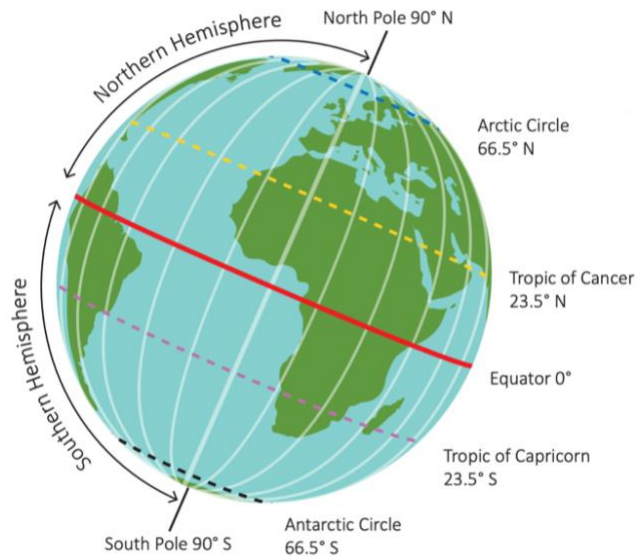


Year 6: Let's Learn About... Frozen Kingdoms

Autumn 2



The Polar Regions

The Earth has two polar regions: the Arctic Circle in the Northern Hemisphere and the Antarctic Circle in the Southern Hemisphere. Polar regions have long, cold winters and temperatures mostly below freezing.

Polar Exploration

Due to the harsh conditions, the polar regions were the last places on Earth to be explored. Different people claim to have been the first to reach the North Pole in 1909: Frederick Cook and Robert Peary. On Robert Peary's team was a Black explorer called Matthew Henson. It is thought that Matthew Henson was actually the first person to the North Pole and that he planted the American flag because Robert Peary was too ill and weak to make it. However, Robert Peary received many honours in the years after and Henson's achievements were ignored.

Key Geographic Vocabulary

landscape	All the visible features of an area of land	horizon	The line where the sky appears to meet the Earth
indigenous	Originating in a particular place	polar day	In summer, the Arctic and Antarctic have 24 hours of daylight where the sun does not set below the horizon
tundra	An area of land where it is too cold for trees to grow and the ground below the surface is permanently frozen	polar night	In winter, the Arctic and Antarctic have 24 hours of darkness where the sun does not rise above the horizon
climate	Weather patterns over time	precipitation	Water that falls from the clouds as rain, hail, snow or sleet
climate change	A change in climate patterns as a result of increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere	natural resources	Materials that are created in nature and are used often to make fuel and food to sell to other countries



Arctic Wildlife



Antarctic Wildlife

The Arctic Region

The Arctic region consists of the Arctic Ocean and the northern parts of Canada, Alaska, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland and Iceland.

Winter temperatures can reach -50°C and summer temperatures can reach 10°C .

The Arctic region has a varied landscape including mountains, tundra and boreal forest. It is home to small populations of people, including Inuit communities. It is also home to an amazing variety of plants and animals including the polar bear, Arctic fox, walrus and Arctic reindeer.

The Antarctic Region

Antarctica is the world's fifth largest continent and is covered in an ice sheet that can be up to 4,800 metres thick. It is the coldest, driest, highest and windiest continent on Earth.

Temperatures can drop to -89°C and there is very little precipitation.

There are only two native species of flowering plants in Antarctica but there is a rich sea life including the emperor penguin, humpback whale and leopard seal.

No people live permanently in the Antarctic.

Key Scientific Vocabulary	
vertebrate	Any animal with a backbone. There are 5 classes of vertebrates: mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles
invertebrate	Any animal <u>without</u> a backbone
characteristic	A feature of a living thing
adaptation	Any characteristic or trait that helps an animal survive in its environment
classification	The organisation or categorisation of living things
species	A similar group of living things that are able to reproduce