



Differences between the North and South Poles

It can be easy to get the North and South poles mixed up, especially when we talk about the regions where they are found – the Arctic and Antarctica - as they have very similar sounding names.

The statements below are about the Arctic & the North Pole, or Antarctica & the South Pole. Cut out the column headings and statements and then put the statements under the correct heading.

There is a lot of information about the North and South Poles on the Wicked Weather Watch Website and so you could read that to find out more either before or after you have tested your knowledge about these amazing places!

Headings:



The Arctic & the North Pole

Antarctica & the South Pole

Statements:



Some of the ice here melts and reforms each year.

90% of all the ice on the planet is found here.

This region is a continent and is land surrounded by sea.

This region is an ocean surrounded by different lands. It is not a continent.

This region has many different landscapes such as plains, mountains, rivers, lakes, tundra and forest.

This region is 98% covered in ice.

No people permanently live here. There are only seasonal residents.

More than 4 million people live in this region.

The flag at this Pole is at the bottom of the sea.

The flag at this Pole is on land.

Penguins live here.

Snowy owls live here.

Polar bears are the largest land animals that live here. They can be up to 4m tall when standing on their back legs.

Wingless midges are the only insects that live here. They are between 2mm and 6 mm long!

MA Differentiation.

Use these additional statements for more advanced learners.

The average temperature here is minus 34°C (-34°C). Summer and winter temperatures are different.

It is really, really cold here, on average minus 49°C (-49°C). It is the same temperature all year round.

This Pole is 2,835 metres above sea level.

This Pole is 4,261 metres below sea level.

This region belongs to no country and is governed by a Treaty.

8 countries have land in this region although no country owns the Pole itself.

Answers:

The Arctic & the North Pole

1. Some of the ice here melts and reforms each year.
2. This region is an ocean surrounded by different lands. It is not a continent.
3. This region has many different landscapes such as plains, mountains, rivers, lakes, tundra and forest.
4. More than 4 million people live in this region.
5. Polar bears are the largest land animals that live here. They can be up to 4m tall when standing on their back legs.
6. Snowy owls live here.
7. The flag at this Pole is at the bottom of the sea.

MA Differentiation:

8. The average temperate here is minus 34°C (-34°C). Summer and winter are different temperatures.
9. 8 countries have land in this region although no country owns the Pole itself.
10. This Pole is 4,261 metres below sea level.

Antarctica & the South Pole

1. 90% of all the ice on the planet is found here.
2. This region is a continent and is land surrounded by sea.
3. This region is 98% covered in ice.
4. No people permanently live here. There are only seasonal residents.
5. Wingless midges are the only insects that live here. They are only between 2mm and 6mm long!
6. Penguins live here.
7. The flag at this Pole is on land.

MA Differentiation.

8. It is really, really, cold here, on average minus 49°C (-49°C). It is the same temperature all year round.
9. This region belongs to no country and is governed by a Treaty.
10. This Pole is 2,835 metres above sea level.