

# Polar Regions Y3 Knowledge Mat



## Sticky Knowledge about Polar Regions

• To know where the coldest places on Earth are and why they are so cold.

- Polar relates to the North Pole or South Pole or nearby regions.
- There are two main polar regions in the world, which are the Arctic and the Antarctic.
- Because the sun is so far away from both the North and South Poles, areas in polar climates never have a chance to thaw out or melt.
- There are very few sunlight hours during the day, meaning that most of the time it is dark.
- Antarctica is a continent.

• To know the countries found within the Arctic Circle.

- The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean and parts of 8 countries **Russia, Canada, Alaska, Finland, Iceland, Greenland, Norway and Sweden.**
- There are inhabitants in the Arctic but not the Antarctic.



• To know the physical features of the Arctic.

- Polar climates are almost always covered with snow and have extremely cold temperatures, rarely rising above zero
- Ice in these places can be several miles thick.
- Glacier - A glacier is a huge mass of ice that moves slowly over land.
- Ice sheet – A thick layer of ice that breaks away from a glacier.
- Iceberg - An iceberg is a piece of freshwater ice more than 15 m long that has broken off a glacier or an ice shelf and is floating freely in open (salt) water.
- Tundra - The tundra is a large, barren region with no trees. Tundra takes up a lot of the area of polar habitats.

## Subject Specific Vocabulary

**Arctic circle\***

The Arctic Circle is a line of latitude, which is an imaginary horizontal line around the Earth.

**Arctic\***

The lands and ocean north of the Arctic Circle is called the Arctic.

**Species\***

A group of animals, plants or other living things that all share common characteristics and that are all classified as alike in some manner.

**Climate**

Climate refers to aspects of weather over a long time, not just one day or week for example. Climate in the Arctic is long, cold winters and short, cool summers.

**Threatened\***

Under treat, in danger.

**Tundra\***

The tundra is a large, barren region with no trees. Tundra takes up a lot of the area of polar habitats.

**Polar Regions (Y3)**

**Previous learning**

Year 1- Hot and Cold places.

- To know and understand that Antarctica is a continent.
- To know where the North and South Poles are. (Compass points)
- To explain why countries are hot or cold.

Year 1 History- Robert Scott

- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements- **expedition to the Antarctic.**

Year 2-

- Name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans

**Future learning**

Year 5- Scandinavia (location in relation to the Arctic Circle)

- Describing Scandinavia in relation to the rest of the world.

Year 5- Deserts and Landscapes

- To name and locate the world's deserts and describe their location in relation to the Tropics, Equator and **Northern/** Southern Hemisphere.
- To understand the different types of deserts and their features. (polar deserts)