

explore

with Thomas Griffith Taylor

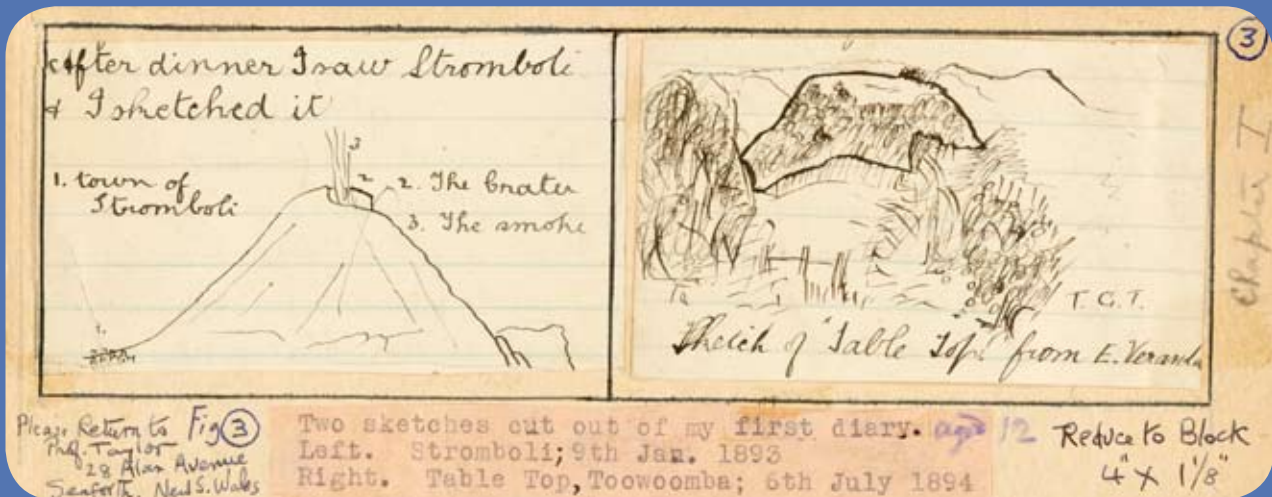
Thomas Griffith Taylor (1880–1963) was a scientist and explorer.

His explorations took him to every continent on Earth, including Antarctica. His fascination with the world around him helped to spark public interest in geography.

First childhood diary

Taylor kept a diary from the age of 12. He filled his diaries with sketches and maps of places he saw and drawings of people he met.

Taylor made this sketch of the volcanic island of Stromboli when he and his family sailed from England to Australia. The family settled in Sydney, where he went to school.

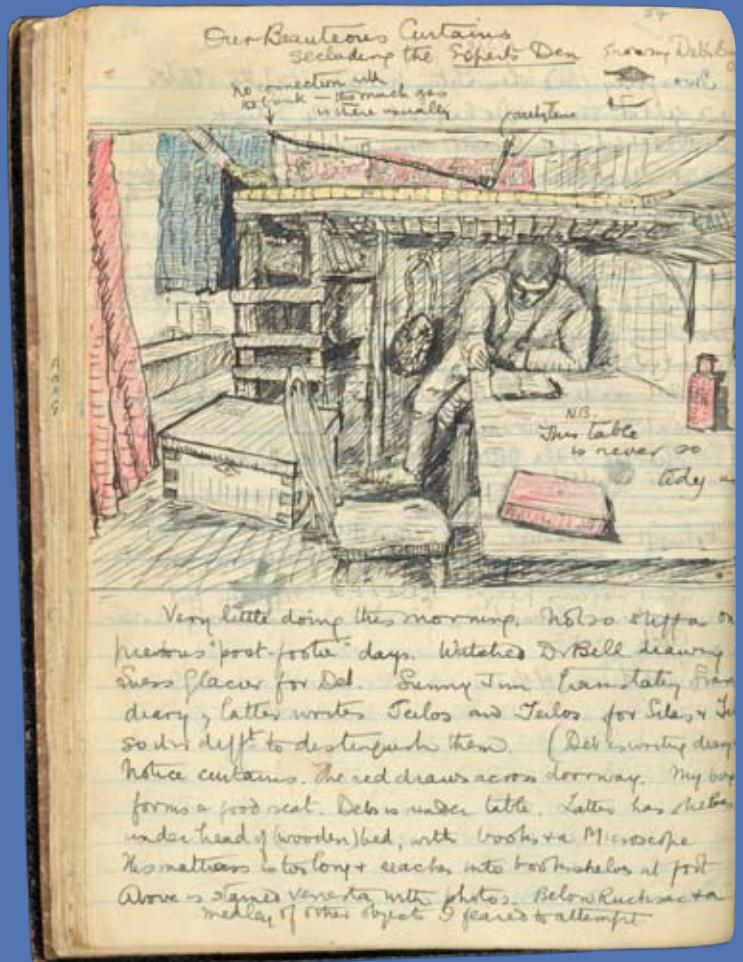


'Two Sketches Cut Out of My First Diary', from Taylor's diary, 1893 and 1894, Manuscripts Collection; MS 1003

Explorer's diary

Taylor studied geology at the University of Sydney, and joined explorer Robert Falcon Scott's team on an expedition to Antarctica in 1911. This famous voyage ended in tragedy.

While Taylor recorded rock formations, mountains and wildlife along part of the Antarctic coastline, Scott led a team of five men to the South Pole. It was a race to be the first in the world to get there. They arrived on 17 January 1912, but they had been beaten by Roald Amundsen from Norway, who had arrived on 14 December 1911. Scott's team perished on the return trip from the South Pole to their camp at Discovery Hut, where Taylor was waiting.



Entry from Taylor's Antarctic diary, 6 May 1911, Manuscripts Collection; MS 1003



Can you find Taylor's diary entry of 'our beauteous curtains secluding the experts den'? It shows Taylor's drawing and description of Discovery Hut.

Taylor kept part of the curtain illustrated here when he returned to Australia, and his sister embroidered a map on it. Find the curtain on display.

Find Taylor's floor plan of Discovery Hut which is also on display.



At home or school

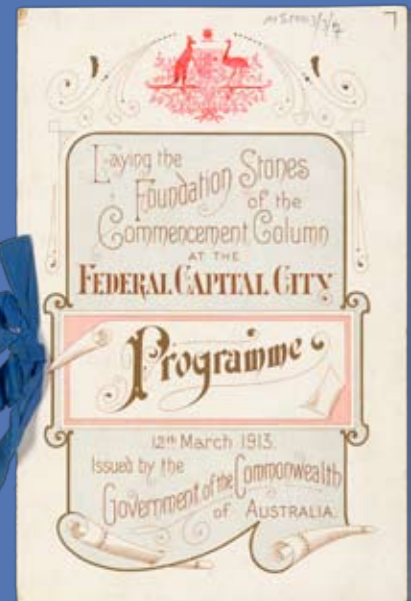
Create a diary page similar to Taylor's. Divide your page into half. Find a room in your home or at school. Draw the room on one half of the page and write a description on the other.



Can you find these?

The items shown on this page are all held in the Manuscripts Collection of the National Library.

Draw a line to connect the object with its description.



- A map of the expedition of the Western Geological Party in Antarctica in 1911, which was led by Taylor.

What do the orange areas indicate?

- Photo from his passport
Taylor's passport photo for entry into the United States of America, where he moved with his family to become a professor of geography in Chicago.
In what year was the passport issued?

- A map on the cover of Taylor's diary from his trip to the East Indies in 1920.
Find out what the East Indies is now called.

- Medal awarded to Taylor by the Royal Society of New South Wales in 1960.

Find out from the display which king also gave him a medal and why.

- A program for the ceremony to found and name 'Canberra' as Australia's capital city.

Taylor surveyed the Federal Capital Territory in 1912 and claims to have suggested its name.
What would you have called our capital city if you had named it?

- Some music for Taylor written by students at the University of Toronto, Canada, in 1948.

Why is the song called a lament?



Bookplates

A bookplate is a label attached to the inside cover of a book which states who the book belongs to. The owner's name usually follows a banner saying 'this book belongs to ...' or 'ex libris', which means 'from the library of ...' in Latin.

Bookplates are often miniature works of art and tell us something about the owner's personality, interests or profession.



Engraving on paper, 12.9 x 10.23 cm Manuscript Collection, MS 1003

?

Behind Taylor is Mount Erebus, the southernmost active volcano on Earth. On which continent is Taylor standing?

Circle the mythical griffin, a symbol of wisdom. The griffin is also known for guarding treasures.



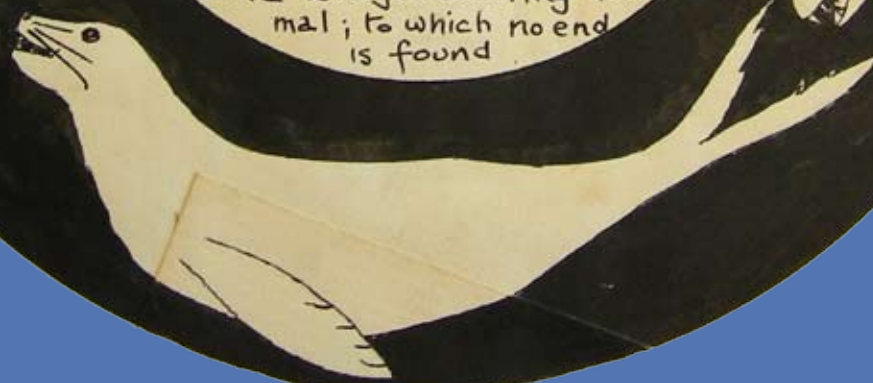
At home or school

Design your own bookplate which includes a picture that says something about you. Don't forget to include the most important detail of all—your name!



Life's Round
in the Antarctic.

Big floes have little floes
all around about them.
And all the yellow diatoms
couldn't do without 'em.
Forty million shrimplets feed upon
the latter;
And the shrimps make the penguins
and the seals and whales much
fatter.
Along comes the Orca
and kills them down below,
while up above the Afterguard
attack them on the floe.
A bold explorer tumbles down
and staves the mushy pack in;
He's crumpled up between the floes
And so they get their whack in.
And there's no doubt he soon becomes
a patent fertiliser.
Invigorating diatoms; although
they're none the wiser.
So the protoplasm passes on its
never-ceasing round,
Like a huge recurring deci-
mal; to which no end
is found.



The biological cycle in the Antarctic

Find the poem, *Life's Round in the Antarctic*, which Taylor wrote about the food chain in the Antarctic.

It was illustrated by John Murray, who drew an Antarctic explorer chasing penguins near the water's edge and the parts of the food chain described in the poem.



What happens to the bold explorer in this poem?

Label the parts of the food cycle drawn by Murray. Use these words:

- penguin
- shrimp
- orca (killer whale)
- diatom
- seal

Draw a diagram of another food cycle you know about.