

Geography-Antarctica

Year 3

National Curriculum programme of study:

Pupils should be taught:

- To identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)
- Describe and understand key aspects of:
- Physical geography, including: climate zones and biomes
- Human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area.

'Sticky' Knowledge

- Antarctica is located at the southernmost point on the globe. It experiences extreme blizzards and snowstorms, has many mountain ranges and even an active volcano.
- Antarctica is the fifth largest continent of our planet. The continent is almost double the size of Australia!
- Antarctica is an ice-covered continent surrounded by the Southern Ocean. Almost all of the continent's land is covered by a thick layer of ice. On average the ice is 1.9 km deep. The inland ice-sheet has a thickness of up to 4 km.
- Antarctica is the driest continent of the seven continents. Antarctica is an icy desert with very little rainfall throughout the year.
- Antarctica is the windiest place on the earth where windspeed of more than 350 kilometres per hour/218 miles per hour have been measured.
- There are not many species living on the Antarctic continent. Whales, and seals live in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. The Emperor penguins are the only penguin species breeding on Antarctica.
- Ernest Shackleton was an explorer who wanted to be the first man to reach the South Pole in Antarctica. He never made it there but is famous for bringing 28 men back to the UK alive after his expedition to Antarctica went wrong and his boat sank.



Key Vocabulary

Ernest Shackleton	a polar explorer
climate	the average weather over a period of time
lines of latitude	Invisible horizontal lines mapped on our globe to show how far north or south a place is from the Equator.
lines of longitude	Invisible vertical lines mapped on our globe to show how far east or west a place is from the Prime Meridian.
iceberg	Large chunks of floating ice that break off a glacier.
compass points	North, east, south, west, north-east, south-east, south-west, north-west.
climate zone	Areas of the world grouped together that have a similar climate.
drifting ice	Thin, floating pieces of ice not attached to a glacier.

Prior Knowledge

- In KS1, children learnt about the seven continents and the five oceans. They also identified seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.

Future Learning:

- In the future, children will learn about the physical and human geography of Wraysbury through fieldwork study of village and Ankerwycke. They will use 8 compass points to follow a route of the school and village. Children will discover the continent of North America and all its amazing countries, cities and landscapes. They will identify the 23 countries of North America.

