

## Glossary

Antarctic Circle	An imaginary circle of latitude that lies 66.5° south of the equator. Everything south of this line is known as the Antarctic.
Arctic Circle	An imaginary circle of latitude that lies 66.5° north of the equator. Everything north of this line is known as the Arctic.
Boreal Forest	A large area of wetland covered in conifer trees. Boreal forests are found in countries that are in or near the Arctic Circle.
Climate	The usual weather conditions that occur in a place over a long period.
Horizon	The line where the sky appears to meet the Earth.
Indigenous	Occurring naturally or originating in a particular place.
Native	Referring to the animals and plants that occur naturally in a place.
Polar Day	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.
Polar Night	Near constant darkness in the Arctic or Antarctic during the winter months when the Sun does not rise above the horizon.
Precipitation	Water that falls from clouds in the sky as rain, snow, hail or sleet.
Tundra	An area of land where it is too cold for trees to grow and the ground below the surface is permanently frozen.
Biome	A biome is a community of plants and animals that have common characteristics for the environment they exist in.

## Polar Regions

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.



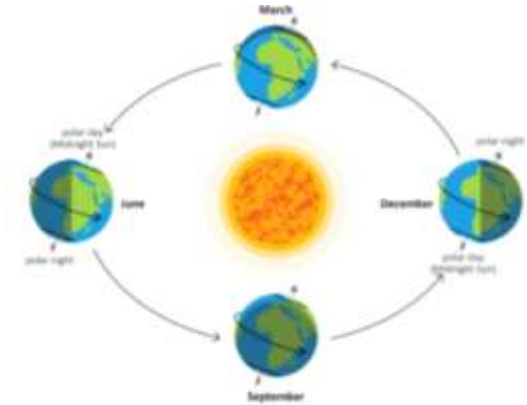
## Antarctic Region

The Antarctic is a polar region around the Earth's South Pole, opposite the Arctic region around the North Pole. The Antarctic comprises the continent of Antarctica, the Kerguelen Plateau and other island territories located on the Antarctic Plate.

## Arctic Region

The Arctic is a polar region located at the northernmost part of Earth. The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Alaska, Canada, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.

## Polar Day and Night



Due to the tilt of the Earth, the poles experience nearly 24 hours of daylight during the summer months. This is called polar day, or Midnight Sun. In the winter, the poles experience nearly 24 hours of darkness. This is called polar night.

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.

