

Adventurer. Antarctic Explorer, Author, and Educator

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Harvard, 1960 (AB); Teachers' College, Columbia University, 1976 (Ed.D)



John Barell is an international consultant to schools interested in teaching inquiry, critical thought and reflection.

A native New Yorker, Barell sailed to Antarctica as part of Operation Deepfreeze ('63-'64) to explore that continent based upon his meetings and correspondences with Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd. With a navigation team he surveyed Tent Island in McMurdo Sound and made a reconnaissance visit to the Soviet scientific base, Vostok, located several hundred miles from the South Pole. Vostok has the distinction of registering the coldest temperature on earth, -127 F in the darkness of the Antarctic winter.

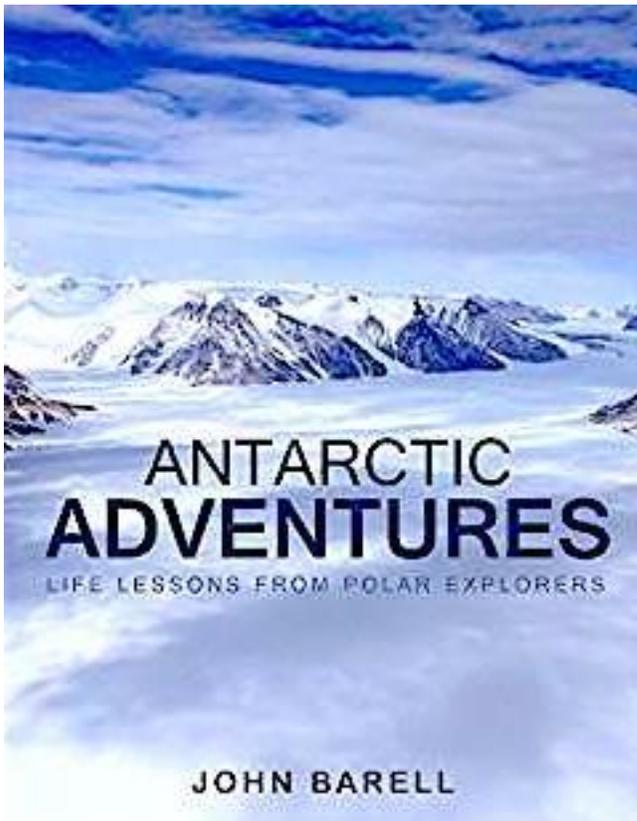
After Antarctica, he became an educator in New York City public high schools, then at Montclair State University in teacher education and world literature (now Professor Emeritus). Subsequently (2000-2007), he was a consultant at The American Museum of Natural History where he fostered networks of inquiry among science and social studies educators.

As a researcher he has studied the various ways we assess the quality and improvement of students' performances with 21st-century skills: inquiry, problem solving, critical/creative thought and technological proficiency. The first completed report on this project, *How Do We Know They're Getting Better? Assessment for 21st-Century Minds, K-8* (Corwin), was published January, 2012.

The second report, focusing upon secondary schools was published in 2016: *Moving from WHAT to What if. . ? Teaching Critical Thinking with Authentic Inquiry and Assessment.*

Sailing to Antarctica has served as his educational model for inquiry: starting with a mysterious and intriguing continent, Antarctica, followed by a dream and a passion leading to explorations of new territories, both physical, spiritual, educational and creative. His focus within schools has been to foster this kind of meaningful inquiry for all students, a process that deepens meaningful engagement and develops our own curiosities about the world.

Barell is author of these publications about Antarctica: **Antarctic Adventures: Life Lessons from Polar Explorers**, 2016; *Quest for Antarctica—A Journey of Wonder and Discovery* (memoir, 2011, ebook); *Surviving Erebus—An Antarctic Adventure on board HMS Erebus and Terror* (YA novel, 2008, 2012, ebook) and “**Twenty Below**,” an award winning story published by *Boys’ Life* and *Boys’ Life Anthology* (1956).



. ?” (1992); *Opening the American Mind* (1988) and *Playgrounds of Our Minds* (1980).

He is also the author of these professional books: *Why are School Buses always Yellow? Teaching for Inquiry, K-8* (2016, 2/e); *Moving from WHAT to What if? Teaching Critical Thinking with Authentic Inquiry and Assessment*, 2016; *Did You Ever Wonder? Fostering Curiosity Here, There and Everywhere* (2013); *How Do We Know They’re Getting Better? Assessment for 21st -Century Minds, K-8* (2012); *Problem-Base Learning—An Inquiry Approach* (2007, 2/e); *Developing More Curious Minds* (2003); “. . . EVER WONDER.

A recent (2013) novel, *Absolute Bearing*, is available at Amazon.com