Robert Peary

http://gardenofpraise.com/ibdpeary.htm

Directions: Underline the words in the story as you find them, unscramble them and write them in the boxes below. When Robert Peary was a boy he would make 25-mile hikes every week. In 1898 he made his first attempt to reach the North Pole. He had prepared himself well for polar exploration by studying the Inuit people who were native to the land. From them he learned how to build igloos, drive a dog sled, and make warm clothing out of animal skins. On the first expedition eight of his toes froze and had to be removed. On his second expedition both his legs were broken in a ship accident, but still he pushed on. When he was 25 years old he joined the Navy, and after his eighth expedition he was promoted to the rank of Admiral . Sometimes he had trouble getting time off from his Naval duties to go on the expeditions. On his third trip to Greenland he discovered three of the world's largest meteorites . He gave lectures to raise money, and by 1908 he had raised enough to finance his eighth expedition. On the final part of the trip he was accompanied by five men; Matthew Henson, an African American, and four Inuits. On April 7, 1909 he realized his dream of reaching the North Pole. When he returned home, he learned that another man, Frederick Cook, claimed to have reached the pole a year earlier on April 21, 1908. Peary and his men tried to disprove Cook's claim. Cook was eventually pardoned, but his reputation was ruined. There was also controversy concerning Matthew Henson, who also claimed that while he was in Peary's party, he was the first one to reach the Pole location. Robert Peary died in 1920. He was 63 years old. Peary had a son by an Inuit woman. This son later visited his father's family and his gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

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