

KEY VOCABULARY AND SPELLINGS

Continent – a very large landmass.

Ernest Shackleton – A polar explorer

Expedition – a journey undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose.

Ice sheet – a layer of ice covering a large piece of land

Glacier – a river or large mass of ice formed by packed-down snow.

Desert – a region with very little rainfall

Hemisphere – a half of the Earth divided by the equator

Climate – the average weather over a period of time

Navigate - plan and direct the course of a ship

Mountainous – having many mountains

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.



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'.

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.



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).

