

Y3 - Geography Knowledge Organiser – From Pole to Pole

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

The Poles

The North and South Poles are the most Northern and Southern points in the world.

The North and South Poles are the axis points on Earth. The Earth spins from this point.



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.



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.



Comparison

	Antarctic	Arctic
Maps		
Terrain	The Antarctic is based on a large land continent (Antarctica) covered in ice and snow. Antarctica has several mountains as well as huge glaciers. Large icebergs can be found at sea.	The Arctic ocean is the main feature of the Arctic. However, it is covered by thick sea ice for most of the year, underneath a blanket of snow. Therefore, the Arctic is quite flat compared to the Antarctic.
Climate and Weather Patterns	Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. The temperature can reach as low as -89°C ! Worse still, freezing blizzards can take place for days at a time.	The Arctic is not as cold as the Antarctic: The ocean warms the air a little. It is still very cold though! In some months, the Northern lights can be seen in the Arctic.
Animals	Emperor penguins are one of Antarctica's famous residents. A number of seals and birds also live in Antarctica.	Polar bears are one of the apex predators in the Arctic. The Arctic fox, reindeer, walrus, baluga whales and narwhals also live in the Arctic circle.