



The Mead Infant and Nursery School – Geography



Arctic and Antarctic Knowledge Organiser – Year 2

What should I already know?

- The name and location of some of the world's seven continents and five oceans, in particular the continent Antarctica and the Arctic Ocean.

What will I know by the end of Year 2?

- I know that the coldest areas of the world are the farthest away from the **equator**, at the North and South **Poles**.
- The North Pole is located in the Arctic Ocean, the centre of which is frozen.
- The Arctic Ocean is the smallest **ocean** on Earth.
- The **Arctic circle** also includes land, in North America, Asia and Europe.
- The Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) can be seen in the Arctic (and the Southern Lights in the Antarctic).
- Several groups of people live in the Arctic, including the Inuit and Saami. They eat mostly meat and traditionally wear clothes made of animal fur to keep warm.
- The South Pole is located in the **continent** of Antarctica.
- Antarctica contains no countries. It is also the coldest continent, and has the smallest population (a few visiting scientists).
- Some of the ice in the Arctic Ocean, and surrounding Antarctica, melts every year in the summer. More ice is melting each summer and less ice is forming each winter.
- Antarctica is considered a desert because it has very little rain.
- At the poles, in mid-winter the sun doesn't rise and in mid-summer, it doesn't set.

Key Questions
Where is it?
What is it like?
Who/what lives there?
How do people/animals survive there?



Did you know? The name 'Arctic' comes from the Greek word 'arktos', which means 'bear'. The 'Ant' in 'Antarctica' means 'opposite' (to the Arctic).

Polar bears don't eat penguins because they never meet! Polar bears live in the Arctic whereas penguins live in the southern hemisphere.

See also: Science knowledge organisers on habitats and adaptation.

Key Vocabulary

Arctic circle	An imaginary horizontal line drawn around the Earth near the North Pole.
climate	The usual weather in a place.
continent	A very large area of land, separated from other land by water or natural features.
Earth	The planet we live on.
equator	An imaginary line drawn around the middle of the Earth dividing it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
globe	A spherical model of the Earth.
hemisphere	The two halves of the globe, separated by the equator.
ocean	A large expanse of sea.
pole	The northernmost or southernmost points on the Earth, around which the Earth spins.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

Use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the continents and oceans studied (Antarctica and the Arctic Ocean) and identify the hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the equator and the poles.

