

St Mary's C of E Primary School, Writhlington  
'Be the BEST you can Be'  
Scheme of Work + Knowledge Organiser

Antarctica



National Curriculum Outcomes:  
Pupils should be taught:

- Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle
- describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: climate zones
- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied

**The Learning Journey:**

**1. Where are the hot and cold areas and why?**

Children identify on a world map the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle

**2. What is it like in Antarctica?**

Children learn to describe and understand the climate and landscape in Antarctica

**3. How are animals in Antarctica adapted to their environment?**

Linked to the Literacy topic 'The Emperor's Egg' focus on how penguins adapt to the environment.

**4. How do animals in Antarctica depend on each other?**

Linked to the Literacy topic 'The Emperor's Egg' focus on how penguins rely on each other in this environment.

**5. How are humans affecting Antarctica?**

Children research and learn about how humans are damaging the environment. Take the children's lead... what can we do?

**Wider Curriculum:** Class Literacy Topic: The Emperor's Egg

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Equator** - an imaginary line around the Earth. Everywhere on the Equator is equally distant from the North Pole and the South Pole.

**Northern Hemisphere** - the half of Earth that is north of the equator.

**Southern Hemisphere** - the half of the Earth that is south of the equator.

**North Pole** - the most northern point of the earth.

**South Pole** - the most southern point of the Earth.

**Arctic Circle** - a special line of latitude that forms a circle around the North Pole (approximately 66.5 degrees north of the Equator). Anything north of this imaginary circle is in the Arctic.

**Antarctic Circle** - a special line of latitude (approximately 66.5 degrees south of the Equator). Anything south of this imaginary circle is in Antarctica.

**Polar Regions** - the regions of the Earth surrounding the North and South Poles.

**Climate** - the average of the weather conditions in an area over a long period of time (usually 30 years).

**Ice sheet / continental glacier** - a thick layer of ice covering a large area of land (more than 50,000km wide) for a long period of time.

**Ice cap** - a mass of ice and snow that permanently covers an area of land (less than 50,000km wide) and is usually centred on a highest point.

**Ice shelf** - a thick floating platform of ice that forms where a glacier or ice

**Iceberg** - a large mass of ice that has broken away from a glacier and is floating in the ocean.

**Interdependence** - depending on one another.

**Global warming** - a raising of average global temperatures that is thought to be a result of increased levels of certain gases e.g. carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere.