

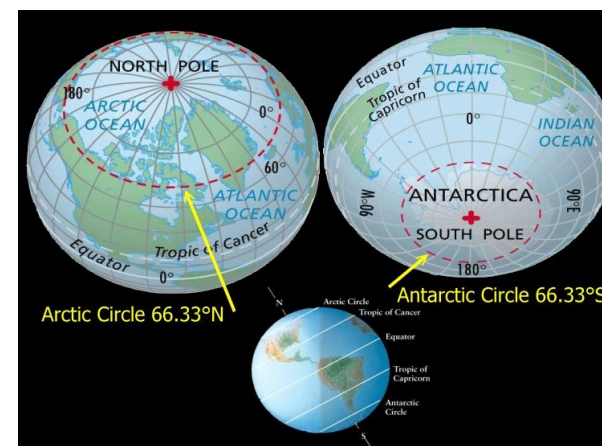
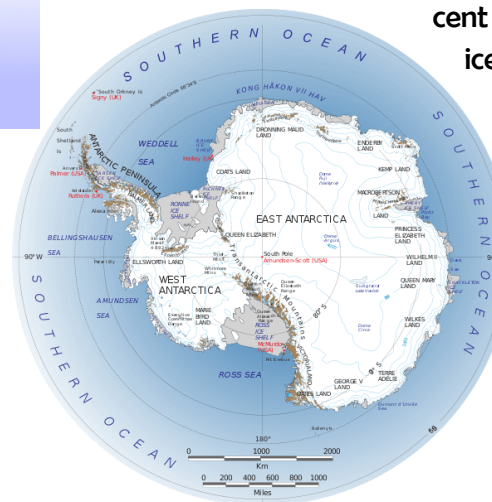
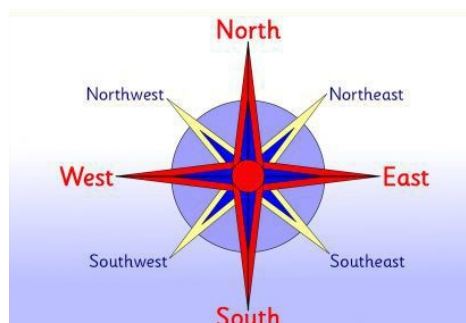
Year Four Knowledge Organiser—Arctic and Antarctic Polar Regions



Arctic Circle	Habitat	Biome	Expedition
Antarctic Circle	Ecosystem	Below Zero	Survival
Longitude	Pollution	Extreme	Harsh Climate
Latitude	Vegetation	Hazardous	Iceberg
Inuit	Ice cap	Continent	Ice Flow
Tundra	Crevasse	Exploration	Endurance
Ocean	Exploration	Polar Region	Hemisphere

Vocabulary to explore and learn

Fringing the top of the northern continents lies a vast, treeless plain dotted with lakes: the Arctic tundra. The Arctic region receives little sunlight. Winters are long and dark, with little snowfall, and the soil is deep-frozen all year. Plants need to be tough and low-growing, and they include mosses and lichens. North of the tundra lies the Arctic Ocean. The waters surrounding the North Pole are covered with sea ice, which spreads and retreats with the changing seasons. Though the climate is hostile, the Arctic region is rich in insect, mammal, fish, and bird life.



Antarctica is an icebound continent surrounding the South Pole. The ice forms glaciers that shed mighty icebergs into the Southern Ocean. Like the Arctic, Antarctica receives little sunlight: the Sun does not rise at all between late March and September. Even in summer, 85 per cent of the Sun's heat is reflected by the ice. So little snow falls each year that the mainland is effectively a cold desert where few animals can survive. But the waters are rich in nutrients, and both the ocean and its remote island groups teem with wildlife.