



Race to the Pole Geography Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary	
Antarctic	a polar region surrounding the Earth's South Pole
Arctic	a polar region located at the most northern part of the Earth
climate	the usual weather conditions that occur over a period of time
expedition	a group journey with a particular purpose
explorer	someone who travels to undiscovered places
glacier	a large body of ice
iceberg	a floating mass of ice that has detached from a glacier
ice cap	an ice sheet that covers less than 50,000 square km of land
ice sheet	a thick sheet of ice covering a large area
latitude	the measurement north or south of the Equator
longitude	the measurement east or west of the prime meridian
precipitation	water vapour that falls to the ground as rain, sleet, hail or snow

Map - The Polar Regions	
	<p>The Earth has two polar regions: The Arctic Circle in the Northern Hemisphere and the Antarctica Circle in the Southern Hemisphere.</p>
	<p><u>Arctic region</u></p> <p>The Arctic region consists of the Arctic Ocean and the northern parts of Canada, Alaska, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland and Iceland. Winter temperatures can reach -50°C and summer temperatures can reach 10°C. The Arctic region is home to a small population of people and an amazing variety of plants and animals including the polar bear, Arctic fox, Arctic hare and the walrus.</p>
	<p><u>Antarctic region</u></p> <p>Antarctica is the world's fifth largest continent and is covered in an ice sheet that is up to 4800m thick. It is the coldest, driest, highest and windiest continent on Earth. Temperatures can drop to -89°. Although no people live permanently in the Antarctic, there is a lot of sea life, including the Emperor Penguin, humpback whale and leopard seal.</p>

Polar Landscapes	
Much of the polar regions is covered with snow and ice all year round. Polar landscape features include glaciers, ice fields and icebergs.	
Glaciers	<p>Glaciers are slow-moving masses of flowing ice, formed by the compaction of snow. They can vary in depth from 50m to 1500m.</p>
Ice field	<p>Ice fields are large areas of connected glaciers covering flat areas, such as valleys and high plateaus. They are made from compressed and frozen snow.</p>
Iceberg	<p>Icebergs are chunks of ice that calve, or break off, from glaciers and ice sheets and float in the sea. Wind and water erode icebergs into sculptural shapes.</p>

Climate Change
<p>Human activities such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation are releasing gases into the atmosphere that are causing the temperature of the Earth to rise and its climate to change. Scientists are concerned that the rising global temperature is causing the polar ice to melt. If the polar ice melts, sea levels and temperatures will rise, weather patterns will change and the polar regions will be damaged.</p>

Antarctic region

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