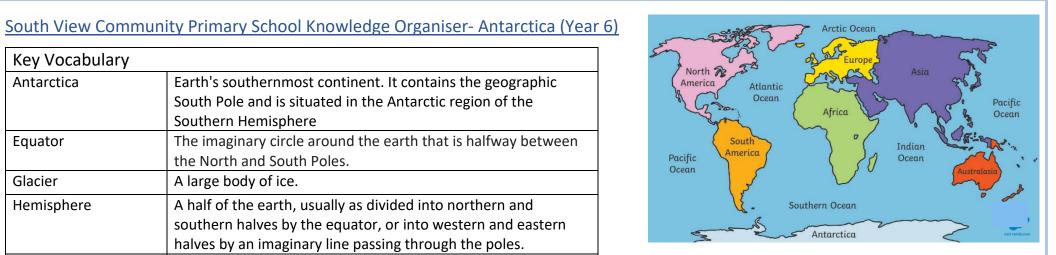
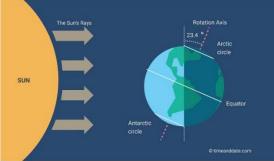
Key Vocabulary	
Antarctica	Earth's southernmost continent. It contains the geographic South Pole and is situated in the Antarctic region of the Southern Hemisphere
Equator	The imaginary circle around the earth that is halfway between the North and South Poles.
Glacier	A large body of ice.
Hemisphere	A half of the earth, usually as divided into northern and southern halves by the equator, or into western and eastern halves by an imaginary line passing through the poles.
Iceberg	A floating mass of ice that has detached from a glacier.
Latitude	The distance between the equator and a point north or south on the earth's surface. This distance is measured in degrees
Longitude	The distance on the earth's surface east or west of an imaginary line on the globe that goes from the north pole to the south pole and passes through Greenwich, England. Longitude is usually measured in degrees.
North/South Pole	The northernmost and southernmost points on Earth which are where the Earth's axis meets the Earth's surface.
Pollution	Act of making something dirty or harmful by adding waste material.
Tropics	The only part of the earth where the sun shines directly downwards.



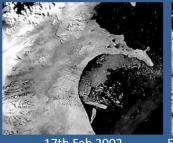


The Poles

The North and South Poles are the most Northern and Southern points in the world.

The North and South Poles are the axis points on Earth. The Earth spins from this point.

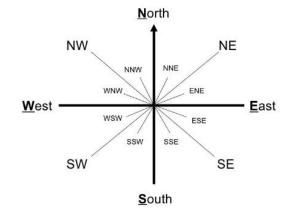






17th Feb 2002





Antarctic

Antarctica is located in the southernmost part of the planet. According to size, Antarctica is the fifth largest continent of our planet. The South Pole is near the middle of Antarctica.

Antarctica is the driest continent of the seven continents. Antarctica is an icy desert with very little rainfall throughout the year.

Antarctica is an ice covered continent surrounded by the Southern Ocean. Almost all of the continent's land is covered by a thick layer of ice.

Antarctica is the windiest place on the earth where windspeeds of more than 350 kilometres per hour/218 miles per hour have been measured.

Antarctica is the least populated continent. There are no residents living permanently here. Only around 1,000 people (in winter) and 10,000 people (in summer) live on the continent. These people are mainly based there for one year to live and work in the research stations. The research stations are scattered all around the continent.

The few areas where there is no or only little ice throughout the year are located in the most northern parts of the continent. There one will find also the typical **tundra** vegetation.

There are not many species living on the Antarctic continent. Whales, and seals live in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. The Emperor penguins are the only penguin species breeding on Antarctica.



Shackleton and some of his team in Antarctica





Ernest Shackleton

An explorer who in 1914, chartered an expedition to Antarctica. Disaster struck when his ship, the Endurance, was crushed by ice. He and his crew drifted on sheets of ice for months until they reached Elephant Island. Shackleton eventually rescued his crew, all of whom survived the ordeal. He later died while setting out on another Antarctic expedition.



English Vehicle Text

