

Did you know?

- The Antarctic is a continent surrounded by ocean. The Arctic is an ice-covered ocean surrounded by continents.
- There are no terrestrial mammals in the Antarctic. Arctic terrestrial mammals include muskox, reindeer, caribou, fox, hare, wolf, lemming and bears.
- In the Antarctic, you'll find marine mammals such as whales, porpoises and seals. These creatures also swim in Arctic seas.
- Climate change is the polar bear's biggest threat. Every year, global warming means sea ice melts earlier and reforms later, giving polar bears 'reduced' hunting time.
- Polar bears swim comfortably and skilfully, usually at around 6mph. Their Latin name translates as 'sea bear'.
- Antarctica is the southernmost continent on Earth.
- The word 'Arctic' comes from the Greek, arktikos, or 'country of the great bear'. (Well, it is where the polar bears live!)
- Antarctica is the driest, windiest, emptiest and coldest place on Earth. Brrrr!
- Birds that live or breed in Antarctica include cormorants, gulls, skuas, terns, sheathbills and pintail ducks.
- The Arctic has a wealth of natural resources, including fish, oil, gas and minerals.
- Above the Arctic Circle there is all-day sunshine in the summer for at least one day a year (and there's a full 24 hours of darkness on at least one day too!)
- Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton was a polar explorer who led three British expeditions to the Antarctic. He died on January 5th, 1922.
- Penguins lost the ability to fly millions of years ago, but they are the fastest swimming and deepest diving of any bird species.
- Penguins often slide on their tummies over ice and snow. This is called tobogganing.
- Penguins swallow pebbles and stones to help them digest their food. Ouch!
- Extreme cold may result in serious injuries such as frostbite and hypothermia.