



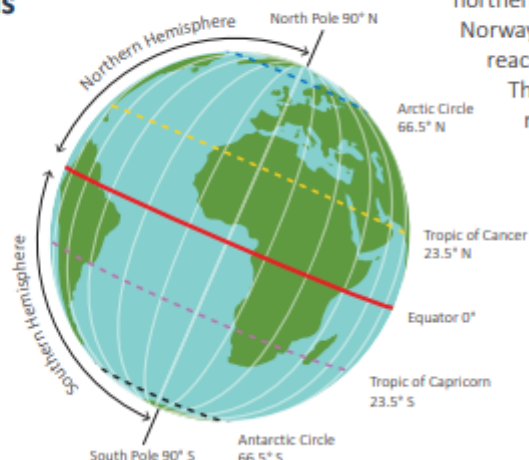
# Geography

## Frozen Kingdoms - Lent 1

### Frozen Kingdoms

#### The polar regions

The Earth has two polar regions: the Arctic Circle in the Northern Hemisphere and the Antarctic Circle in the Southern Hemisphere. Polar regions have long, cold winters and temperatures mostly below freezing. The weather can be very windy with little precipitation.



#### Polar landscapes

Much of the polar regions is covered with snow and ice all year round. Polar landscape features include glaciers, ice fields and icebergs.

##### Glacier

Glaciers are slow-moving masses of flowing ice, formed by the compaction of snow. They can vary in depth from 50m to 1500m.



##### Ice field

Ice fields are large areas of connected glaciers covering flat areas, such as valleys and high plateaus. They are made from compressed and frozen snow.



##### Iceberg

Icebergs are chunks of ice that calve, or break off, from glaciers and ice sheets and float in the sea. Wind and water erode icebergs into sculptural shapes.



#### Arctic region

The Arctic region consists of the Arctic Ocean and the northern parts of Canada, Alaska, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland and Iceland. Winter temperatures can reach -55°C and summer temperatures can reach 10°C.

The Arctic region has a varied landscape including mountains, tundra and boreal forest. It is home to small populations of people and an amazing variety of plants and animals including the polar bear, Arctic fox, Arctic hare and walrus.



#### Polar exploration

Due to the harsh and inhospitable conditions, the polar regions were the last places on Earth to be explored. During the golden age of polar exploration, between 1898 and 1916, explorers searched for the Northwest Passage in the Arctic and raced to reach the South Pole in Antarctica. Three famous polar explorers were Robert Falcon Scott, Roald Amundsen and Ernest Shackleton.



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#### Glossary

<b>Antarctic Circle</b>	An imaginary circle of latitude that lies 66.5° south of the equator. Everything south of this line is known as the Antarctic.
<b>Arctic Circle</b>	An imaginary circle of latitude that lies 66.5° north of the equator. Everything north of this line is known as the Arctic.
<b>boreal forest</b>	A large area of wetland covered in conifer trees. Boreal forests are found in countries that are in or near the Arctic Circle.
<b>climate</b>	The usual weather conditions that occur in a place over a long period.
<b>horizon</b>	The line where the sky appears to meet the Earth.
<b>indigenous</b>	Occurring naturally or originating in a particular place.
<b>native</b>	Referring to the animals and plants that occur naturally in a place.
<b>North Pole</b>	The most northern geographical point of the Earth.
<b>polar day</b>	Near constant daylight in the Arctic or Antarctic during the summer months when the Sun does not set below the horizon. Also known as Midnight Sun.
<b>polar night</b>	Near constant darkness in the Arctic or Antarctic during the winter months when the Sun does not rise above the horizon.
<b>precipitation</b>	Water that falls from clouds in the sky as rain, snow, hail or sleet.
<b>South Pole</b>	The most southern geographical point of the Earth.
<b>tundra</b>	An area of land where it is too cold for trees to grow and the ground below the surface is permanently frozen.