

ANTARCTICA: THE FROZEN CONTINENT

What is Antarctica?

It is the coldest, highest, driest, windiest and the least populated continent on Earth.

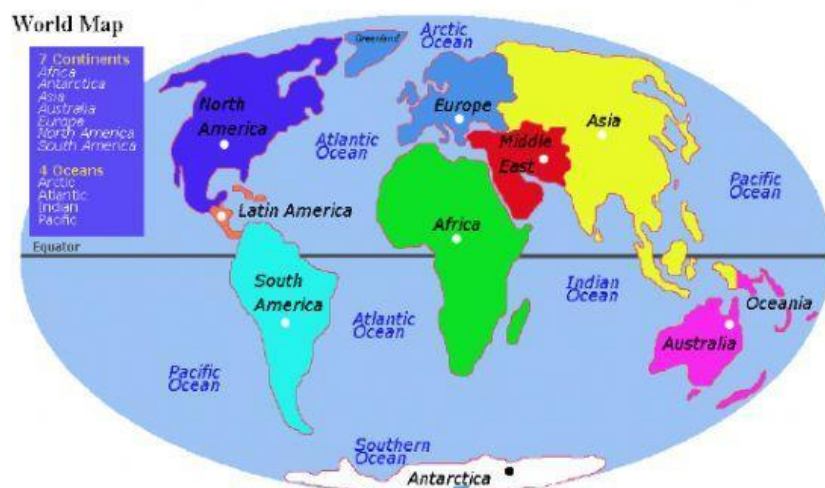
Antarctica is a desert, but an icy dessert because it is really cold and it hardly ever rains.

Antarctica is surrounded by the Southern Ocean and the South Pole is in the middle of Antarctica.

It contains 90 percent of all of the ice on Earth and holds most of the world's fresh water in an area almost double the size of Australia!

The name 'Antarctica' comes from a Greek word meaning 'opposite to the north'.

Where is Antarctica?



Antarctica is at the bottom of the Earth

Climate of Antarctica

The lowest temperature in history was -94.7 degrees.

Winter lasts from May to the end of August while summer starts in December and ends in February.

Antarctica has six months of daylight in its summer and six months of darkness in its winter.

Millions of years ago, Antarctica had a warmer climate but it separated from the other continents 35 million years ago, and its climate started to change.



When was Antarctica discovered?

A Russian expedition discovered it 200 years ago, on January 27th, 1820.

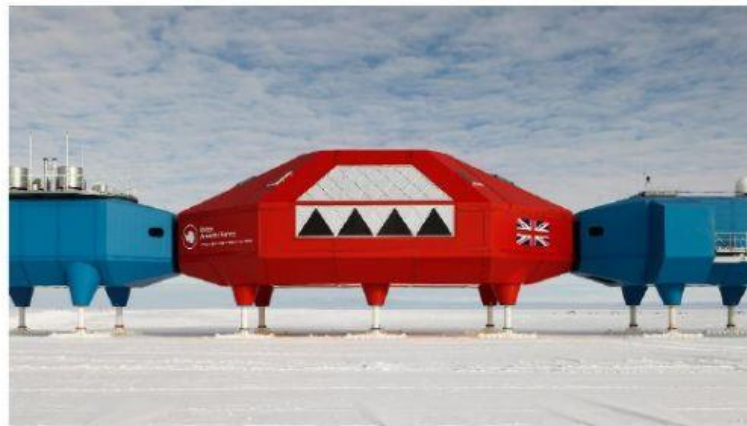
Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first to reach the South Pole in 1911.



Who lives in Antarctica?

Nobody lives in Antarctica. There are no countries in Antarctica.

Some scientists stay there to work and carry out research. They spend months indoors in the research stations.



There are not many species living on the Antarctic continent. We can find whales, seals and penguins. The Emperor penguins can only be found in Antarctica, they are the tallest and heaviest of all penguin species.



Antarctica and the Arctic: What's the difference?

Antarctica is a continent surrounding the South Pole. Penguins live there, but not polar bears.

The Arctic is an ocean surrounding the North Pole. Polar bears live there, but not penguins.



Rules for Superlative Adjectives

Superlative Adjectives	Rules	Examples
One syllable	Add est	cleanest
Two syllables ending in -y	Change y to i and add est	busiest
Two or more syllabus that does not end with y	Use the word most or least	most active least generous

Find the 8 superlatives in the text and complete the table:

ADJECTIVE	SUPERLATIVE

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ANTARCTICA



Wow, Antarctica sure is an interesting continent. Do you think you would like to visit there?



1. Is Antarctica at the North Pole or South Pole? South North
2. Which of these animals do you NOT get in Antarctica?
Penguins Whales Polar bears Seals
3. Antarctica is: Sea surrounded by land Land surrounded by sea
4. What are the native people of Antarctica called?
Antarcticans South Polians There are no native people of Antarctica
5. Antarctica has the world's biggest? Desert Mountains Volcano
6. Antarctica is the world's coldest continent, it is also, the world's:
Furthest away continent Windiest continent Foggiest continent
7. Was Antarctica warmer during the time of the dinosaurs? Yes No
8. Antarctica gets 24 hours of daylight on what day? June 21 December 21
9. Is Antarctica a continent? Yes No
10. The Antarctic ice sheet covers more than
3 million square miles 5 million square miles
11. Are there active volcanoes in Antarctica? Yes No
12. Which vegetation can you find? algae trees moss bushes
13. When did humans first SEE Antarctica? 1920 1820
14. Who was the first man to set foot on the South Pole?
a Russian expedition Roald Amundsen
15. Do researchers study meteorites in Antarctica? Yes No