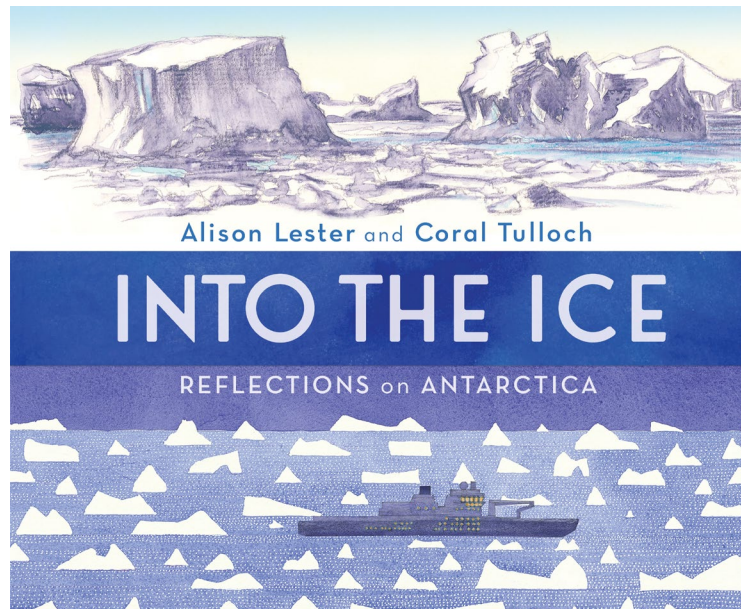


Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica

By Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch



Go on an extraordinary journey with Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch, two of Australia's most celebrated creators, as they share their reflections on Antarctica: sketches, writing, paintings, journal entries – their own and others'. This is a book for explorers and dreamers of all ages, and for anyone who wants to be inspired by the wonder of Antarctica.

RECOMMENDED FOR

8–14 (Upper Primary and Lower Secondary)

THEMES

Antarctica, history, explorers, inspiration, creative process

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A NOTE TO TEACHERS FROM THE AUTHORS

This is not an information book.

Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica can certainly be used alongside information books to showcase the human endeavour involved in the exploration of Antarctica, both historical and contemporary. But the book is an exploration, a reflection of the human response to this unique continent and what it means to those who have voyaged south. At the same time we hope it will instil in young readers a love for the continent that will continue long into the future.

We suggest that primary and secondary school teachers share the book with their class, allowing for discussion and interaction: then, if you wish to do further study, ask students to choose and research topics of particular interest, use other mediums and information books, and come back together again to discuss what they have discovered.

Topics might include the ocean, the animals of the south, the heroic era of exploration, the Antarctic Treaty and the responsibilities of signatories, human presence in the wilderness, social isolation, communication, the Subantarctic, climate change, future environmental roles and many other possibilities.

Antarctica is the only place on Earth where humans have worked together to create an incredible scientific preserve for us all. It is dedicated to peace and research, where environmental care is law, along with co-operation between nations, and war is banned. Antarctica belongs to us all.

This alone is extraordinary and a major reason to study the continent and what we have been able to achieve and hope to keep achieving for the future. It remains a continent of hope for us all, for our cooperation together, for our world's future.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Alison Lester grew up on a farm by the sea, and first rode a horse as a baby in her father's arms. Her picture books mix imaginary worlds with everyday life, encouraging children to believe in themselves and celebrate the differences that make them special. Alison is involved in many community art projects and spends part of every year travelling to remote Indigenous communities, using her books to help children and adults write and draw about their own lives. In 2012, Alison became Australia's first Children's Book Laureate, a position she shared with Boori Monty Pryor. In 2016, she was awarded the Dromkeen Medal for her outstanding achievement in the creation of Australian children's and young adult literature, and in 2018 she became the first children's book creator to win the Melbourne Prize for Literature, for her outstanding contribution to Australian literature and cultural and intellectual life. In 2019, Alison was awarded an Australia Post Legends Award and featured on a stamp, as well as being the recipient of a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List.

Coral Tulloch has illustrated over sixty fiction and non-fiction books for children in Australia and internationally, including *Touch the Moon* (written by Phil Cummings, published by Allen & Unwin), about the moon landing. Her books include *Antarctica: The Heart of the World* and *One Small Island*, which she created with Alison Lester. She has won the 2012 CBCA Book of the Year Award, as well as multiple Environment Awards for Children's Literature. Coral lives in Tasmania.



Literary Devices

Narrative voice is the voice (or voices) with which a story is told. It comes from the perspective of the person (or people) telling the story. Offering different voices and perspectives in a story will change the way readers view and perceive a narrative.

Invite students to compare and contrast narrative voices featured in *Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica*. How, for instance, are Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch's voices similar and how do they differ? How do their two voices work together to heighten the impact of the book? Does the voice of someone writing long ago – such as Jules Dumon D'Urville in 1847 (page 38) – have more or less authority than a contemporary writer like Barbara Wienecke, writing in 2023 (page 45)?

Consider also why Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch chose the quotes that feature in the book. Do these quotes feature first, second or third-person narrative? Does one form of narrative have a greater impact than the others? Do the quotes illustrate differences or similarities between people from different eras? Do they tend to be emotional or scientific? What does the quote by Admiral Richard E Byrd, 'I felt as though I'd been plumped on another planet, into another geologic horizon of which man had no knowledge or memory,' tell us about the impact that Antarctica had on him?

Visual Devices

Encourage students to examine how the book and its layout are designed. Some images are on a single page but much of the book features single images running across a double page. Formats vary widely, too: from photographs, sketches, paintings and even a page featuring a timeline. This variety makes the story come alive for the reader. Ask students to choose a spread they find visually interesting, and explain what it is about the spread that makes them feel that way.

Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica features an array of visual mediums including painting, drawing, photography, maps and certificates. Invite students to consider examples

of each from the book and choose which they think most effectively conveys information and/or evokes an emotional response. In their response encourage students to think about the role that colour, detail, framing and perspective might have had on them.

Science

Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica will stimulate students to seek out more scientific information. Prompt them with the following suggestions:

Read and view the differences between sea and continental (or land) ice.

Evaluate the role that the ice in Antarctica plays in keeping Earth's temperature stable.

Explain how climate change affects Antarctica's ice sheets and the Southern Ocean?

Research why krill is important to the ecosystem of the Southern Ocean?

Explain terms such as auroras, phenomena, weather, conditions.

Research how explorers like Shackleton survived the incredibly harsh conditions of Antarctica. Aligned with this, find out how expeditions today prepare for these conditions.

Discover how early explorers worked and lived together in confined spaces.

Imagine what this would be like. How would you survive, work and live with others?

Compile a list of the things you would take with you if you were planning to stay in Antarctica for a long period of time.

Find out the role that satellites play in enabling people in Antarctica to communicate today.

Choose a method of detailing your experiences in Antarctica. Would it be through a journal, a camera, a video, drawings, or all?

Research how scientists are studying Antarctica and the Southern Ocean to better understand and overcome challenges to our future, such as climate change.

Debate:

Debating will help students actively apply the information they have gathered from *Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica* and other information books by organising their research into coherent arguments and responding thoughtfully to opposing viewpoints. Here are two debate topics you might like to present to your class.

Should Antarctica remain a place for scientific research or should limited tourism and exploration (e.g. mining minerals) be allowed?

Should scientists be allowed to build more research stations in Antarctica?

Cross-Curriculum Priority: Sustainability

Into the Ice: Reflections on Antarctica provides an opportunity for students to consider (and further research) the ways they can help protect Antarctica. Some questions to pose to your class are:

Climate change affects our entire world, including Antarctica and the waters surrounding it. What do you think you could do at home or school, or in your wider community, to help reduce the effects of climate change?

How can reducing the use of plastic help protect the animals in the Southern Ocean around Antarctica?

Why is it important to tell other people about Antarctica and how we can protect it? What could you do to spread the message?