Finn’s Polar Expedition: Sorting the Extremes

Learning objective: To identify and distinguish between the geographical, environmental, and wildlife characteristics of the Arctic and the Antarctic.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the Earth's poles. He has gathered a list of facts, but they have become jumbled! Read each fact below and decide whether it belongs to the Arctic (North Pole) or the Antarctic (South Pole). Write the fact in the correct column of your table.

Word bank: Arctic · Antarctic · Polar bears · Penguins · Ocean surrounded by continents · Continent surrounded by ocean · Indigenous human populations · No permanent human residents

1. 1. Create a table with two columns: 'Arctic' and 'Antarctic'. Sort the following facts into the correct column: Polar bears, Penguins, Ocean surrounded by continents, Continent surrounded by ocean, Indigenous human populations, No permanent human residents. (6 marks)

2. 2. Why do polar bears live in the Arctic and not the Antarctic? Use your knowledge of geography to explain. (2 marks)

3. 3. If a research team wanted to spend £5,000 on supplies for a trip to the Antarctic, why might they struggle to find a local shop to buy them? (2 marks)

4. 4. True or False: The Arctic is a frozen continent. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

5. 5. Compare the physical geography of the two regions. How does the landmass (or lack thereof) differ between the North and South Poles? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world, highlighting the Arctic Circle at the top and the Antarctic Circle at the bottom. Label the land masses and the surrounding oceans.

Extension challenge: Research a climate change issue affecting one of these polar regions. Write a short paragraph on how melting ice impacts the global sea levels.