

Name:

Date:

The Arctic vs. Antarctica

The Arctic and Antarctica are the coldest regions on Earth. Both are covered in snow and ice for much of the year, but they are very different places.

The Arctic is located around the North Pole. Much of it is a frozen ocean surrounded by land. Animals such as polar bears, Arctic foxes, reindeer and walruses live there. People also live in parts of the Arctic and have adapted to its freezing conditions. Antarctica surrounds the South Pole. Unlike the Arctic, it is a continent covered by a thick layer of ice. Penguins, seals and many seabirds live there, but there are no wild polar bears. Antarctica has no permanent human population, although scientists stay at research stations throughout the year. Both regions experience extremely cold temperatures and long, dark winters. They also have animals with thick fur, feathers or layers of fat to help them survive the cold. Although the Arctic and Antarctica may look similar, they are found at opposite ends of the Earth and have very different land, animals and human populations.



1. What is one way the Arctic and Antarctica are alike?

2. Where is the Arctic located?

3. What is one difference between the land in the Arctic and Antarctica?

4. How is the wildlife different in the Arctic and Antarctica?

5. How are the Arctic and Antarctica different when it comes to people living there?



Answers

1. Both are extremely cold and are covered in snow and ice for much of the year.
2. Around the North Pole.
3. The Arctic is mostly a frozen ocean surrounded by land, while Antarctica is a continent covered in ice.
4. The Arctic has animals such as polar bears and Arctic foxes, while Antarctica has animals such as penguins and seals.
5. People live permanently in parts of the Arctic, while Antarctica has no permanent human population.