



Year 1

Geography

Rainbow Bear – The Arctic

Overview



The North Pole is the most northern point in the world. The area around the North Pole is known as the Arctic.

The South Pole is the most southern point in the world. The area around the South Pole is known as the Antarctic.

The polar regions (the North and South Poles) are the coldest places on Earth.

The North and South Poles are the axis points on Earth (the Earth spins from these two points).

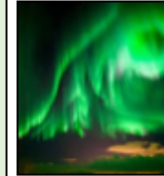
The Arctic

Terrain



The Arctic Ocean is the main feature of the Arctic. However, it is covered by thick sea ice for most of the year, underneath a blanket of snow. Therefore, the Arctic is quite flat compared to the Antarctic.

Climate and Weather Patterns



The Arctic is not as cold as the Antarctic: the ocean warms the air a little. It is still very cold though! In some months, the northern lights can be seen in the Arctic.

Animals



Polar bears are one of the apex predators in the Arctic. The arctic fox, reindeer, walruses, beluga whales and narwhals also live in the Arctic circle.

Vocabulary

- Arctic
- North Pole
- axis
- Northern Hemisphere
- landscape
- terrain
- tundra
- climate
- oceans
- Inuit
- Igloo
- Adaptations
- Aurora Borealis

What is the Arctic?



The Arctic is the region around the North Pole. It is a sea of ice, surrounded by cold, treeless lands.

The name 'Arctic' comes from a Greek word meaning 'near the bear' or 'bear'.

The Arctic region is made up of parts of Canada, Russia, the USA, Greenland, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Iceland, as well as the Arctic Ocean.

The Arctic is home to many animals and plants that have adapted to the harsh environment such as polar bears, seals, whales, foxes, reindeer, and mosses.

How do animals adapt to survive in the Arctic?

- Extra insulation, such as thick, multi-layered coat and layers of body fat
- White colouring to blend in with the snow in winter
- Fur that changes colour with the seasons to provide camouflage
- Feet that are adept at walking on the tundra, ice, and swimming
- Seasonal migration between feeding and breeding grounds
- Hibernation during the coldest months
- Large body size with a smaller surface area to reduce heat loss

