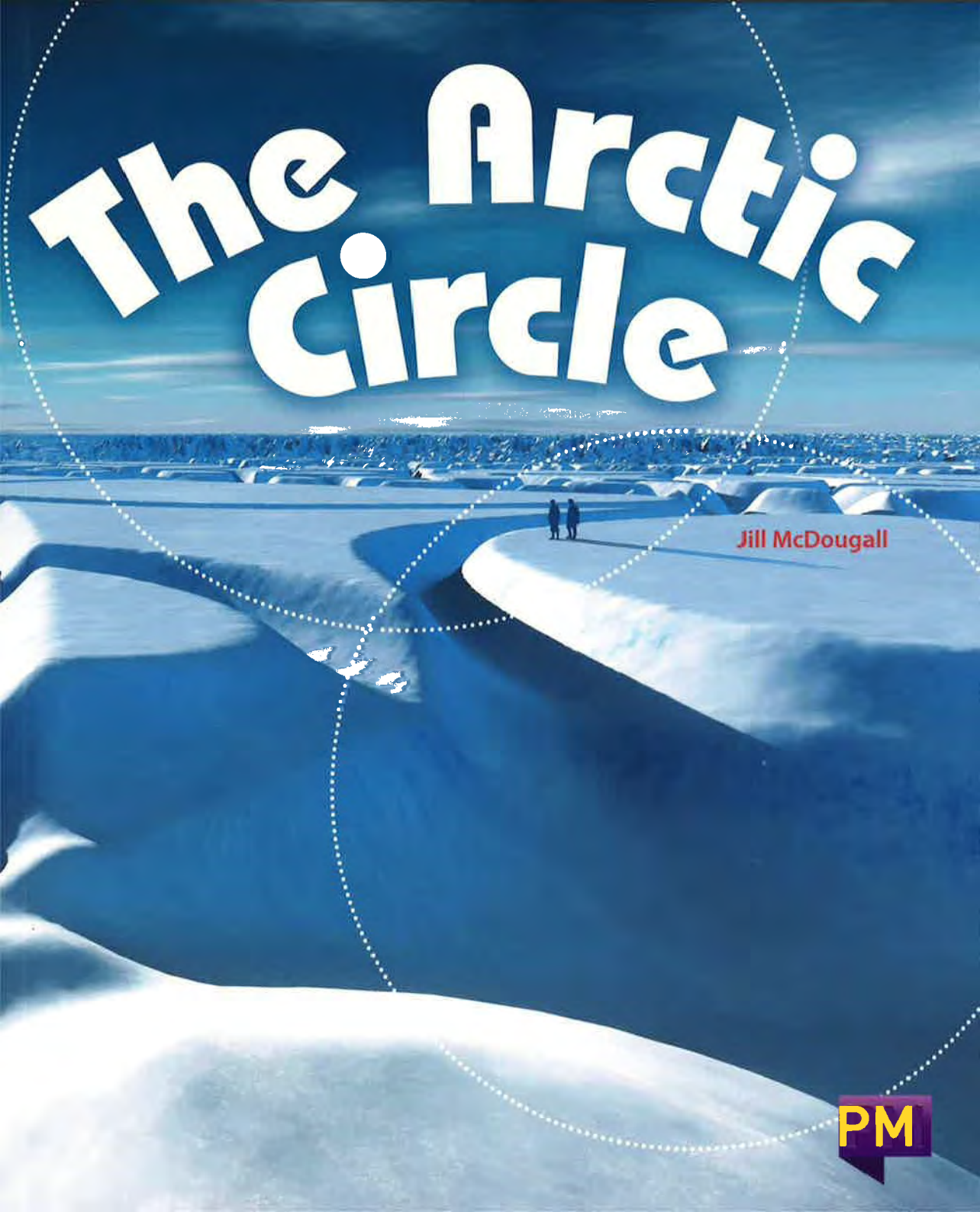

The Arctic Circle
Jill McDougall
PM

The Arctic Circle

Level 25 **Curriculum Areas** Humanities – Geography; Science

Running Words 1653 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–27
Exposition (Persuasive) pages 28–30

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the information report and exposition in his or her own words. Record the retellings for further discussion and reflection.

Think and Talk About …

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 What form does most of the Arctic's precipitation take?

2 Why is the Arctic sometimes called *the land of the midnight Sun*?

Inferential

3 Why does the ice in the central part of the Arctic Ocean stay frozen all year?

4 Why can forests grow in the southern parts of the Arctic?

5 How do dense, fluffy feathers help birds to survive in the Arctic?

6 Why are snowshoes useful in the Arctic?

7 Why is it so important for indigenous people to keep their culture strong?

Applied Knowledge

8 Why do people mark imaginary lines like the Arctic Circle on maps?

9 Why do terns migrate as far away as the Antarctic?

Vocabulary

Replace the adjective 'imaginary' in this sentence:
The Arctic Circle is an imaginary line that circles the globe.

SOS! Save the Polar Bears!

Literal

1 What is a food web?

Inferential

2 Why do Arctic foxes need polar bears to kill seals?

Applied Knowledge

3 What type of action could be taken to save polar bears?

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 23 Book Information Report/Recount *People Who Live in Antarctica*

For Review Only

The Arctic Circle

Jill McDougall
Illustrations by Nives Porcellato and Andrew Craig

For Review Only

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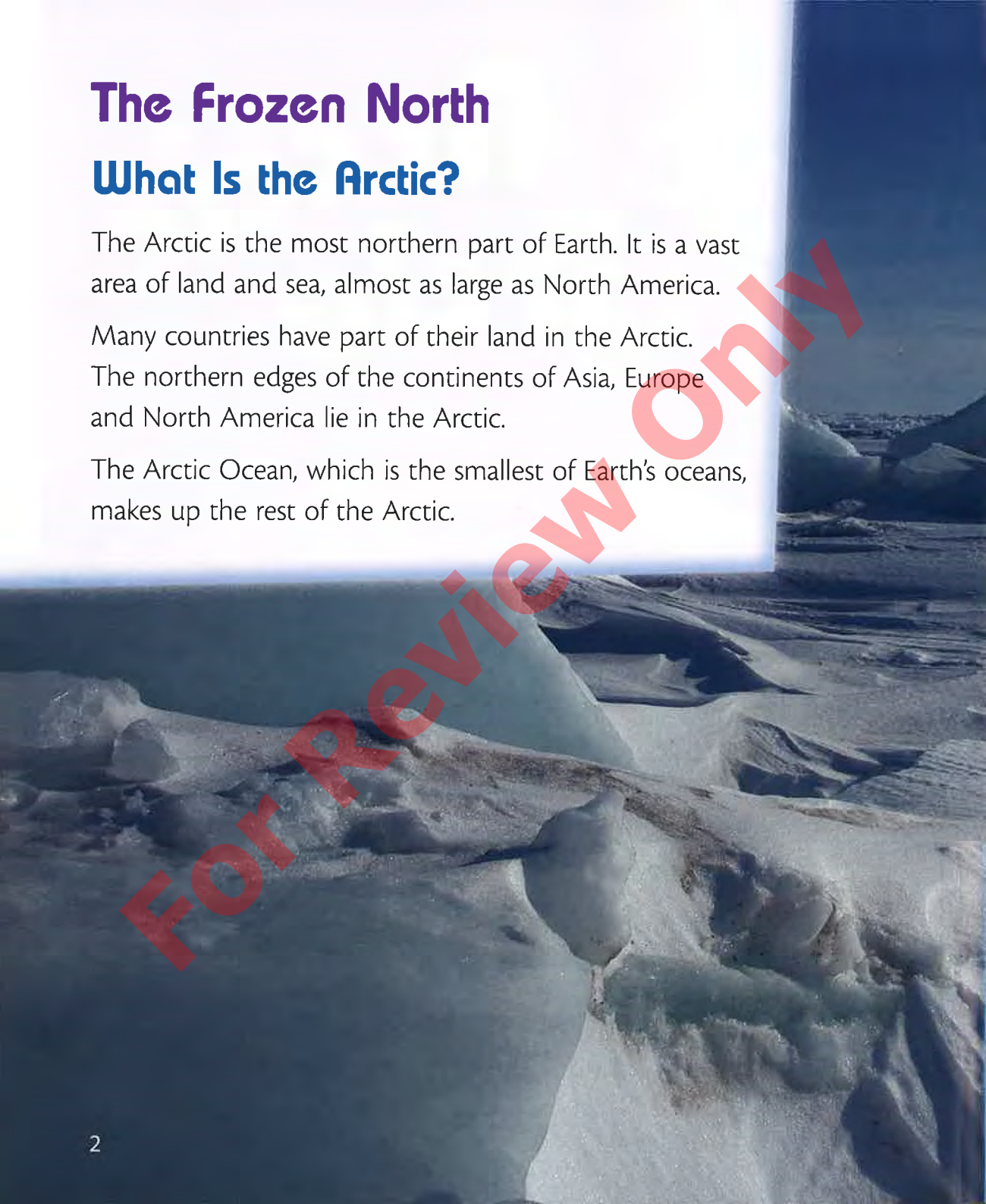
The Frozen North

What Is the Arctic?

The Arctic is the most northern part of Earth. It is a vast area of land and sea, almost as large as North America.

Many countries have part of their land in the Arctic. The northern edges of the continents of Asia, Europe and North America lie in the Arctic.

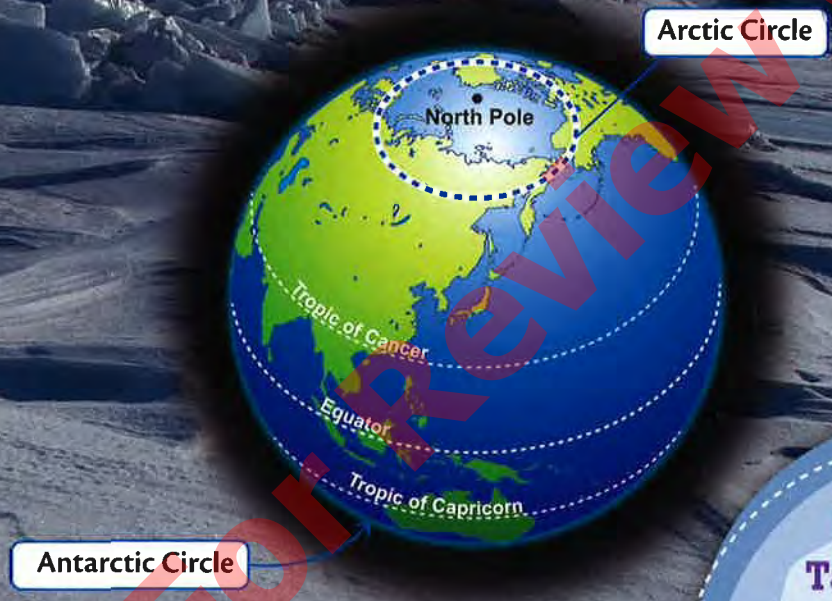
The Arctic Ocean, which is the smallest of Earth's oceans, makes up the rest of the Arctic.



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The Arctic Circle

The Arctic Circle is an imaginary line that circles the globe. It is often used to mark the southern boundary of the Arctic. At the centre of the Arctic Circle is the North Pole – the most northern point on our planet.



Think and Talk About ...

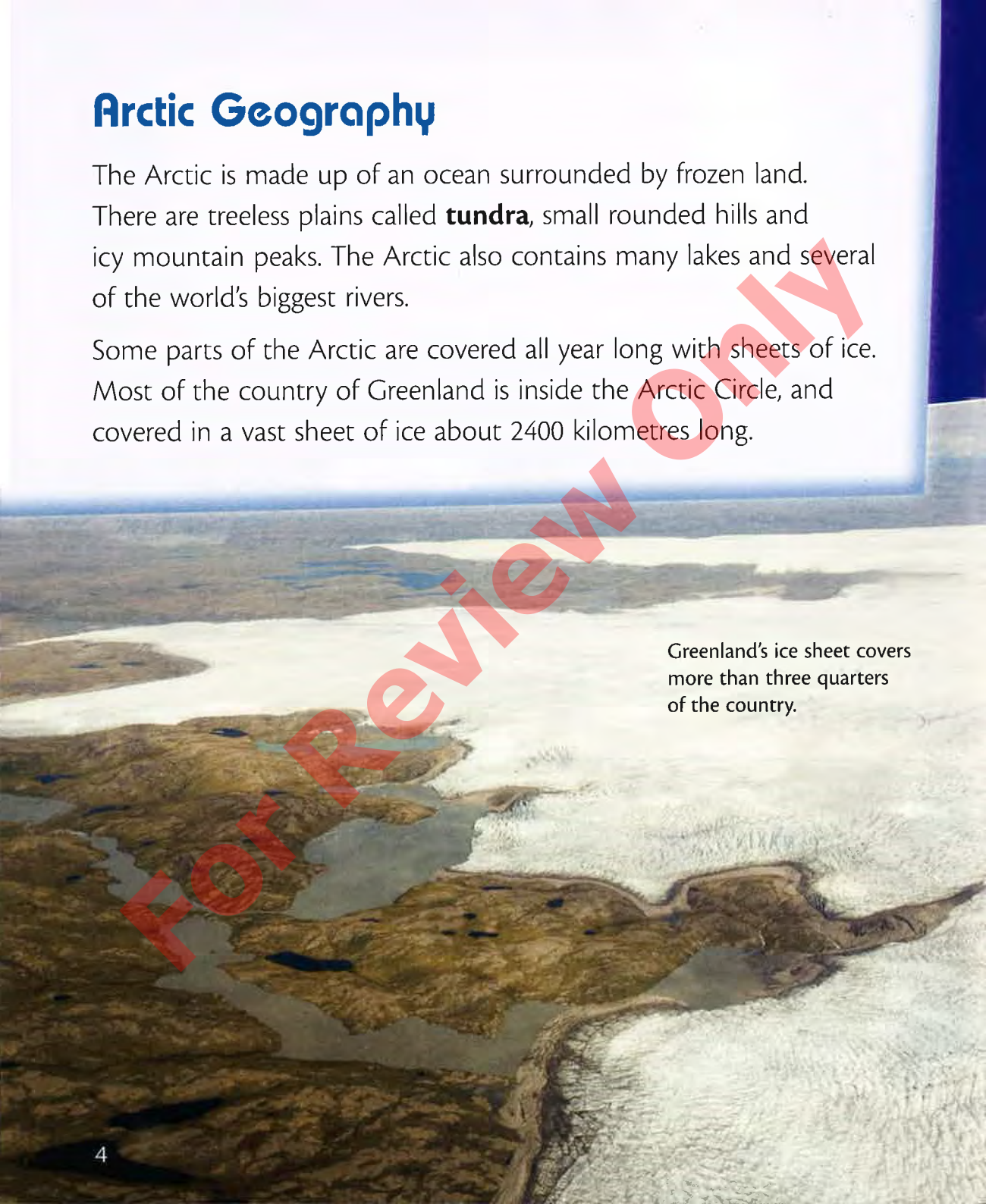
The Arctic Circle is one of five important circles that are marked on maps of Earth.

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Arctic Geography

The Arctic is made up of an ocean surrounded by frozen land. There are treeless plains called **tundra**, small rounded hills and icy mountain peaks. The Arctic also contains many lakes and several of the world's biggest rivers.

Some parts of the Arctic are covered all year long with sheets of ice. Most of the country of Greenland is inside the Arctic Circle, and covered in a vast sheet of ice about 2400 kilometres long.

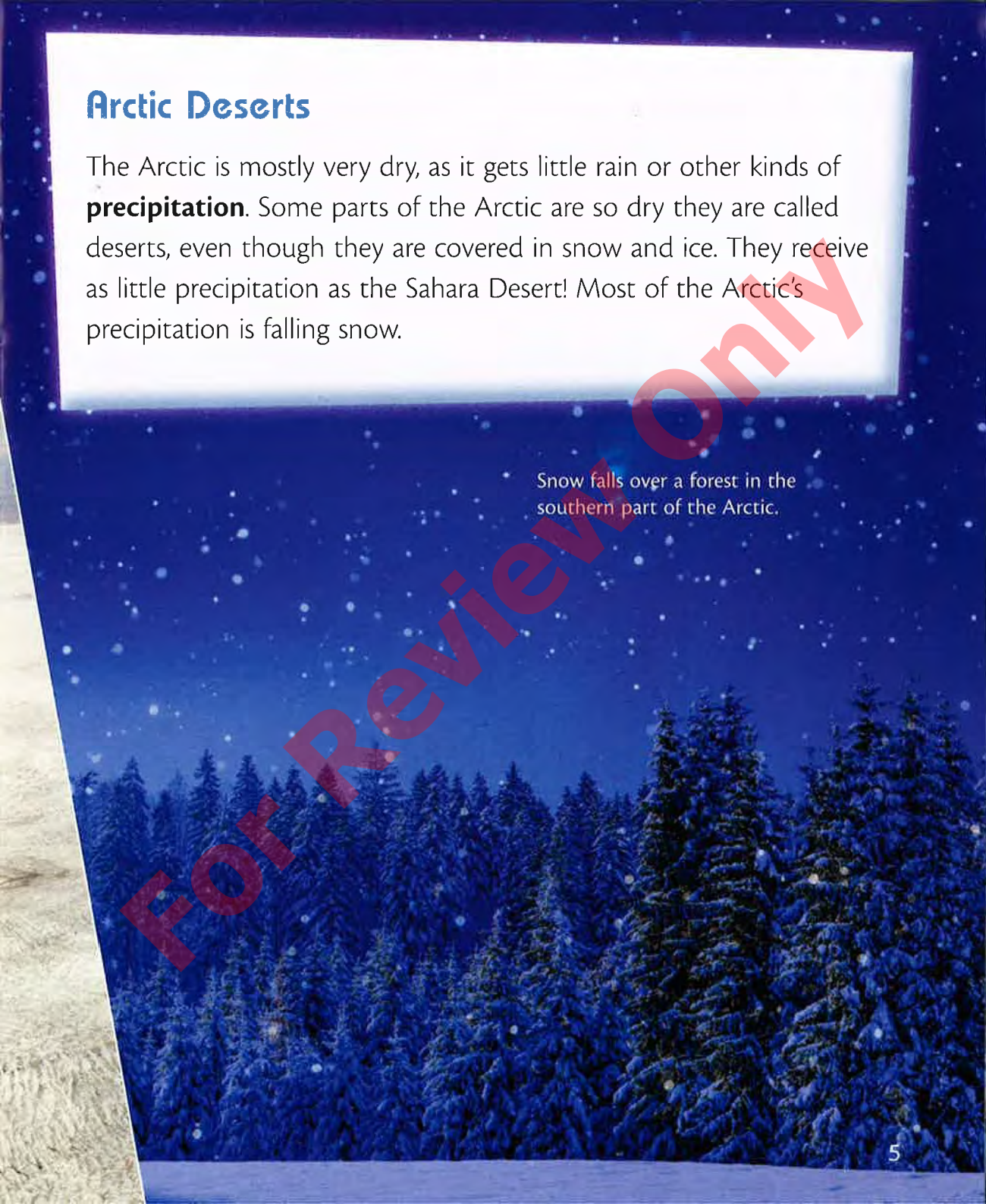


Greenland's ice sheet covers more than three quarters of the country.

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Arctic Deserts

The Arctic is mostly very dry, as it gets little rain or other kinds of **precipitation**. Some parts of the Arctic are so dry they are called deserts, even though they are covered in snow and ice. They receive as little precipitation as the Sahara Desert! Most of the Arctic's precipitation is falling snow.



Snow falls over a forest in the southern part of the Arctic.

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Arctic Seasons

In the winter months, most of the Arctic is cold and windy. The ground is covered with a thick layer of snow and ice, and the temperature is usually below freezing. Salt water does not usually freeze, but the Arctic Ocean gets so cold that a thick layer of ice forms on top of it.

Arctic summers are short and cool. When the snow begins to melt, the tundra become wet and boggy. The soil stays frozen, therefore water from the melting snow cannot drain into the ground. Instead, the melting snow collects on the surface, forming lakes and streams.



In spring, new streams form as the ice melts.

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As the weather becomes warmer, most of the ice in the Arctic Ocean begins to break up into smaller chunks. Some of the ocean is open water, dotted with floating **icebergs**. However, in the central part of the Arctic Ocean, there is a huge pack of ice that stays frozen all year long.



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PM

The area inside the Arctic Circle is a vast, icy ocean, surrounded by frozen land. The people and animals that live in the Arctic have adapted to the extreme cold in many different ways.

Even though the Arctic is a harsh environment, it is also a delicate one. The warming of Earth's climate is damaging the Arctic. This is endangering the animals that depend on the Arctic ice for survival, such as polar bears.

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Text Types:
Information Report (Informative)
Exposition (Persuasive)

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