

## 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

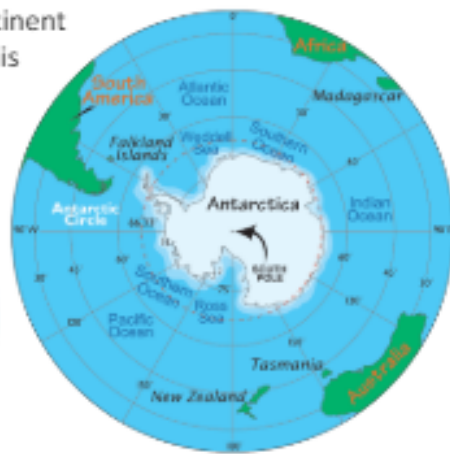
**Hemisphere** – a half of the Earth divided by the equator

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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).

