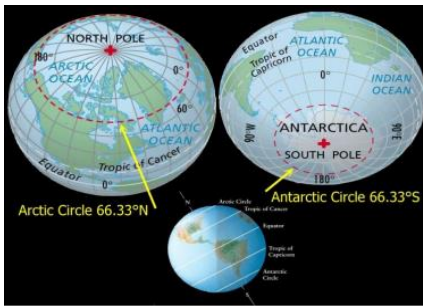


# Geography

## Term 3

### Antarctica



St. Mary's Church of England Primary  
School and Nursery



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Word	Key Vocabulary
<b>Continent</b>	A continent is a large solid area of land
<b>Glacier</b>	Glaciers are huge blocks of ice and snow that are found in mountains and in colder regions
<b>Hemisphere</b>	A hemisphere is half of a sphere, or ball. People use the word to describe one half of Earth.
<b>Climate</b>	Climate is the average measurements of temperature, wind, humidity, snow, and rain in a place over the course of years.
<b>Equator</b>	It is an imaginary line around the Earth that goes exactly midway between the North Pole and the South Pole and divides it into two equal halves, the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.
<b>Arctic circle</b>	The Arctic Circle is a line of latitude, which is an imaginary horizontal line around the Earth. The lands and ocean north of the Arctic Circle is called the Arctic.
<b>Polar regions</b>	The polar regions are found at the top and bottom of the Earth. The North Pole is in The Arctic, and the South Pole is in Antarctica
<b>Ice sheet/Ice cap</b>	Ice sheets are broad, very thick glaciers that blanket a large land surface. They are also called continental glaciers or ice caps.
<b>Ice shelf</b>	An ice shelf is a thick mass of floating ice that is attached to land, formed from and fed by tongues of glaciers extending outward from the land into sheltered waters
<b>Global warming</b>	Global warming: The increase in Earth's average temperature over a long period of time.
<b>North Pole</b>	The North Pole is the northern end of Earth's axis
<b>South Pole</b>	The South Pole is the southern end of Earth's axis

### General Knowledge

**LOCATION** – Antarctica is the southernmost continent on Earth located in the southern hemisphere and is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. It covers a huge area, about 14 million square kilometres.

### PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Antarctica is the 5th largest continent based on size.
- No one lives there but scientists will stay there to conduct research.
- Antarctica has no countries.
- There are no major cities just scientific outposts.
- 98% of Antarctica is covered by ice.
- Antarctica is considered a desert because it experiences such little rain.
- Antarctica is quite mountainous.
- Antarctica is divided into three main parts: East Antarctica (the biggest part), West Antarctica and in between them the mountain range called the Transantarctic Mountains.

**Ernest Shackleton** Ernest Shackleton was a polar explorer. In 1914 Shackleton took a team of men on an expedition to Antarctica on a ship called the Endurance as he wanted to be the first to pass through the South Pole via Antarctica.



### Fun Facts:

Antarctica is the windiest place on Earth. Temperatures have been recorded as low as -89.2 degrees C (-128 degrees F). It is the world's biggest desert. Antarctica comes from the Greek word meaning 'opposite to the North'.

**Wildlife** – Antarctica has low biodiversity (not many different species live there). Life mainly exists in milder coastal areas and the Antarctica Peninsula. Plant and animals have had to adapt to survive.



**Fauna**- Elephant seal, Antarctic Fur Seal, Blue whale, Fin whale, Humpback whale and Sperm whale are found in the oceans and coast surrounding Antarctica. Antarctica is most famous for its penguins: the Chinstrap penguin, Adelie penguin, Emperor penguin, Gentoo penguin and Macaroni penguin.



**Flora** – Most of Antarctica's plants are found on the Antarctic peninsula. These include: mosses, lichens and 2 flowering plants (hairgrass and pearlwort).