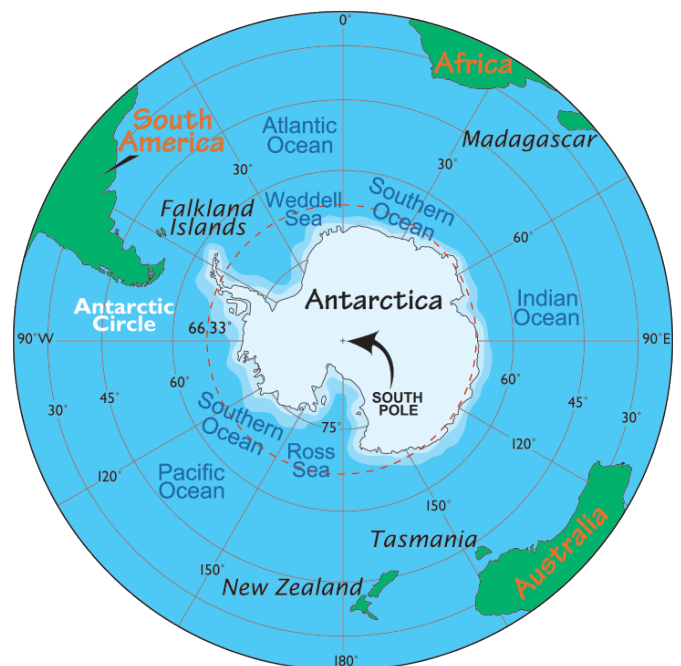


The South pole

Antarctica



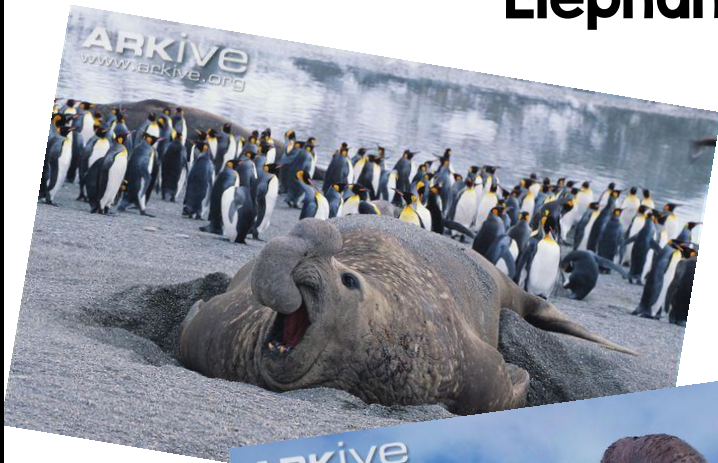
Antarctica is located at the South Pole and is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. Most of Antarctica is covered by ice. It is the coldest and driest continent on earth. Antarctica is the fifth largest continent, but it is the smallest in population. NOBODY lives there, although some people do visit for scientific research. Some people even go there now on holidays!



Antarctica has no countries.

Some animals manage to survive in the cold and dry climate of Antarctica.

Elephant Seals



Elephant seals are largest seals that live in the Antarctic circle. They grow up to length of 3.7m and weigh up to 4 tons. They got their name because of their trunk like inflatable snouts.



Wandering albatross

have largest wingspan of any living bird in the world, between 2.5 to 3.5 meters. They use their large wingspan to glide for hours on the ocean winds.

Wandering albatrosses spend most of their lives flying, and are rarely found on land. They land to lay eggs and make a nest. They make colonies on remote islands, usually laying only one egg. They feed on small fishes and squid.





Orca

Killer whales are found in all oceans including the Arctic and Antarctic region. They hunt for prey ranging from fishes, penguins, seals and even other whales. Killer whales can measure up to 9.5 meters and weigh between 10 to 11 tons.

Crabeater seals spend their lives on the ice of Antarctica. There are as many as 15 million of them. They usually feed on krill, and DO NOT eat crabs! They can dive to a depth of 250 meters.



Antarctic Krill



It may be small, but the **Antarctic Krill** is one of the most important animals in the Antarctic food chain. This small, shrimp-like crustacean is found in huge numbers in the Southern Ocean, forming groups called swarms which can be seen from space.

Antarctic Krill grow to around 6 cm. Krill is eaten by many other Antarctic animals, including whales, seals and seabirds.

Emperor Penguin



Emperor penguins are the largest of all species of penguin. Adult penguins can grow to 115cm tall, and can weigh between 40 to 45 kilograms.

They travel huge distances across the ice to their colonies. To move across the ice, they use strong claws on their feet to help grip the surface as they shuffle along. They also slide on their sleek bellies while pushing with their feet

Emperor penguins are the only species of penguin to raise young in the Winter season of Antarctica. The female penguin lays only one egg on large ice sheets and leave behind for males. The male penguins keep the egg warm and protects it. The female penguins travel huge distances searching for food. They find fish in the sea and dive up to 550 meters deep. They bring food in their bellies and then regurgitate it for their chicks.

Leopard Seal



The leopard seal is a formidable predator with a sleek body and powerful jaws that open widely to reveal exceptionally long canine teeth. It often eats penguins and other seals.