

# Amazing Antarctica

## Where Is Antarctica?



Antarctica is the area of land that is the furthest south in the world. It contains the South Pole. It is the coldest place on Earth.

## Antarctic Animals

Lots of different animals live in Antarctica.



**Emperor penguins** are the biggest penguins in the world. They are only found in Antarctica. They keep themselves warm by huddling together in big groups.

**Fur seals** have thick fur to protect them from the cold. They also have a thick layer of fat under their skin to keep them warm.



**Orcas** are sometimes called 'killer whales' but they are actually a type of dolphin. They eat seals, penguins, squid, sharks and even whales.

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# Questions

1. Where is Antarctica? Tick **one**.

- It is the furthest north.
- It is the furthest south.
- It is the furthest east.

2. Which of these animals live in Antarctica? Tick **two**.

- emperor penguins
- orcas
- monkeys

3. How do emperor penguins keep themselves warm? Tick **one**.

- They huddle together.
- They eat warm meals.
- They wear jumpers.

4. What do fur seals have a thick layer of under their skin? Tick **one**.

- bones
- blood
- fat

5. What are orcas sometimes called? Tick **one**.

- killer whales
- funny whales
- water whales

# Answers

1. Where is Antarctica? Tick **one**.

- It is the furthest north.
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- blood
- fat**

5. What are orcas sometimes called? Tick **one**.

- killer whales**
- funny whales
- water whales

# Amazing Antarctica

## Where Is Antarctica?



Antarctica is a continent (a large solid area of land). It is the furthest south in the world. It is surrounded by the Southern Ocean.

Antarctica is about 50 times the size of the UK.

## Antarctic Animals

Lots of different animals live in Antarctica. They have all developed special features to help them to survive in very cold temperatures.



**Emperor penguins** are the largest penguins in the world. Emperor penguins have special fat layers in their feet to keep them from freezing. They also have strong claws to help them grip the ice.

**Fur seals** have thick fur to protect them from the cold. They also have a thick layer of fat, called blubber, under their skin to keep them warm.



**Orcas** have a large heart which helps to pump lots of warm blood around their body. They also have a thick layer of blubber under their skin to keep them warm.

## What Is It Like in Antarctica?

Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth and almost the whole continent is always covered in ice. Because of the extremely cold temperatures, no people live in Antarctica permanently. There are also parts where no rain ever falls.

"Emperor Penguins" by Christopher Michel is licensed under CC BY 2.0

# Questions

1. What is a continent? Tick one.

- a large country  
 a large solid area of land  
 a place covered in ice

2. How big is Antarctica? Tick one.

- 50 times the size of the UK  
 50 times the size of the USA  
 2 times the size of the UK

3. Why have the animals in Antarctica developed special features?

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4. Draw a line to match up the boxes to complete the sentences.

Lots of different animals

penguins in the world.

There are also parts where

live in Antarctica.

Emperor penguins  
are the largest

no rain ever falls.

5. Complete this sentence.

Antarctica is the \_\_\_\_\_ place on Earth.

sunniest

warmest

coldest

# Answers

1. What is a continent? Tick one.

- a large country  
 **a large solid area of land**  
 a place covered in ice

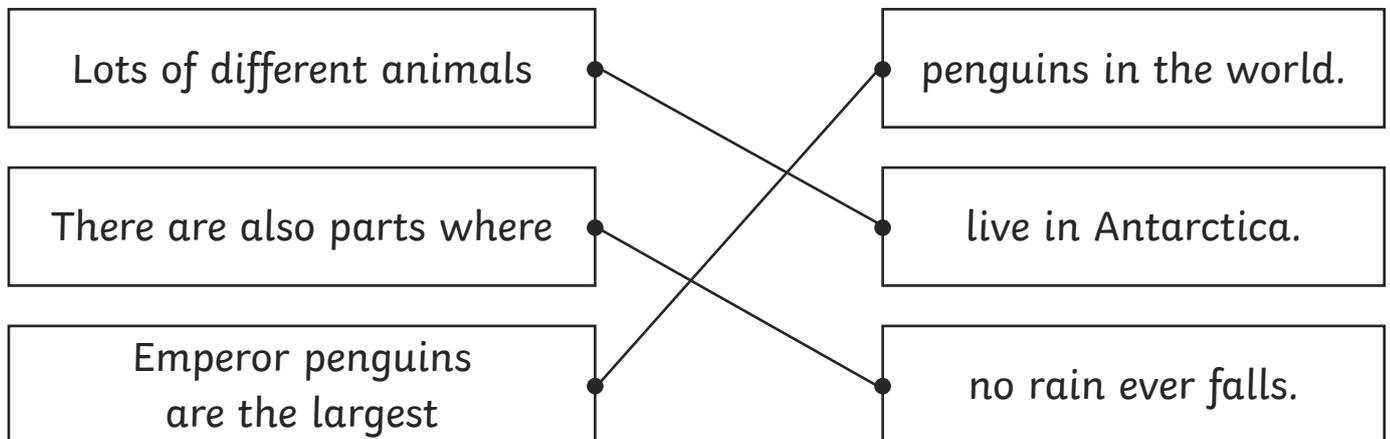
2. How big is Antarctica? Tick one.

- 50 times the size of the UK**  
 50 times the size of the USA  
 2 times the size of the UK

3. Why have the animals in Antarctica developed special features?

**To help them to survive in very cold temperatures.**

4. Draw a line to match up the boxes to complete the sentences.



5. Complete this sentence.

Antarctica is the **coldest** place on Earth.

sunniest

warmest

**coldest**

# Amazing Antarctica

## Where Is Antarctica?



Antarctica is a continent in the southern hemisphere. It is surrounded by the Southern Ocean.

Antarctica is the fifth largest continent in the world and is about 50 times the size of the UK.

## Antarctic Animals

There are lots of different animals that live in Antarctica. They all have special adaptations (skills or features they have developed) which allow them to live in such cold temperatures. Many of these animals, such as seals and penguins, have a special layer of fat under their skin, called blubber. This helps to insulate their bodies and keep the heat in. Birds in Antarctica have to take special care of their eggs to prevent them from freezing before they hatch. Emperor penguins have a special flap of skin above their feet. Their egg (and then their chick, once it is hatched) sits under this flap, on top of their feet, to keep it off the cold ground.



## A Cold Climate



Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. The lowest temperature ever recorded here was  $-89^{\circ}\text{C}$  but the average temperatures range from about  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-60^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Because it is so cold, over 98% of Antarctica is permanently covered in ice. The average thickness of this ice is about one mile!

### People in Antarctica

No people permanently live in Antarctica because it is too cold for them to live there for a long time. Scientists take turns living there for short periods of time to study the ice and the animals. Tourists also sometimes visit in the summer. There are no towns or cities in Antarctica.

### Fascinating Features

There are lots of different physical features in Antarctica. These include seas, mountains, valleys, islands, glaciers and even volcanoes. In fact, there are 138 volcanoes in Antarctica! However, only two of them are currently active. The most active is called Mount Erebus and it has been active for about 1.3 million years.



### Did You Know?

Antarctica is home to the driest place on Earth. There are places in Antarctica which haven't had rain or snow in over 2 million years!

# Questions

1. Which ocean is Antarctica surrounded by? Tick one.

- the Southern Ocean  
 the Pacific Ocean  
 the Atlantic Ocean

2. What do seals and penguins have that helps to insulate their bodies?

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3. In your own words, explain what an animal **adaptation** is.

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4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.

continent ●

insulate ●

permanently ●

a large solid area of land ●

remains unchanged for all time ●

prevents the loss of heat ●

5. Why aren't there any people living permanently in Antarctica?

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6. Do you think it is easy to visit Antarctica? Why?

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# Answers

1. Which ocean is Antarctica surrounded by? Tick one.

- the Southern Ocean**  
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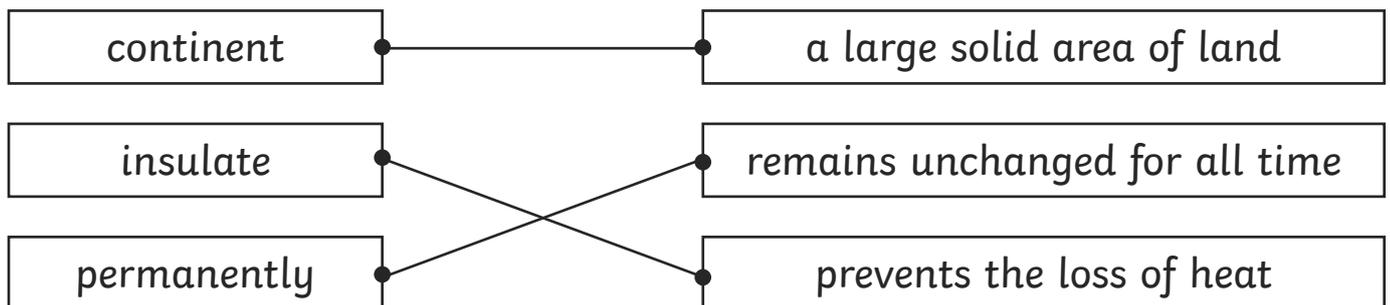
2. What do seals and penguins have that helps to insulate their bodies?

**a special layer of fat / blubber**

3. In your own words, explain what an animal **adaptation** is.

**Children's own words, but relating to: Special skills or features animals have developed which allow them to live in certain places.**

4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.



5. Why aren't there any people living permanently in Antarctica?

**Because it is too cold for them to live there for a long time.**

6. Do you think it is easy to visit Antarctica? Why?

**Children's own responses relating to how far away Antarctica is, plus the extreme climate making visiting difficult.**