



So You Want to Be a Disciple?

Wayne Rice and Mike Yaconelli

What are the requirements for being a disciple of God? This skit, with a touch on the light side, will help the audience re-examine how they stand. The scene is an audition. Actors include a director, a stagehand, and eight people who audition to be a disciple. The dialogue that follows can be used as a guideline and actors can be encouraged to ad-lib their lines to fit their characters.



Scripture References:

Enter ye, in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life: a few there be that find it. Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)

For many are called, but few are chosen. Matthew 22:14 (KJV)

Director: Thank you for coming, ladies and gentlemen. As you know, we are auditioning for disciples to follow Jesus Christ. When your number is called, please step forward to the microphone and answer the questions.

Stagehand: Number one, please (*Person #1 steps to the microphone. She should obviously be a "glamour girl" type.*)

Director: State your name, please.

Person #1: (*Use real or fictitious names.*)

Director: Why do you want to be a disciple?

Person #1: Well, isn't this a beauty contest? I thought you would obviously want me. I'm so gorgeous!



Director: Thank you, Miss. Step back, please.

Stagehand: Number Two, please.

Director: State your name. (*He does.*) Louder, please. (*Again, he does.*) Thank you, Mr. _____. Why do you want to be a disciple?





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Person #2: Well, actually, I don't know. My mother made me come, and if I didn't show up, I'd get so much flack it wouldn't be worth it. I'm here because I have to be here.

Director: Thank you. You may step back.

Stagehand: Number Three, please.

Director: State your name, please. (*He does.*) And why to you want to be a disciple?

Person #3: Well, I'm really good at everything. I'm an honor student, a member of the basketball team, and first chair in band. You name it and I can do it. So, here I am.

Director: Thank you. Step back, please.

Stagehand: Number Four.

Director: Your name, please? (*He gives his name.*) What? (*Again, he gives his name.*) OK, Mr. _____, why do you want to be a disciple?

Person # 4: I need a job. I'm in trouble. I broke my bike. I need new shoes. Please, take me. I'll work hard. Honest!

Director: Thank you. Please step back.

Stagehand: Next, Number five.

Director: Number Five, state your name. (*She does*) Why do you want to be a disciple?

Person #5: Well, I'm not very good at anything, but if Jesus can use me, I'll do whatever He wants.

Director: Thank you, Miss _____. Step back.

Stagehand: Number Six.

Director: State your name. (*He does.*) Why do you want to be a disciple?





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Person #6: Well, I've been in Sabbath School and church for fourteen years. I go to prayer meeting on Tuesday, help out with Pathfinders on Thursday, help the Community Services ladies group when they meet, and I never miss anything. I know what discipleship means.

Director: And what does it mean?

Person #6: To be a follower—I follow all my friends and know when everything meets.

Director: Thank you, step back.

Stagehand: Number Seven, please.



Director: State your name, please. *(She does.)* And why do you want to be a disciple?

Person #7: I don't have an option. I've decided to follow Christ, and he has commanded me to go and to make disciples. And to make disciples, I guess I have to be one.

Director: Thank you, Miss _____. Step back, please.

Stagehand: Number Eight, step forward.

Director: State your name, please. *(very shy response)*. Don't be afraid. Say your name loud and clear. *(He does.)* O.K., why do you want to be a disciple?

Person #8: I don't understand what it means, but I want to know Jesus better and I was hoping you would help me.

Director: Thank you. Step back, please. I'd like to ask all of you to leave the room for a moment, while I discuss the decision with my associates. *(They all leave)*

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[At this point in the skit, it is possible to take a break, and allow the audience to form small groups and discuss what they think the qualifications of being a disciple would be, and perhaps to choose which of these candidates they think would be best.]



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The director appears to be thinking, then makes up his mind and goes to the stagehand and mumbles something. The Stagehand leaves to bring back Numbers One, Two, Three, Four, and Six.

Director: I have reached my decision. When I call your number, please step forward.

Number One, Miss _____. So you think this is a beauty contest. Being a disciple has nothing at all to do with what you look like on the outside. It's who you have in the inside that counts. Thank you for auditioning. I'm sorry.



Number Two. Your mother made you come, Mr. _____? Well, this is one thing your mother can't make you do. You can only decide to do it for yourself. Thank you for auditioning. You may leave.

Number Three. Mr. _____. It's great that you can do everything. Unfortunately, being a disciple has little to do with what you can do, but rather with what you can't do. That's why a disciple needs Jesus. Thank you for auditioning.



Number Four. So you want a job. You need the money. Well, discipleship will cost you everything you have for maybe no money gained at all. But the final reward is great. Thank you for auditioning.

Number Six. Ah yes, you follow your friends to every meeting. But the question is: Do you follow Jesus? What do you do for Him?

Person #6: What do you mean? As long as I go to everything, isn't that enough?

Director: A disciple joyfully does whatever he can for Jesus with or without friends. Thank you for auditioning.

Director: Stagehand, bring in numbers Five, Seven, and Eight.

Number Five, step forward.

Miss _____, you love Jesus but can't do anything. You have a special talent that God has given you for discipleship. Jesus will give you what you need. Welcome to the family.



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Number Seven. Ah, yes, the person with no option. You're right! You accepted Christ and to follow His command, you are a disciple. Thank you for coming, and welcome to the family.

Number Eight, step forward. You want to learn more about Jesus. We're here to help a learner learn more. You see, that's what discipleship is all about. Welcome to the family.

Director: *(to the stagehand)* Many are called, but few are chosen.

Stagehand: Don't worry. Look at all these people. *(points to audience)*. Perhaps in time, some of these people will audition. There are always plenty of openings!

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Old Joe & The Carpenter - A Tale from Appalachia

Courtesy of Teaching Tolerance, Spring, 1998.

Old Joe lived way out in the countryside, and he had one good neighbor. They'd been friends all their lives. And now that their spouses were buried and their children raised, all they had left were their farms and each other.



But for the first time, they'd had an argument they couldn't solve. It was over a stray calf that neither one really needed. It seemed as though the calf was found on Joe's neighbor's land and so he claimed it as his own. But Old Joe said, "No, that calf has the same markings as my favorite cow, and I recognize it as being mine."

Well, they were both a bit stubborn, so they just stopped talking to each other. That had happened about a week before, and it seemed that a dark cloud had settled over Old Joe, until there came a knock on his door.

He wasn't expecting anybody that morning, and as he opened the door, he saw a young man who had a box of tools on his shoulder. He had a kind voice and dark, deep eyes, and



he said, "I'm a carpenter, and I'm looking for a bit of work. Maybe you'd have some small jobs that I can help with."

Old Joe brought him into the kitchen and sat him down and gave him some stew that he had on the back of the stove. There was some homemade bread, some fresh churned butter, and homemade jam.

While they were eating and talking, Joe decided that he liked this young fellow, and he said, "I do have a job for you. Look right there through my kitchen window. See that farm over there? That's my neighbor's place. And you see that crick running right down there between our property line? That crick, it wasn't there last week. My neighbor



did that to spite me. He took his plow, and he dug a big old furrow from the upper pond and flooded it.

"Well, I want to do one better. Since he wants us divided that way, you go out there and build me a fence—a big, tall fence—so I won't have to see his place no more!"



And the carpenter said, "Well, if you have lumber and the nails, I got my tools, and I'll be able to do a job that you'll like."



Share

Joe had to go to town to get some supplies, so he hitched up the wagon and showed the carpenter where everything was in the barn. And that carpenter carried everything he needed down to the crick and started to work.

And his work went smooth and fast. He did his measuring and his sawing and his nailing. It was about sunset when Old Joe returned, and the carpenter had finished his work. When Old Joe pulled up in that wagon, his eyes opened wide and his mouth fell open—because there wasn't a fence there at all.

It was a bridge, going from one side of the crick to the other! It had handrails and all—a fine piece of work—and his neighbor was just starting to cross the bridge with his hand stuck out, and he was saying, "Joe, you're quite a fellow to build this bridge. I'da never been able to do that. I'm so glad we're going to be friends again!"



And Joe, he put his arms around his neighbor and said, "Oh, that calf is yours. I've known it all the time. I just want to be your friend, too."

About that time, the carpenter started putting his tools in the box and then hoisted it onto his shoulder and started to walk away. And Joe said, "Wait, come on back, young fellow. I want you to stay on.

I got lots of projects for you." The carpenter just smiled and said, "I'd like to stay on, Joe, but you see, I can't. I got more bridges to build."

So he walked on. There ends my tale.

Can you think of ways you could "build bridges" to others in ways that don't use hammers, boards, and nails?





Critical Condition

Theme: Criticism

Approximate performance time: 10 minutes



Some people make their living by being critical. There are theater critics, literary critics, and art critics, just to name a few. These people try to tell the bad AND the good. Then there are others who do not get paid for criticizing others, but do it anyway!

When we unduly criticize others, it's usually because there's something about ourselves that we're unhappy with. Before we criticize someone else, it pays to look at ourselves first. It could be that we're just a step away from being in "critical condition" !

Characters:

Surgeon
Intern
Nurse

Anesthesiologist
Patient
2 offstage speakers

Props:

Surgical mask
Crutch
Whip
Balloon
Blood pressure cuff
Matches
Mirror

Hair pick
Table with several sheets
Saw
Attire for medical personnel (these can be large white shirts)



Prior to the skit, place the props and the patient under the sheet on the table. Make sure the props are on the side of the medical personnel. The skit begins with the patient on the table in front of the audience.

Offstage voice:

Speaker 1: ***(loudly, with a slight nasal sound)***: Doctors Wilson and Wiley to surgery. Doctors Wilson and Wiley, please go to surgery.

(The surgeon and his/her intern enter.)

Intern: So, Doctor, how serious is the patient's illness?

Surgeon: It's very serious, I'm afraid.

Intern: Is it terminal?

Surgeon: No, it's much worse. He's in -- CRITICAL CONDITION !!!

(Gasp from intern)

Intern: Doctor, the patient doesn't seem to be experiencing any of the usual symptoms.

Patient: ***(popping head up and inspecting the surgeon)*** Hey, Doc, where'd ya get them shoes?

Surgeon: ***(startled)*** As I recall, I bought them at Father and Son Shoes.

Patient: Well, let me give you a word of advice, Doc. It just ain't you. It looks like you've got enough room in those boats for both your father AND your son! ***(The patient now turns and checks out the intern.)*** What about you, Pal? Who cuts your hair?



Intern: I always go to Wally's Head Shed.

Patient: The next time you see Wally, tell him he's very creative. I've never seen a person with three parts in his hair before!

(A nurse enters with a blood pressure cuff. She is accompanied by an anesthesiologist. The patient then looks the nurse over with a pleased expression.)

Share - Critical Condition



Patient: Hey, Fellas, looks like at least you've got some good entertainment here. **(Looks at nurse.)** Sister, you're a hands-down favorite to win the contest.

Nurse: What contest?

Patient: Isn't there a Miss Piggy look-alike contest here today?

Intern: **(to surgeon)** Doctor, it looks like the patient is going fast. We'd better put him under. **(The anesthesiologist places a mask over the patient's mouth and nose. The patient is not quite finished, however.)**

Patient: **(Removing mask)** Come on, doesn't this stuff come in strawberry?



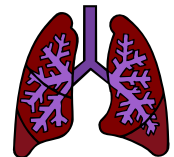
(The anesthesiologist places the mask back over the patient's face. The patient then becomes motionless for the remainder of the skit. The nurse and the anesthesiologist stand to the side. The surgery room takes on a somewhat serious tone at this point.)

Intern: Doctor, if the patient is in critical condition, shouldn't we do an exploratory first?

Surgeon: No, I've seen many cases similar to this one. I believe we can get right to the heart of the problem. **(The intern lifts his/her side of the sheet, and surgery begins.)** We'll enter just above the appendix and make a jog at the gallbladder. **(Speaks as he operates.)** Then just before we get to the liver, we'll have a look. We should be arriving shortly.

Intern: Wait a minute, Doctor. I think I caught a glimpse of something just after that left turn back there.

Surgeon: Aha! This confirms my hunch. The patient has an acute case of **criticulosis**.



Intern: What exactly did you find?

Surgeon: **(Pulling saw out from under sheet.)** This is something we frequently find in more advance cases of criticulosis. The patient is always cutting others down.

Share - *Critical Condition*



Intern: Do you think the problem is contained within the immediate vicinity?

Surgeon: Probably not. In fact, if you'll look closely, I believe you'll notice another malfunction.



Intern: I see what you mean. ***(Pulls out a book of matches.)*** It appears to me that the patient is always out to burn others.

Surgeon: That's correct. And if I'm not mistaken, we'll discover another significant factor close by.

Intern: Right again, Doctor. Look over here. ***(Pulls out inflated balloon.)*** I'll have to admit, however, that I'm not sure what it is.



Surgeon: It's really not that difficult. Many patients with criticulosis have a severely inflated ego. ***(Pops balloon.)***

Intern: I can understand that. But how does this problem right over here fit in? ***(Pulls out dirty mirror.)***



Surgeon: That's related to the previous symptom. The patient's self-perception is grossly distorted.

Intern: You mean he can't see in himself what he sees in others?

Surgeon: Exactly. ***(Wipes mirror off, then places it back inside patient.)***

Intern: Doctor, do you think we've caught the problem in time?

Surgeon: I feel that we've corrected most of the difficulties. But just to be sure, let's look a little further. ***(Peruses, then pulls out hair pick.)***



Nurse: What is it, Doctor?

Surgeon: ***(Holds up pick.)*** This patient has a well-ingrained habit of picking on others.

Intern: It seems to me that these disorders indicate a basic need for the patient to enhance his self-concept at the expense of others. As a matter of fact, this confirms it! ***(Pulls out a crutch.)***



Surgeon: Precisely. Criticizing others has obviously become a crutch for him.

Anesthesiologist: Well, Doctor, if I'm not mistaken, we're about finished with the operation.

Surgeon: One would think so, but my experience has proven that there is one other area that sometimes harbors problems related to criticulosis. Please hang a left at the personality gland and continue the incision toward the patient's larynx. I'm sure you'll find one last problem to correct.
(Intern continues to make "incision" toward the patient's feet.)

Intern: Are we in the general vicinity, Doctor?

Surgeon: ***(A bit pompous and sarcastically.)*** It's always been my experience that the larynx is in the "general vicinity" of the neck.

Intern: ***(Becoming embarrassed, then moving toward neck.)*** Oh, yes. Doctor, there's a pronounced irregularity in the patient's throat. I don't think I can diagnose it. ***(Nurse pulls out whip.)***

Surgeon: What we have here is evidence of the patient's tendency to lash out at others. Well, it appears to me that we've done everything we can for the patient. Let's close the incision.



(Surgeon and intern take large air strokes to sew up the incision.)

Nurse: I'm curious about something. Do you have any statistics showing the probability of criticulosis recurring?

Surgeon: Studies have shown that the patient's continued recovery from criticulosis depends on following a strong rehabilitation program. If a patient faithfully maintains this program, his or her chances of preventing a recurrence of the disease are good.

Anesthesiologist: And just what is the key element in such a program?



Share - *Critical Condition*

Surgeon: **(with emphasis, pointing up)**
Staying in touch with the Great Physician.



(A loud voice is suddenly heard offstage. All actors swivel their heads from side to side, trying to detect where the voice is coming from)

Offstage:

Speaker 2: Hey, Nurse! I love your outfit. Is that your nose, or did a soda can stick to your face?

(The surgeon and intern look at each other.)

Surgeon: It looks like it's going to be a long night. If I'm not mistaken, here comes another patient in **(everyone looks at each other and speak in unison.)**
....CRITICAL CONDITION !!!

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A Look at the Play Critical Condition

Suggested Scriptures: Matthew 7: 1-5; Luke 6: 31; Romans 14:13.

Thought Starters:

- Have you ever thought about whether you might have a case of "criticulosis?"
- What problems can develop between friends and others as a result of constant criticizing?
- Is there ever a time when it is appropriate to criticize another person or group? If so, when?
- According to the doctor, what is the surest cure for criticulosis?
- What are some ways to ensure that the condition does not return?

Note: I have used this play with three different groups, including Pathfinders. Each time, the students and audience were both delighted with it. It can end with the whole group reciting some of the Scriptures. The "hammier" the performance, the more theatrical the gestures, the better the play. More parts can be created by splitting the intern and/or doctor part into several interns and doctors.— Rebecca Fraker



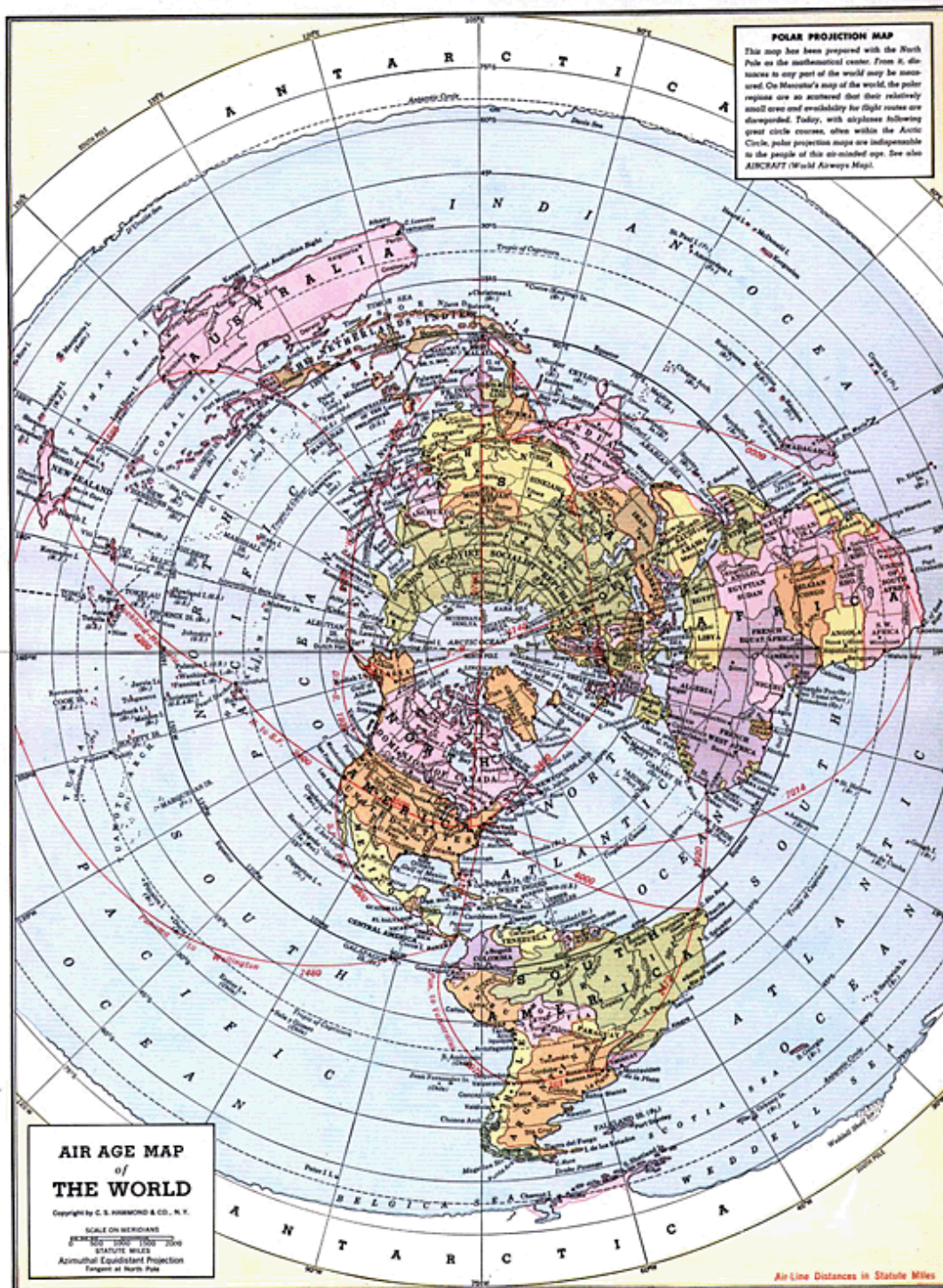


NORTH POLE

No, we aren't talking about Santa and his elves!

Where is the "North Pole"?

The earth is home to two North Poles located in the Arctic region - a geographic North Pole and a magnetic North Pole.





The Geographic North Pole Lies at 90 Degrees Latitude

Geographic North Pole

The northernmost point on the earth's surface is the **geographic North Pole**, also known as **true north**. It's located at 90° North latitude and all lines of longitude converge at the pole. The earth's axis connects the north and south poles, as it's the line around which the earth rotates.

The North Pole is about 450 miles (725 km) north of Greenland in the middle of the Arctic Ocean -- the sea there has a depth of 13,410 feet (4087 meters). Most of the time, sea ice covers the North Pole. But recently, water has been sighted at the exact location of the pole. Many scientists believe this is the result of global warming and may be ominous.

If you're standing at the North Pole, all points of you are south! (There is no east or west.) Since the earth's rotation takes place once every 24 hours, if you're at the North Pole your speed of rotation is quite slow--almost no speed at all! If you were at the equator you would be speeding along at about 1,000 miles per hour.

The time zones all come very close at the North Pole, so it uses a time called UTC which stands for Coordinated Universal Time. It has six months of daylight and six months of darkness.



Robert Peary, his partner Matthew Henson, and four Inuit are generally credited with being the first to reach the North Pole on April 9, 1909. Many suspect that they missed the pole by a few miles. In 1958, the United States nuclear submarine Nautilus was the first vessel to cross the North Pole. Other attempts to reach the North Pole have been quite interesting, using dogsleds, skis, hot air balloons, and snowmobiles. Today, dozens of planes fly over the North Pole using great circle routes between continents.

Magnetic North Pole

Hundreds of miles south of the geographic North Pole lies the magnetic North Pole at approximately 82.7° North and 114.4° West (2005), northwest of Canada's Sverdrup Island. But this location is moving daily and continually.

The earth's magnetic pole is the focus of the planet's magnetic field and is the point that traditional magnetic compasses point toward. Each year, the magnetic North Pole and the magnetic field shift. Those who use magnetic compasses for navigation must be aware of the difference between magnetic north and true north.



The magnetic pole was first determined in 1831, hundreds of miles from its present location.

The National Geomagnetic Program of Geological Survey of Canada monitors the movement of the north magnetic pole. They've determined that the pole is moving at approximately 25 miles (40 kilometers) each year. Every day, there's an elliptical movement of the magnetic pole about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from its average center point.

Year	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)
2001	81.3	110.8
2002	81.6	111.6
2003	82.0	112.4
2004	82.3	113.4
2005	82.7	114.4

The most recent survey, completed in May, 2001, determined an updated position for the Pole and established that it is moving approximately northwest at 40 km per year. The observed position for 2001 and estimated positions for 2002 to 2005 are given in the table.





NOTABLE DATES in the history of the North Pole:



1845: An expedition by **Sir John Franklin**, a British naval officer, was lost trying to find the "Northwest Passage", a route that explorers hoped would connect the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific by going through the Arctic Ocean.

1852: Franklin's wife funded rescue missions, but the expedition was never found. However, in the rescue operation in 1852 **Commander Edward Inglefield** discovered that Smith Sound was navigable, and so new interest in finding this passage was kindled.

1876: A two-ship British expedition led by **Sir George Nares** sailed up the Smith Strait. Then using a team of dog sleds, a team was able to get within 7 degrees of the North Pole. An outbreak of scurvy forced them to quit.

1895: A Norwegian explorer named **Fridtjof Nansen** launched a voyage on a ship called the **FRAM**. It was especially designed to withstand pressure from the ice. He was sure that a ship that sailed into the polar ice would drift with it from Siberia to the Atlantic Ocean, and maybe even the North Pole. They made the farthest journey north yet achieved, but finally gave up and abandoned their ship. The FRAM drifted to Norway in August 1896, only a week after the men returned.





The FRAM

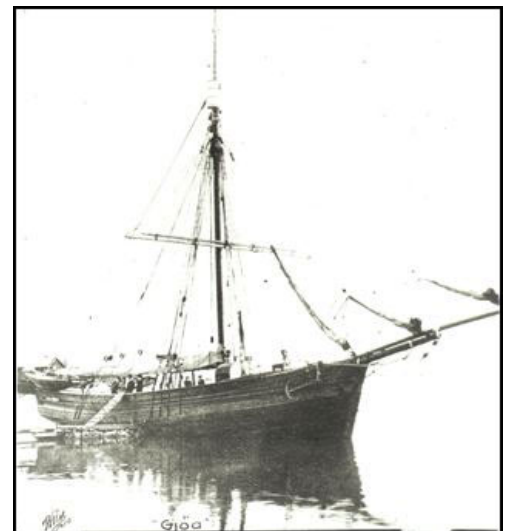
1897: A Swedish team led by **Salomon Andree** attempted to fly to the North Pole in a silk helium hot-air balloon. They were never seen alive again. In 1930 their remains were found about 350 miles from their launch site.



1900: Italian explorers led by **Luigi Amedeo, the Duke of Abruzzi**, set a new mark for the farthest journey north, even though their boat was stranded for 11 months.



1905: Norwegian explorer **Roald Amundsen** was the first to complete navigation of the Northwest passage. It took two years, from June 1903 to August 1905. His ship was called the **GJOA**.





AND NOW.....WHO WAS THE FIRST TO REACH THE POLE?



On September 2, 1909, it was reported that **Dr. Frederick Cook**, a veteran American explorer from New York, claimed to have reached the pole along with two Eskimos on April 21, 1909.

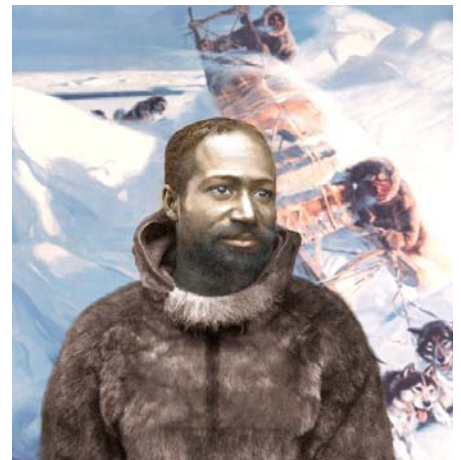


Robert Peary

Only nine days later, **Robert E. Peary**, another American polar explorer, claimed to have reached the top of the world with **Matthew Henson** and four Eskimos on April 6, 1909.

Peary accused Cook of lying. In 1910 the National Geographic Society certified Peary's claim. Cook continued to protest.

By 1989, the Society suggested that neither Cook nor Peary had actually made it.



Matthew Henson



1926: First flight over the pole: **Admiral Byrd** (claim is disputed) on a plane.

And the blimp **NORGE**. With **Roald Amundson**



1958: First submarine under the pole: the ***USS Nautilus***



1968: April 19. The first surface expedition to be confirmed was an American group led by **Ralph Plaisted** who, with a four man team, reached the pole and had it verified by a US Air force plane.



There's a lot more to learn about the North Pole! Look up some of the stories!