

The most northern part of the earth has below-freezing temperatures. Ootah shook the water from the furs Henson wore before the water turned to ice. Finally, Peary selected Henson and four Inuit guides Ootah, Seegloo, Egingwah, and Ooqueah—to make the last leg of the journey. Then Henson, Ootah, and Seegloo moved on. Admiral Robert E. Peary, Egingwah, and Ooqueah followed. Peary, Henson, and a group that included explorer Robert Bartlett took off for the Pole. On April 6, 1909, his remains were reburied with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Henson, Peary, and their guides traveled over the ice and snow. Henson set up camp there and waited for Peary. When the Admiral arrived, he made observations from different points. Peary was awarded a gold medal by the National Geographic Society. Robert Bartlett was also awarded a medal although he didn't even make the final trip to the North Pole. Finally, on January 28, 1944, Congress authorized a medal for all the men on the North Pole expedition. A year later, Henson was presented with a silver medal for outstanding service to the United States Government. That year Admiral Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson set out to reach the North Pole. He had Henson and the four guides stand on a ridge and he photographed them. For more than twenty years, the two men took many trips together. On April 7, 1909, the great explorers began their journey back from the North Pole. They sailed on a long voyage from New York City to Canada. So Henson and his guides walked ahead—and disaster struck. Henson fell into the icy water below. Suddenly, there was a tug on Henson's hood. Quickly, Ootah helped Henson pull off his wet boots and clothes and put on dry ones. It had been an exciting adventure. Matthew Henson was born in Charles County, Maryland, in 1866. Henson met Peary in 1887, when Henson was working in a clothing store in Washington, D.C. Peary liked Henson right away. Peary offered Henson a job. Matthew Henson was ignored. But they were unsuccessful. Henson