



Team Become the First Ever to Row to Antarctica

What is the Drake Passage?

- The Drake Passage is a stretch of water between Chile and Antarctica.
- It is known for being very stormy and dangerous to cross.

Six rowers have smashed world records and achieved something no one else has. They have rowed to Antarctica!

The Drake Passage is a **waterway** between Chile and Antarctica. In the past, it's been thought to be one of the most treacherous **stretches** in the world.

This is because it has huge waves and difficult weather. Unsurprisingly, it is also very cold!

On the 13th December, a team of six set out to row across the Drake Passage. It was called 'the impossible row.'

For just over 12 days, they rowed all day and all night. They took it in turns to row and slept on the rowing boat!

They **navigated** across 600 miles. That's about the length of the whole of the United Kingdom. It was often freezing cold and there were huge storms. Finally, on Christmas Day, the six men reached Antarctica.

Colin O'Brady was one of the rowers. On social media, he said it was "a moment I'll never forget."

"I'm extremely proud of the team," he wrote.

No one else has ever rowed across the Drake Passage. According to the Guinness World Records' website, they broke nine records!

One of those records was achieved by rower Fiann Paul. With 'the impossible row' he's become the first person to row on all five oceans!

For some of the team, it wasn't their first



Photo: Approaching Antarctica from the sea.

record. Colin O'Brady was the first person to cross Antarctica alone without support.

Over 100 years since the first person reached the South Pole, **adventurers** are still exploring the distant parts of our world.

Last year, two men used skis to cross the Arctic Circle. They finished their journey in complete darkness.

Who knows what amazing firsts people will achieve in the new decade?

Glossary

waterway	A route for travel by water.
stretches	A continuous area of land or water.
navigated	To have planned and travelled along a route, often by ship.
adventurers	A person who seeks adventure or wants to explore something new.

Questions

- 'In the past, it's been thought to be one of the most treacherous stretches in the world.'
Tick the word which is closest in meaning to 'treacherous' in this sentence.
 - dangerous
 - difficult
 - freezing
 - suspicious
- Do you think 'the impossible row' is a good name for this challenge? Explain your answer.

- 'Unsurprisingly, it is also very cold!'
Why do you think the author has described the temperature as 'unsurprising'?

- Find two world records achieved by 'the impossible row.'

1. _____

2. _____

- Draw lines to match each part of the story with the correct quotation from the text.

Past Achievements ●

● "The Drake Passage is a stretch of water between Chile and Antarctica."

The Challenging Stretch ●

● "For some of the team, it wasn't their first record."

The Journey Begins ●

● "On the 13th December, a team of six set out to row across the Drake Passage."

- Summarise this news story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. 'In the past, it's been thought to be one of the most treacherous stretches in the world.'
Tick the word which is closest in meaning to 'treacherous' in this sentence.

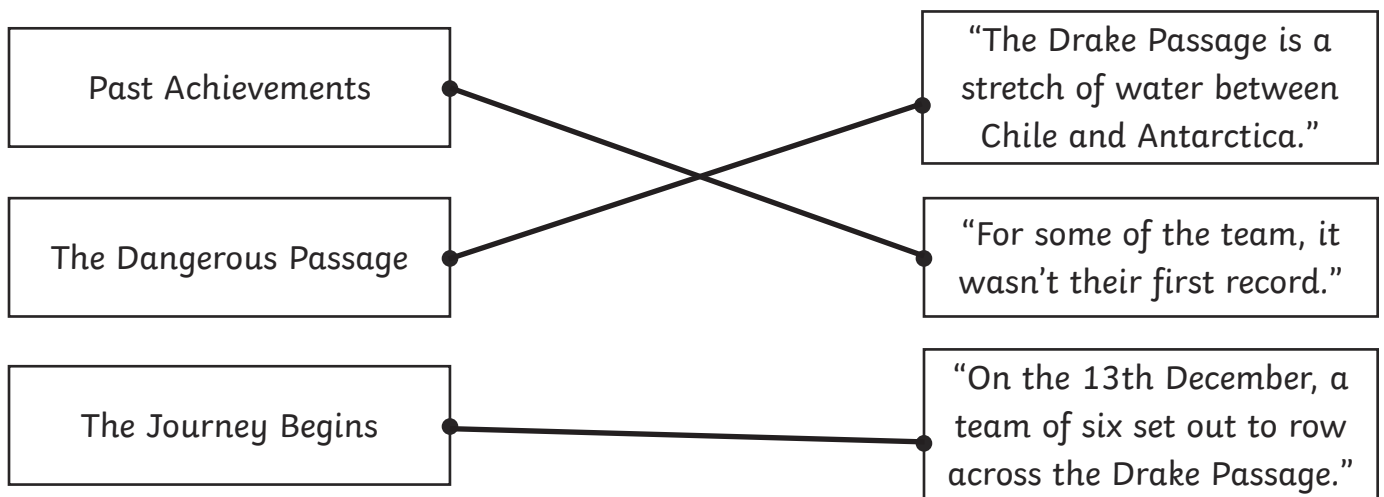
- dangerous**
- difficult
- freezing
- suspicious

2. Do you think 'the impossible row' is a good name for this challenge? Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the news story, e.g. I think it is a good name for the challenge because it is incredibly difficult to row across the Drake Passage.

3. 'Unsurprisingly, it is also very cold!'
Why do you think the author has described the temperature as 'unsurprising'?
Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the news story, e.g. I think the author describes the temperature as unsurprising because the Drake Passage is close to Antarctica.

4. Find two world records achieved by 'the impossible row.'
Accept any two from: they are the first to row to Antarctica, they are the first to across the Drake Passage or Fiann Paul became the first person to row on all five oceans.

5. Draw lines to match each part of the story with the correct quotation from the text.



6. Summarise this news story in 20 words or fewer.
Accept any reasonable summary which is 20 words or fewer, e.g. A team of six rowers are the first to row to Antarctica. It took them just over 12 days.