

Year 6: Summer 1 – Exploring Antarctica

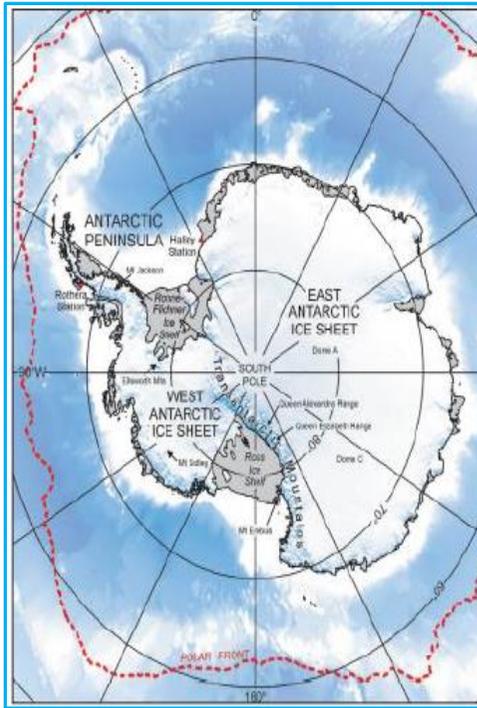
Knowledge Organiser

Antarctica

Antarctica is the 5th largest continent, 25 per cent larger than Europe.

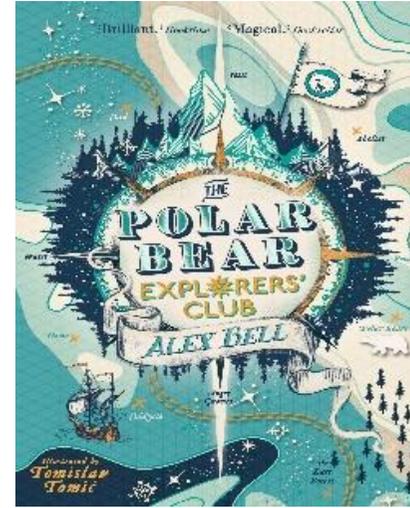
This single continent covers an area of approximately 14 million sq km. It is also the world's highest continent, with an average land height of 2,300 metres.

During the winter, much of the water surrounding Antarctica freezes. This sea ice nearly doubles the size of Antarctica.



Class Novel

The Polar Bears Explorer's Club by Alex Bell



Ernest Shackleton

An explorer who, in 1914, chartered an expedition to Antarctica. Disaster struck when his ship, **The Endurance**, was crushed by ice. He and his crew drifted on sheets of ice for months until they reached Elephant Island. Shackleton eventually rescued his crew, all of whom survived the ordeal. He later died while setting out on another Antarctic expedition.



THE COLDEST PLACE ON EARTH IS A HIGH RIDGE IN ANTARCTICA WHERE TEMPERATURES CAN DIP BELOW -133°F (-93.2°C).

Antarctica

The continent surrounding the South Pole: almost entirely covered by an ice sheet.

Southern Hemisphere

The half sphere of Earth which is South of the Equator.

Continent

The world's main continuous expanses of land (Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Antarctica).

Endurance

A three-masted wooden vessel in which Sir Ernest Shackleton sailed for the Antarctic on the 1914 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

Biome

The Earth is divided into natural areas called biomes. A biome has its own unique ecosystem, which includes its climate, geography, and the plants and animals that live there.

Equator

The imaginary east-west line encircling the Earth midway between the North and South poles.

Pack Ice

A large area of ice floating in the sea, formed by smaller pieces freezing together.

Expedition

A journey undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose.

Explorer

A person who explores a new or an unfamiliar place.

Navigate

To move through a particular course in an unfamiliar area.

Key Vocabulary