

Craft the *Caird*

Sir Ernest Shackleton had three lifeboats from which to choose for his journey. He chose the *James Caird* because it was the largest of the three. Shackleton had the *Caird* modified to make it as seaworthy as possible, including outfitting the top with a canvas cloth to try to keep the men dry and warm.

In addition, the *Caird* needed to bring along extra weight, called ballast, to keep the boat from tipping over. The crew filled the boat bottom with about 1,800 pounds (816.5 kg) of rocks and gravel, which all six men had to both crawl around and sleep on.

How big was the *Caird*? To find out, use the information on this page to scale up the total length, width, and depth of the *Caird* replica used in *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure*. Then use your string, scissors, and tape to make an outline of the boat's dimensions.

About the *Caird*

Besides the men, supplies such as stoves, paraffin, matches, and sleeping bags had to be carried on the journey.

According to Shackleton's memoir, the food and instruments they brought along included:

Food

- 3 cases sledging rations
- 2 cases nut food
- 2 cases biscuits
- 1 case lump sugar
- 30 packets of Trumilk
- 1 tin of Bovril cubes
- 1 tin of Cerebos salt
- 36 gallons of water
- 250 pounds of ice

Instruments

- sextant
- binoculars
- prismatic compass
- sea anchor
- charts
- aneroid

Scale

1 inch = 3.3 feet (2.5 cm = 1.0 m)

