

Glossary

desert – An area with very little rain or snow. It is very dry. There are few or no plants.

sphere – A round, ball-like shape.

tundra – A flat, cold region where no trees grow but grasses and small plants grow in the summer.



Reader 1

D
LEVEL

The Arctic and the Antarctic

Polar Opposites



Foundations Level D Readers by Logic of English

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The Earth is shaped like a **sphere** or a ball. At the top is the North Pole. The area around the North Pole is called the Arctic.



Look at the photos above. Which one is the Arctic? Which one is the Antarctic?



Paradise Bay in Antarctica



Penguins live near the water in the Antarctic.

The Antarctic is land surrounded by water. The land is a desert. There are no plants. All the animals find their food in the ocean.



At the bottom is the South Pole. The area around the South Pole is called the Antarctic. *Ant-* means opposite. The Arctic and the Antarctic are polar opposites.



Water surrounded by land

The Arctic is a circular area with water in the middle and land around it. Because it is so cold, the water freezes into ice. The water is called the Arctic Ocean.



Tundra in the summer in the Arctic



Caribou in the Arctic

The Arctic is water surrounded by land. It snows often in the Arctic. The land in the Arctic is tundra, and plants and land animals live there.



Antarctic



Arctic

Though the Arctic and the Antarctic are both cold and full of ice, they are very different places.



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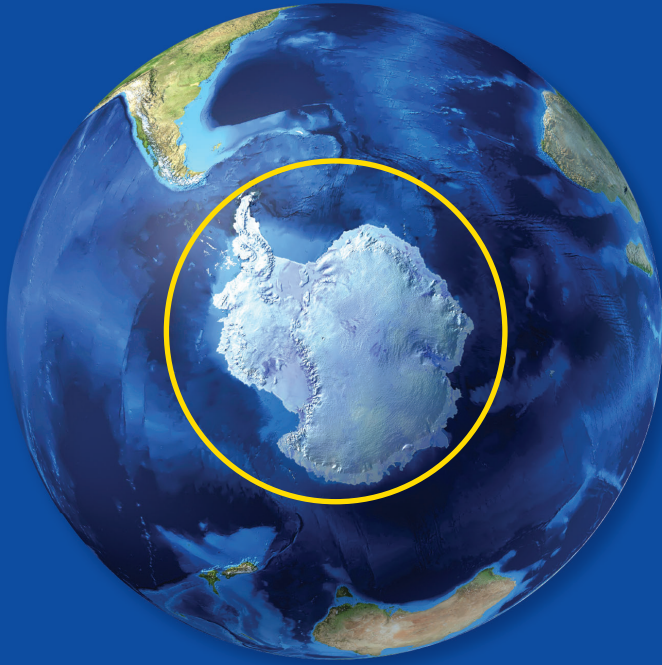


Inuit



Arctic houses

Thousands of years ago, humans walked north from the lands surrounding the Arctic. They built houses and made the Arctic their home.



Land surrounded by water

The Antarctic is land surrounded by water. The land is called Antarctica. Because Antarctica is separated from other lands, no one could walk to it.



Emperor Penguin

Whales, birds, and seals live in the ocean around Antarctica. Penguins live in the Antarctic too.



King Penguin



Elephant Seal



Whale

Because there are no plants to eat on Antarctica, there are no land animals. All the animals in the Antarctic live in or next to the ocean. They find all their food in the water.



Antarctica

James Cook was the first to sail the Antarctic Ocean in 1773, but he did not go far enough to see Antarctica. The land was first seen in 1820. Today, researchers and tourists visit the Antarctic, but no one lives there.



Flowers blooming in snow



Winter tundra with small plants

The Arctic has cold winters with lots of snow. It can be as cold as -58° F. In the winter, snow falls and covers the ground. The Arctic has short, cool summers.



Arctic Fox



Arctic Hare



Snowy Owl



Reindeer

In the tundra some animals, such as hares and reindeer, eat the plants. Other land animals, such as foxes and owls, hunt for smaller animals. Polar bears live only in the Arctic.



Killer Whales



Polar Bears



Walrus

Many kinds of animals live in the Arctic. The Arctic Ocean is filled with whales and fish. Many animals, such as polar bears, seals, and walruses, live on land and hunt in the ocean.



Arctic tundra in summer

In some places the snow melts in the summer. Small plants and grasses cover the ground. But the summer is too short for trees to grow. Land where it is too cold for trees to grow is called **tundra**.



Antarctica



Antarctica

The Antarctic is the coldest place on earth. In winter it can be as cold as -128° F. It rarely snows in the Antarctic. However, in most of the Antarctic the snow that does fall never melts.



A frozen desert

Much of the Antarctic is a frozen **desert**. A desert is a place with little rain or snow. No plants grow on Antarctica.