

Finn's Polar Expedition Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and compare the key physical and geographical characteristics of the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Use your geography knowledge to complete this expedition log. Research the differences between the North and South Poles to help Finn the dolphin map these extreme environments. Remember to use precise geographical vocabulary and explain the reasons behind your findings.

Word bank: Arctic · Antarctic · glacier · permafrost · latitude · hemisphere · ecosystem · tundra · ice shelf · conservation

1. Location and Geography: Explain the difference between the Arctic and the Antarctic in terms of their location on the globe and the land beneath the ice. (3 marks)

2. Climate Comparison: Describe the typical climate of the polar regions. Explain why these areas are considered to be cold deserts. (3 marks)

3. Flora and Fauna: Identify one plant or animal species found in the Arctic and one in the Antarctic. Compare their adaptations to the extreme cold. (4 marks)

4. The Human Impact: Justify why it is important to protect polar environments from the effects of climate change and human activity. (3 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: What might happen to the global sea levels if the ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctic were to melt significantly? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

6. Compare and Contrast: Create a table or written summary comparing the two regions. How do they differ in terms of indigenous populations and scientific research stations? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific scientific research station based in the Antarctic. Write a persuasive letter to a government agency explaining why funding for polar research is essential for understanding our planet's future.