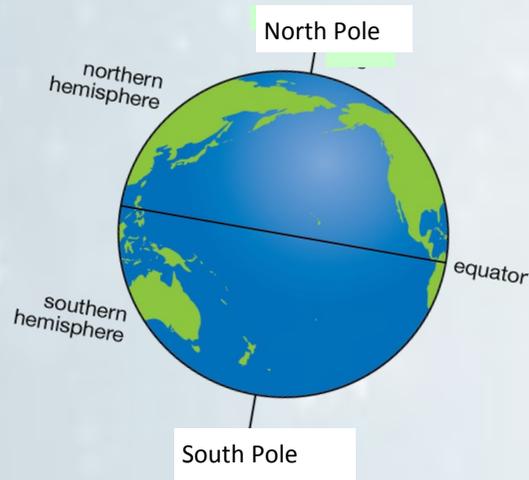


# Frozen Kingdom

## The Arctic region

The Arctic region is found in the Northern Hemisphere and includes parts of Canada, Alaska, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Greenland and Iceland along with the Arctic Ocean. Temperatures can reach  $-68^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the winter



months, making it one of the coldest places on Earth.

## Nature in the polar regions

The Arctic region is home to just a small population of people and an amazing array of plants and animals, including the polar



bear, the Arctic fox and the walrus.



There are no people that live permanently in the Antarctic region and only two native kinds of flowering plants, but it has a rich sea life, including the emperor penguin, leopard seal and humpback whale.

## Inuit Art



## Natural phenomenon



Auroras are displays of coloured lights seen in the skies near the North and South Poles. The lights are created when electrically charged particles from the Sun collide with oxygen and nitrogen gas particles in the Earth's atmosphere. The Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, can be seen from Norway, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Canada and as far as Scotland and Northern England. The Aurora Australis, or Southern Lights, are more difficult to see as the

# Polar Explorers

## Sir Ernest Shackleton

Ernest was a polar explorer who led British expeditions to the Antarctic, he was particularly interested in exploring the South Pole. He wanted to be the first person to reach the South Pole. He went on his first expedition when he was 25. On his second trip, he made it to within 97 miles of the South Pole before he had to turn back.

Ernest was disappointed when a Norwegian explorer made it to the South Pole first in 1911. He made a new goal of passing through the South Pole, setting out on the ship, *Endurance*, in August, 1914. In January, the ship became ice-locked. Shackleton and his men abandoned the ship, which later sunk, and lived on the ice for several months. Shackleton and his men were on the ice for almost two years, but no one died.



## Robert Falcon Scott

Robert Falcon Scott (Scott of the Antarctic) commanded his first expedition to the Antarctic between 1901 and 1904.

The team, which also included Ernest Shackleton, reached further than anyone else had before but failed to reach the South Pole.



## Roald Amundsen— First explorer to reach the South Pole.



Roald Amundsen was a Norwegian explorer. As well as navigating the Northwest Passage linking the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean, he was the first person to reach the South Pole.

During the late 1880s he joined several Arctic expeditions, including the first one to survive the Arctic winter. In 1903 he commanded an expedition to the North Pole and the Northwest Passage. Amundsen learned about surviving in cold places from the Eskimos, such as wearing animal skins instead of heavy furs.

Roald Amundsen became determined to be the first person to reach the South Pole. Amundsen reached the South Pole on December 14, 1911, beating an expedition led by Captain Scott.

# Glossary

## expedition

A group journey with a particular purpose.

## explorer

Someone who travels to undiscovered places.

## glacier

A large body of ice.

## iceberg

A floating mass of ice that has detached from a glacier.

## ice cap

An ice sheet that covers less than 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land.

## ice sheet

A thick sheet of ice covering an extensive area.

## ice shelf

A part of a glacier that extends from the land and floats on the sea.

## indigenous

People or things that have

## Inuit

Indigenous people who live in the Arctic regions.

## Northern Hemisphere

The part of Earth that is to the north of the equator.

## particle

A tiny piece of matter that makes up a solid, liquid or gas.

## precipitation

Water vapour that falls to the ground as rain, sleet, hail or snow.

## sea ice

A thin, fragile layer of frozen sea water.

## Southern Hemisphere

The part of the Earth that is to the south of the Equator.