TALK ABOUT TEXTS

The Arctic and Antarctic



Written by Phillip Simpson

The Arctic and Antarctic



For Review Only

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The Coldest Places on Earth

The top and bottom of Earth look white from space. That is because these two places are covered with ice and snow all year long. They are called the Arctic and the Antarctic. These places look similar, but there are many differences between them.

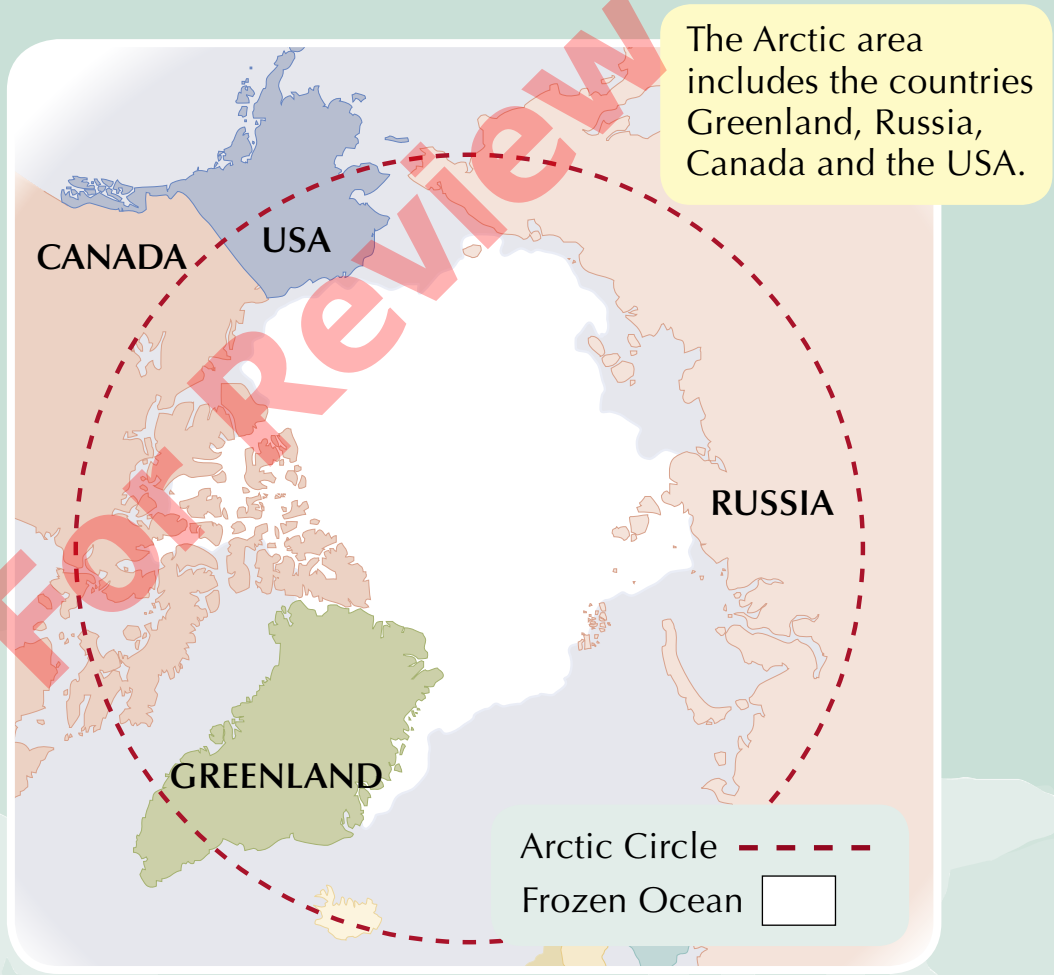


The North Pole in the Arctic and the South Pole in the Antarctic are at opposite ends of Earth.

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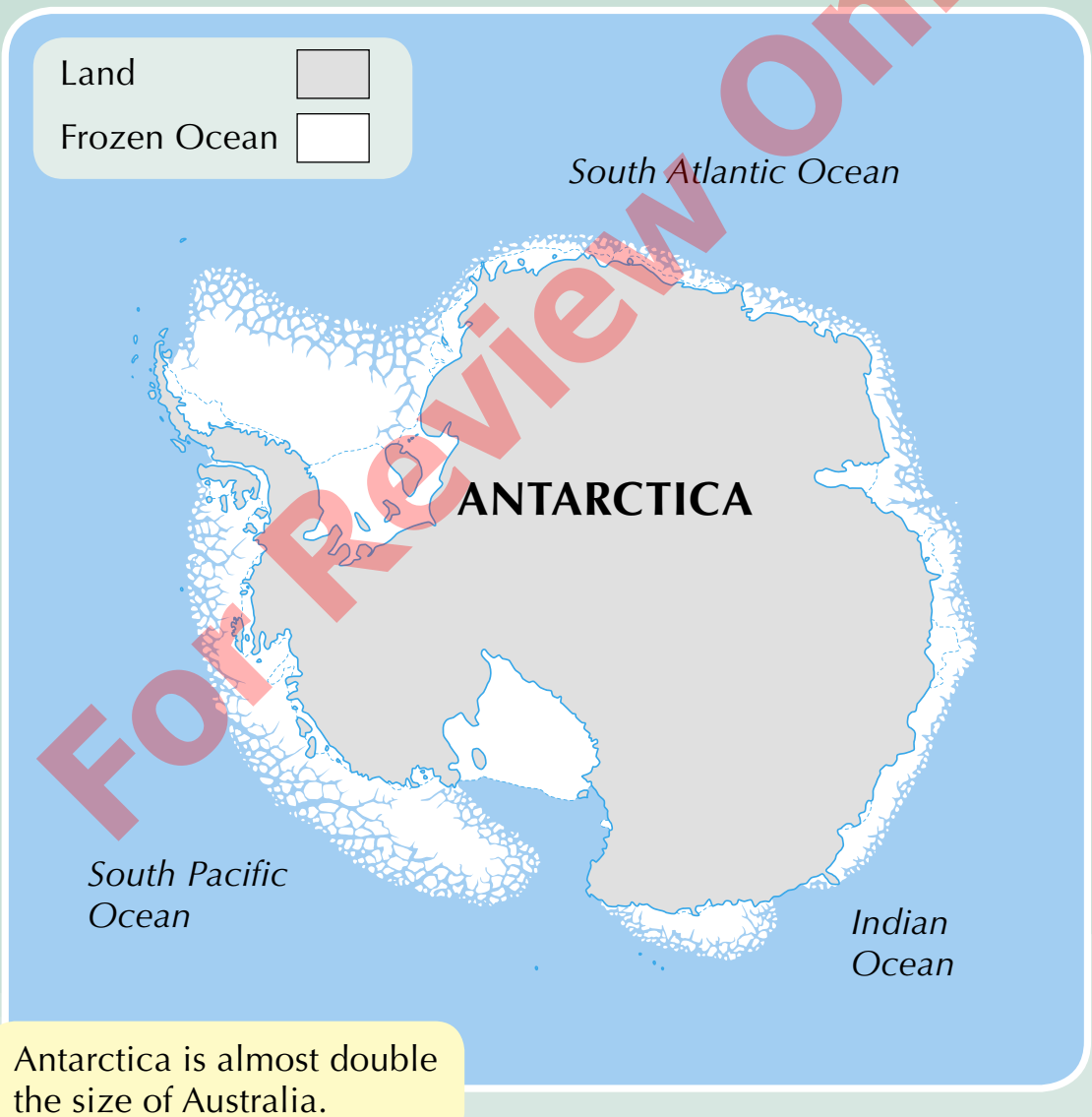
Land and Ice

On the surface, the Arctic and Antarctic look very similar. But one of their biggest differences is what is underneath. Under the ice at the North Pole is a frozen ocean with no land below. The only land in the Arctic area belongs to countries like Greenland, Canada and Russia. Together, this area is called the Arctic Circle.



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The Antarctic is different. Under the ice and snow at the South Pole is solid land. This land belongs to the **continent** Antarctica. The Antarctic area also includes the Southern Ocean and some small islands.



Antarctica is almost double the size of Australia.

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Climate

Both the Arctic and the Antarctic are extremely cold places. This is because they get less sun than other places in the world. However, the Antarctic is much colder than the Arctic. There are many mountains on the continent of Antarctica. The higher you go, the colder it gets. It is so cold in some parts that snow never melts. The Arctic is a bit warmer because the water under the ice warms the air.

The average temperature in the highest parts of Antarctica is -60° Celsius. This makes it the coldest place on Earth. The average temperature in the Arctic is -34° Celsius. It makes the average winter temperatures of 7° Celsius in Tasmania, Australia, seem very warm!





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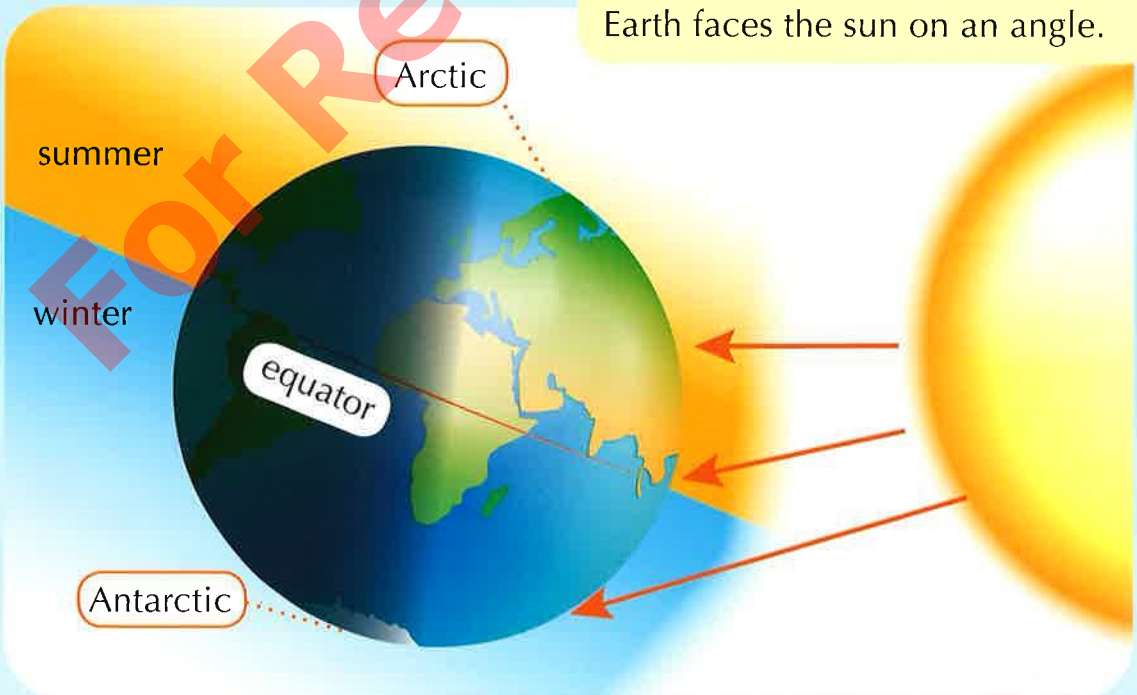
Warm water flows up from the equator and melts the ice in the Arctic Circle.

In the Antarctic, the temperature in the mountains is much colder than the Arctic.

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Seasons

There are only two seasons in the Arctic and Antarctic. When the Earth is tilted away from the sun, it is winter. When the Earth is tilted towards the sun, it is summer. For six months during winter, both the Arctic and Antarctic hardly ever see the sun. In summer, it is almost always daytime for six months. During summer, almost half the Arctic ice melts. It freezes again in winter. The Antarctic area is almost the same size and shape throughout the year. Some of the ice melts, but the solid land underneath it does not change.



There are only two seasons in the Arctic and Antarctic because the Earth faces the sun on an angle.

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