



Victoria



Extremely cold environments

THE Arctic and Antarctica are made of **vast** sheets of ice and **glaciers**. They help keep our planet cool and are home to **unique** wildlife. These frozen regions are beautiful and attract scientists, explorers, and nature lovers from all over the world.

The Arctic

'ARCTIC' comes from a Greek word meaning 'of the North'. The Arctic region is covered in thick layers of ice, which floats on the Arctic Ocean. Animals adapted to survive in the cold like polar bears, seals, and **walrus** are found here. In the Arctic, the sun does not set during summer, resulting in long daytimes. In winter, the days are very short, and the region experiences long periods of darkness. Above water, the average winter temperature gets as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius!

Antarctica



ANTARCTICA is the southernmost **continent**, whose name means 'opposite of the North'. Antarctica is the coldest, windiest and driest place on Earth. In fact, it is so dry that it is considered a desert! Antarctica holds about 90 percent of the world's ice and 70 percent of its freshwater.

Melting ice

THE ice in the Arctic and Antarctica **reflects** heat back into space, keeping Earth cool. However, these two places are experiencing rapid loss of ice. This melting of the ice not only threatens wildlife that depends on the ice but also causes sea levels to rise, which in turn increases the risk of flooding in coastal areas!



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We must stop the ice melting and save the planet!

Fun

Spot three differences between the two photos.



Answers on P12

A.

B.

Vocabulary

vast (adj) 廣闊的
glacier (n) 冰川

unique (adj) 獨特的
walrus (n) 海象

continent (n) 洲
reflect (v) 反射

Challenge