A LOOK AT CONTINENTS

EXPLORE ANTARCTICA



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For Review Only



CHAPTER 1

ICY LAND

Let's explore the **continent** of Antarctica! Nunataks dot the landscape. These hills and mountains stick out from the icy ground.



For Preview Only

The South Pole is the southernmost place on Earth. It is very cold here! How cold? In summer, it is around –18 degrees Fahrenheit (–28 degrees Celsius). In winter, it is even colder! Around –76°F (–60°C) is normal.

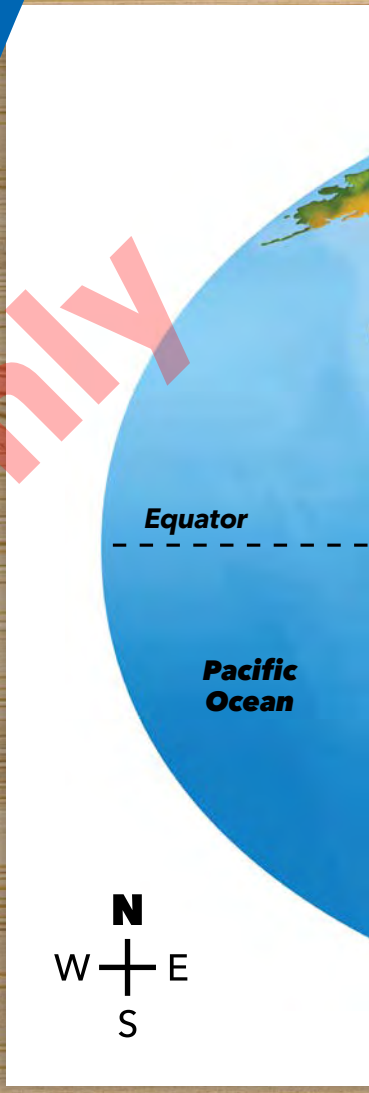


South Pole

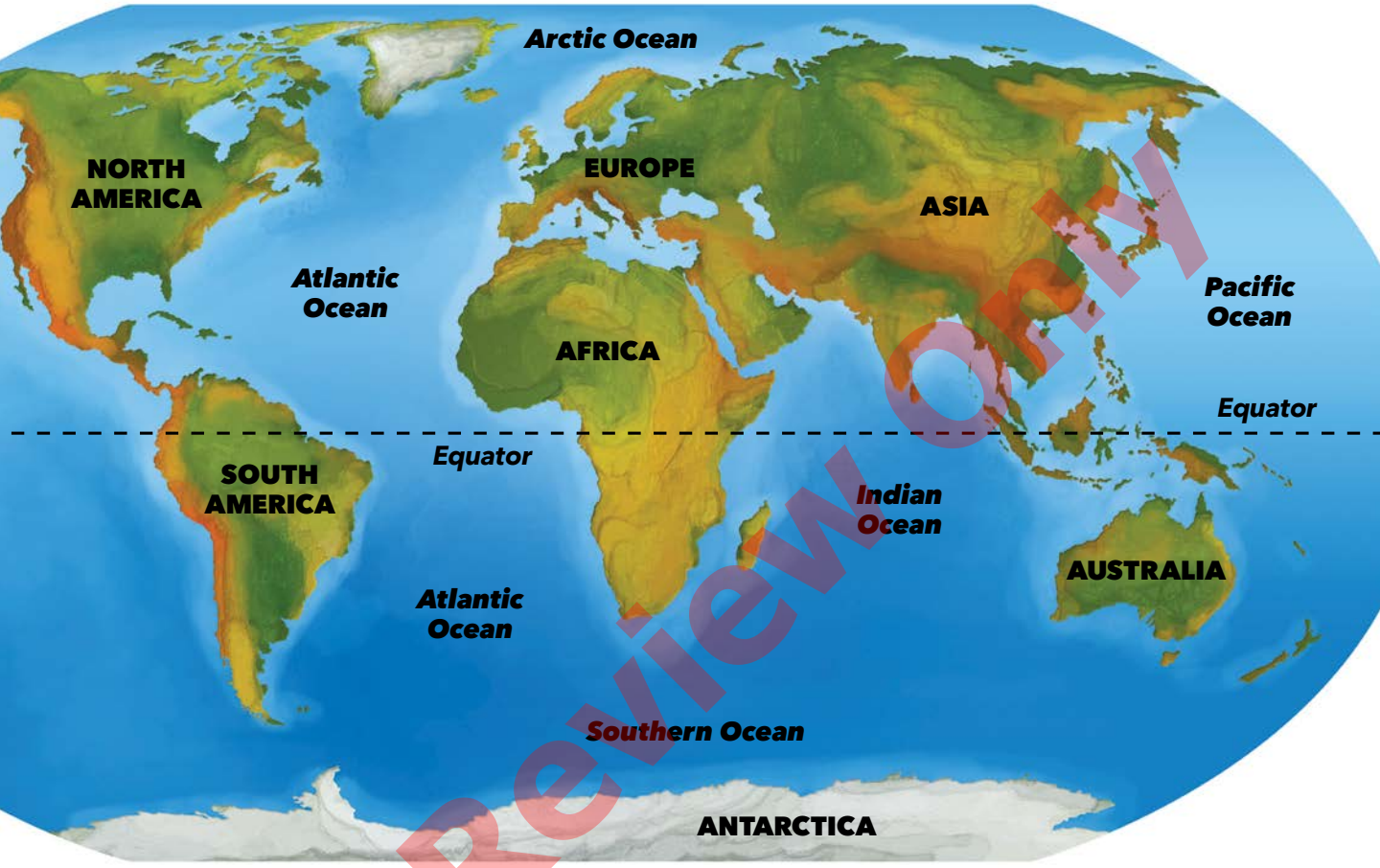
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Antarctica is the fifth largest continent. An **ice sheet** covers about 97 percent of it. It is surrounded by oceans.

It is the continent farthest south of the **equator**. This imaginary line divides Earth into **hemispheres**. Antarctica is in the Southern Hemisphere.

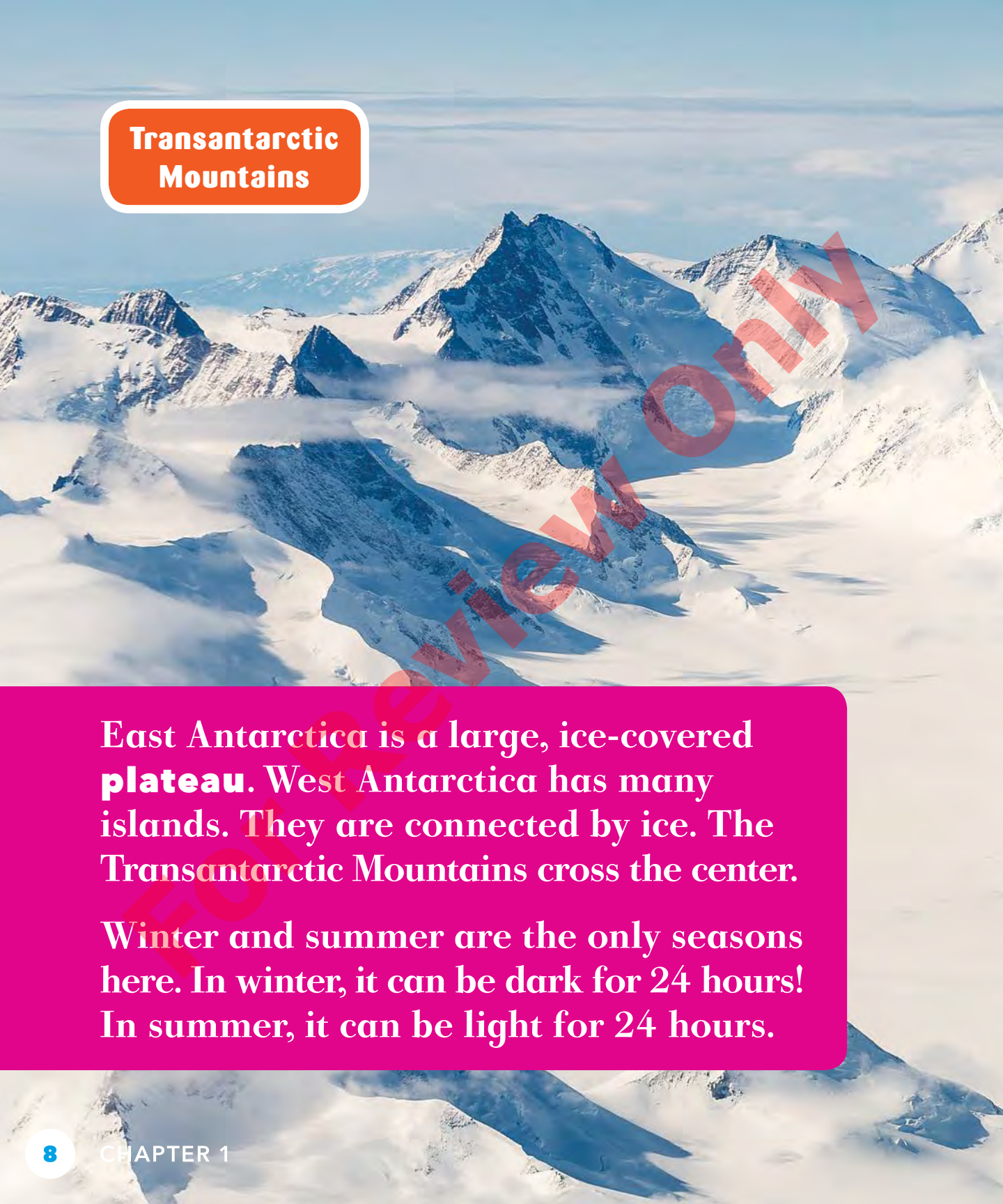


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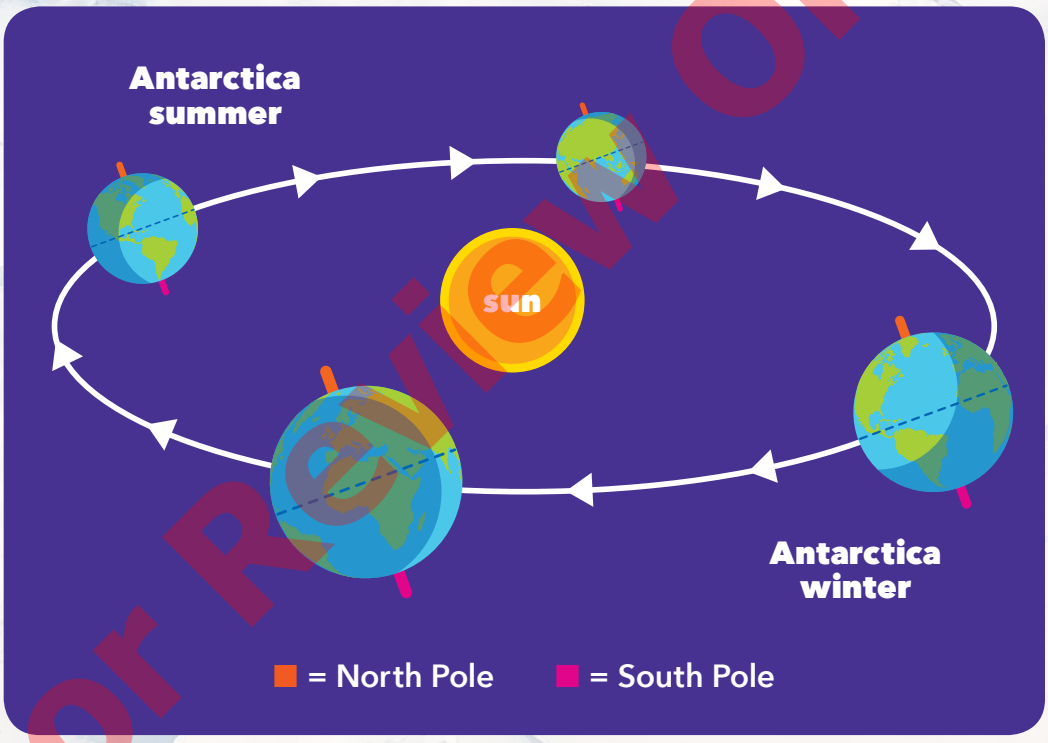
East Antarctica is a large, ice-covered **plateau**. West Antarctica has many islands. They are connected by ice. The Transantarctic Mountains cross the center.

Winter and summer are the only seasons here. In winter, it can be dark for 24 hours! In summer, it can be light for 24 hours.

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TAKE A LOOK!

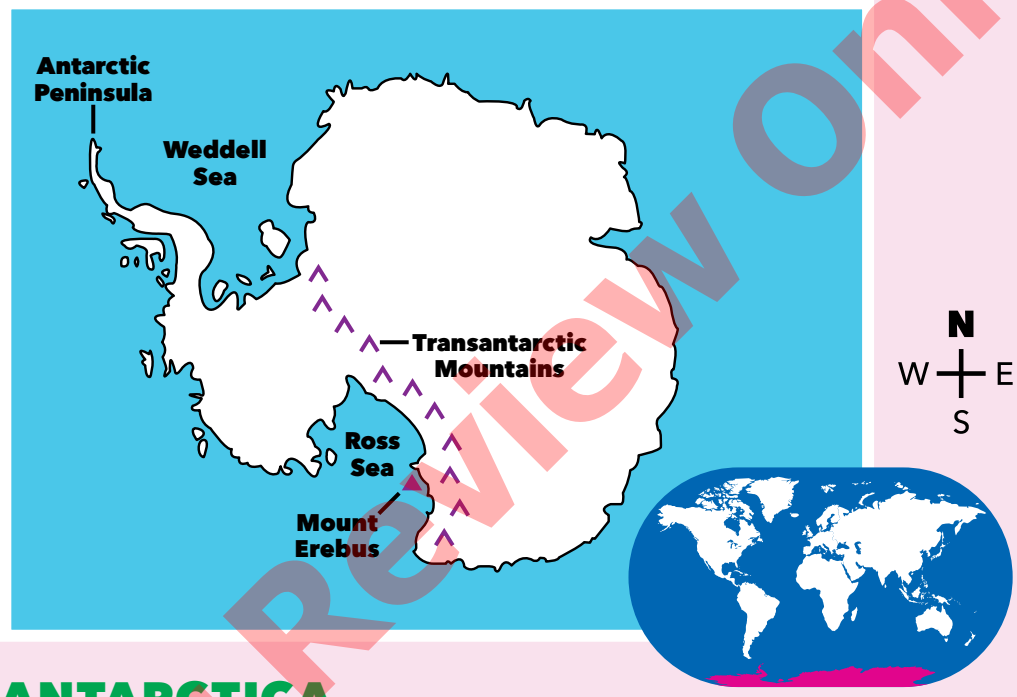
What causes Antarctica's 24-hour sunlight or darkness? Earth is tilted. It **orbits** the sun. As it orbits, the poles are closer or farther from the sun. During winter, the South Pole is far from the sun. It is closer in summer.



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QUICK FACTS & TOOLS

AT A GLANCE



ANTARCTICA

Size: 5.5 million square miles (14.2 million square kilometers)

Size Rank: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australia

Prominent Landforms: Ross Sea, Weddell Sea, Antarctic Peninsula, Transantarctic Mountains

Facts: The Antarctic Ice Sheet is 7 million cubic miles (29 million cubic km) of ice.

All of the water in Lake Superior could fit into the Antarctic Ice Sheet about 2,350 times.

For Review Only