



ANSWERS

1. Robert Peary was an American explorer who claimed to have led the first successful expedition to the geographic North Pole.

2. Eight. He lost some toes on this first attempt. He learned he needed to reach a higher latitude by ship before setting off on sledges. He began his seventh expedition to the North Pole in July 1905 but was forced to turn back only 175 miles away from their goal. On his 8th try, helped by support parties, Peary, Matthew Henson, and four Eskimos reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

3. He found that five days earlier another explorer, Frederick A. Cook, once part of Peary's expedition, had claimed to have reached the North Pole in 1908. Peary challenged Cook's claim, and Peary was credited with the first North Pole visit for most of the twentieth century.

4. Peary claimed to have reached the North Pole in only 37 days, which some people doubted. The explorer Tom Avery recreated Peary's expedition in April of 2005, using the same materials and supplies that Peary used, and he made the trip in five hours less than Peary did, proving that Peary's claim may have been correct.