

Year 5 Geography Assessment: The Polar Regions

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of the physical and human features of the Arctic and Antarctic, including climate, geography, and environmental impact.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you with your answers where appropriate. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the icy waters of the world. He has noticed that while both Polar regions are incredibly cold, they are very different. The Arctic is an ocean surrounded by land, while the Antarctic is a continent surrounded by an ocean. Both regions are vital to the Earth's health, but they are currently facing challenges due to rising global temperatures.

Word bank: Arctic · Antarctic · glacier · tundra · longitude · latitude · permafrost · climate change · ice sheet · habitat

1. Finn the dolphin describes the Arctic as an ocean surrounded by land. Explain what the Antarctic is in comparison. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Name one physical feature of the Polar regions that is frozen all year round and explain how this might be affected by climate change. (3 marks) (3 marks)

3. Why do very few people live permanently in the Antarctic compared to the Arctic? Give two reasons. (4 marks) (4 marks)

4. Define the term 'permafrost' and explain why it is important for the landscape. (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Nova the owl is stargazing and notices that the Sun behaves differently at the Poles during the year. Describe the phenomenon of the 'Midnight Sun' or the 'Polar Night'. (3 marks) (3 marks)

6. Look at a map of the world. Explain why the Polar regions are located where they are using the terms 'latitude' or 'Arctic Circle' and 'Antarctic Circle'. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw and label a diagram showing the difference between the Arctic (an ocean) and the Antarctic (a continent). Include labels for 'sea ice' and 'land mass'.



Extension challenge: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a scientist visiting the Antarctic. Describe one piece of equipment you would need for your research and why the environment is so challenging to work in. (5 marks). Total: /25