

Exploring the Frozen Frontiers: Polar Regions

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and understand the physical and human geographical features of the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Read each flashcard carefully. Use the front side to test your knowledge of Polar geography, then check the answer on the back.

Where is the Arctic Circle located?

The Arctic is the region located at the North Pole, consisting of the Arctic Ocean surrounded by northern parts of Europe, Asia, and North America.

What is the primary difference between the Arctic and the Antarctic?

The Arctic is a frozen ocean surrounded by land, whereas the Antarctic is a continent covered in ice surrounded by an ocean.

What is permafrost?

Permafrost is a thick subsurface layer of soil that remains frozen throughout the year, even during the summer months.

Define a glacier.

A glacier is a massive, slow-moving body of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow over many centuries.

What is an iceberg?

An iceberg is a large piece of freshwater ice that has broken off from a glacier or ice shelf and is floating in open water.

Which animal is found in the Arctic but not in the Antarctic?

Polar bears are native to the Arctic; there are no polar bears in the Antarctic.

Describe the term 'Tundra'.

The tundra is a vast, open, treeless Arctic region where the subsoil is permanently frozen, limiting plant growth to mosses, lichens, and small shrubs.

Why do the Polar regions have extreme daylight variations?

Due to the Earth's tilt, the Polar regions experience 'Midnight Sun' in summer (24-hour daylight) and 'Polar Night' in winter (24-hour darkness).

What is the Antarctic Treaty?

The Antarctic Treaty is an international agreement that ensures the continent is used only for peaceful purposes and scientific research.

How does Latitude affect the climate of the Polar regions?

Because the North and South Poles are at high latitudes (near 90 degrees), they receive less direct sunlight, resulting in extremely cold temperatures.