



# TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

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## Keep On! The Story of Matthew Henson Co-Discoverer of the North Pole

[TeachersFirst Reading Treks Link](#)

### **Synopsis of Book**

Shortly after the War Between the States, opportunities for African Americans were extremely limited. Despite this, Matthew Henson dreamed of adventure and a chance meeting with Admiral Peary lead to Matt becoming Peary's assistant. Sadly, cultural prejudices of the era kept Henson's name and accomplishments out of the media and history books.

### **Using a TeachersFirst Reading Trek to Explore This Book**

TeachersFirst Reading Treks are a way of creating a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this Instructional Guide and the accompanying Reading Trek as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

### **Grade Level & Content Areas**

Grades 1-4 for reading aloud or Grade 5 for independent reading, Ages 6-10. Reading, literature, social studies, including history and geography. Guided Reading Level: S. Lexile = AD 1080.

### **Common Core State Standards for K-6**

#### **Reading**

- **Informational Text** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)

- **Literature** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)

## Writing

- **Text Types and Purposes** (to support claims with evidence)
- **Research** (to build and present knowledge)

## ISTE: Student Standards

- (1) Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.
- (3) Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
- (6) Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

## National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- **Theme: CULTURE**
- **Theme: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE**
- **Theme: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENT**

## National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- **RESPONDING**

## Using the Reading Trek in Class

This title has connections to culture, people, places, and environment; additionally this text has history connections in the realm of time, continuity, and change.

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map, and highlighting Deborah Hopkinson's website and her layer as well as the layer for illustratator Stephen Alcorn.
2. View [Henson and Peary-PBS World Explorers](#). (5 minutes)
3. View [The Sled Dogs of the Arctic Circle](#) (7 minutes) ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
4. Construct a virtual timeline using [Timeline](#) by ReadWriteThink. See the [TeachersFirst review](#) with more ideas for using the tool. (If you'd like to learn more about using timelines with your students watch TeachersFirst's 90 minute OK2Ask free webinars [Tech Integration Made Easy with Sutori](#) or [3 Cool Tools for Timelines](#).)
5. Research and create a Then and Now Chart/Venn Diagram to compare and contrast sea travel for merchant ships. If you would like your students to create the chart or Venn

Diagram online, [Draw.io](#) ([TeachersFirst review](#)) is a good chart making tool with no registration necessary. If you're working with young students you may want to use this [Interactive Two Circle Venn Diagram](#). See the [TeachersFirst review](#) of the tool with more suggestions for using them in your classroom.

## Additional Activities

1. Use the Reading Trek for stimulating discussion, asking questions, or for writing prompts about traveling across the United States.
2. Create a packing list of the personal items needed/wanted during a transatlantic sail during the late 1800's as well as a packing list of current items for a cabin boy or girl.
3. Visit [Ducksters Native Americans](#) to learn more about the Inuit Peoples. There is a ten question quiz on the site also.
4. Create a book trailer about the book using [Sway](#) ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
5. Create a collection of short stories of personal perseverance.

## Helpful Resources

- [Deborah Hopkinson-Author and Speaker](#) and [The Alcorn Studio and Gallery](#).
- Book Trailer Examples found at [Kid Lit TV's Book Trailer Archives](#) or [Slime Kids](#).
- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: So Simple. So Slick. So Sway!](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Google MANIA - Google Maps: Make Learning a Journey with Reading Treks](#)