



IDEAS –

A Few Ways to Use *Captain Mac* with Middle School Students

Make up a crew of scientists to sail to the Arctic – geologist, biologist, ornithologist, meteorologist, botanist, anthropologist, zoologist, physicist, ichthyologist, oceanographer, taxidermist, etc. Each group of scientists share findings with the class.

Make an igloo.

Go on an expedition; explore the outdoors.

Learn to use a compass.

Research developments in technology: radio, airplanes, data collecting equipment, etc. Compare MacMillan's equipment with how we would collect data today.

Compare lists: what you would bring north with you today compared with what Mac took?

Learn about clothing worn in the Arctic.

Learn the Morse Code.

Compare/contrast Arctic vs. Antarctic.

Daylight vs. darkness: how many light days vs. dark days north of the Arctic Circle.

Compare our daylight hours with those in the Arctic.

Learn the different types of icebergs.

Study development of photography during MacMillan's exploring career (1908-1957).
Study global warming, glaciers receding.

Civil rights issues in 1909 when Matthew Henson came home from the North Pole compared with civil rights issues today.

What is a mirage?

Learn about Arctic animals, and how they survive.

Learn about Arctic plants.

Learn about MacMillan's Schooner *Bowdoin*, the official State of Maine sailing vessel, and historic landmark.

Pace out an area by counting steps, then make a map, as MacMillan did.

Collect weather data for a period of time and chart it.

Learn about magnetism at the North and South Poles.

Learn more about several explorers mentioned in the book: i.e., Elisha Kane, Sir John Franklin, Roald Amundsen, Adolphus Greely, Richard Byrd.

Learn more about the 1908-09 North Pole Expedition during which Robert Peary and Matthew Henson and 4 Inughuit men claimed to have reached the North Pole.

Learn more about the conflict between Robert Peary and Frederick Cook, who also claimed to have reached the Pole.