

Reading

What a year!

This week we're looking back at the year's top stories ...

We start in January when Lewis Clarke, from Bristol in the UK, made history by becoming the youngest person ever to reach the South Pole. While most other 16-year-old boys were playing computer games or hanging out with friends, Lewis was trekking on skis across the world's coldest and highest continent which is almost the size of Europe: Antarctica.

Before starting the 1,100-kilometre trek, Lewis had to convince his parents that he would be able to cope with the challenge and in the end they agreed to let him do it. So, he began his journey on December 2nd, two days after his 16th birthday. He trekked for almost 50 days with Carl Alvey, a polar guide, skiing for up to nine hours each day. The journey turned out to be more difficult at times than he had anticipated. Lewis had to put up with a broken ski, problems with his feet, a bad cough and severe blizzards. He also complained that the dried food was disgusting and that it tasted nothing like the flavours on the packet.

Lewis promised to talk to his parents and his younger brother using a satellite phone each week while he was away, and he did. He admits that this was difficult, but that it was good to have the contact with them during his lonely journey. Shortly before the end of his trek, Lewis also managed to speak to some of his school friends. He was really pleased to be able to talk to them and he explained that their support was really important to him as he prepared to set off on the final stage of his journey. They asked him questions about what he was eating and how cold it was (-50°C!). Lewis also insisted on keeping diary during his trek, but he admitted that it would be a few months before he felt ready to read what he had written.

Lewis explained that it was a strange feeling when he finally arrived at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. He said he felt both excited and very happy to be there since this was what he had worked towards for three years. However, Lewis said that his aim had always been to get there and that he hadn't actually thought about what it would feel like once he was there. He still can't quite believe that only 300 people have made the journey to the South Pole before him.

Lewis is no stranger to breaking records. In 2010, at the age of 12, he was part of the youngest team to swim across the English Channel. He came up with the idea of trekking to the South Pole after that because he said he needed a new challenge and he wanted to raise money for charity. According to Lewis,

the fact that he happened to be the youngest person to have done it means that his achievement is just a little bit more special.
What's next for Lewis? Watch this space!

1. Read the news story. Choose the correct alternative to complete the sentences.

→ **Lee la historia. Elige la alternativa correcta para completar las frases.**

1. Lewis made the journey with *his school friends / a special guide*.
2. During the journey, Lewis broke *one of his arms / skis*.
3. Lewis felt *excited and happy / lonely but happy* when he arrived to the destination.

2. Read the story again. Decide which sentences are true (TRUE) or false (FALSE).

→ **Lee la historia de nuevo. Decide que frase es verdadera o falsa. IMPORTANTE: Escriban la palabra completa → TRUE / FALSE.**

1. Lewi's 16th birthday was just before he set off on his journey → _____
2. Most days Lewis had to ski for more than nine hours → _____
3. Lewis was in regular contact with his family throughout the journey → _____
4. It took three years to plan and prepare the trek → _____
5. Lewis wrote a blog and updated it regularly while he was away → _____
6. This is not the first record that Lewis has broken → _____
7. Lewis doesn't feel his achievement was particularly special → _____