

# A tale of two ships

## *Endurance* and *SA Agulhas II*

Activity for KS2:

Compare and contrast the ships *Endurance* from 1914 and *SA Agulhas II* 2019.

Below are some images, one a drawing of the *Endurance* taken from The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Prospectus, along with an extract from the 1914 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition Prospectus; and an information sheet about the *SA Agulhas II*.

Tasks:

Draw up a table of the similarities and differences between the two ships. Think about their size, the materials that they are constructed from and what they are able to carry.

In small groups, discuss why you think the *Endurance* was crushed by sea ice but the *SA Agulhas II* is able to sail through it.

Resources:

### THE SHIPS OF THE EXPEDITION.

The two ships for the expedition have now been selected.

The "Endurance," the ship which will take the Trans-continental party to the Weddell Sea, and will afterwards explore along an unknown coast-line, under the command of Captain Davis, is a new vessel, specially constructed for Polar work under the supervision of a committee of Polar explorers. She was built by Christensen, the famous Norwegian constructor of sealing vessels, at Sandefjord. She is barquentine rigged, and has triple-expansion engines giving her a speed under steam of 9 to 10 knots. To enable her to stay longer at sea, she will carry oil fuel as well as coal. She is of about 350 tons, and built of selected pine, oak and greenheart. This fine vessel, equipped, has cost the expedition £14,000.

An extract from the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Prospectus.

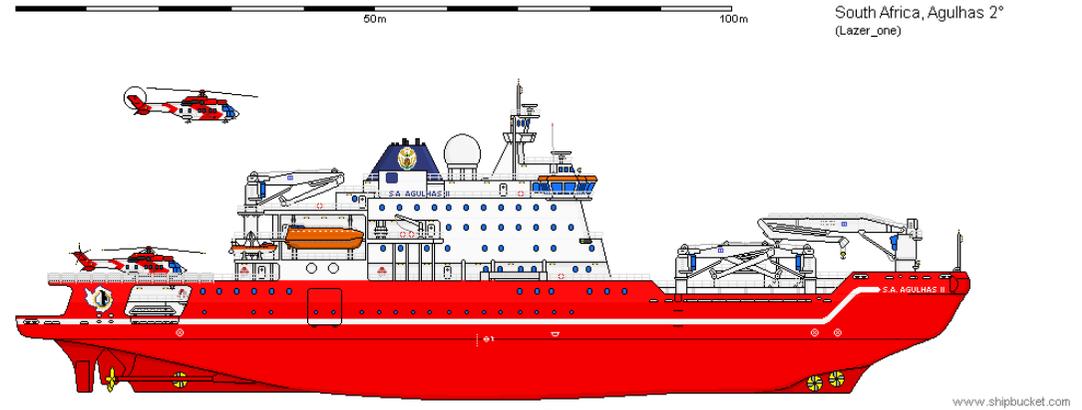
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The SA Agulhus II:

- Cargo capacity of 4,000 m<sup>3</sup> the equivalent of 40 school buses
- Space for 500 m<sup>3</sup> fuel
- Capable of carrying piston bullies (ice tractors) that weight 35 tonnes
- The piston bullies can be stored below deck
- The main crane can lift 35 tonnes up to 45 meters into the air
- The two smaller cranes can lift 10 tonnes each
- The helicopters on board can lift up to 1 tonne of cargo



A drawing of the *Endurance* ship taken from the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Prospectus 1914  
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A drawing of the SA Agulhas II  
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Further information  
<http://www.histarmar.com.ar/Antartida/BuquesAntarticos->