

Our reading skills:



vocabulary



infer



predict



explain



retrieve



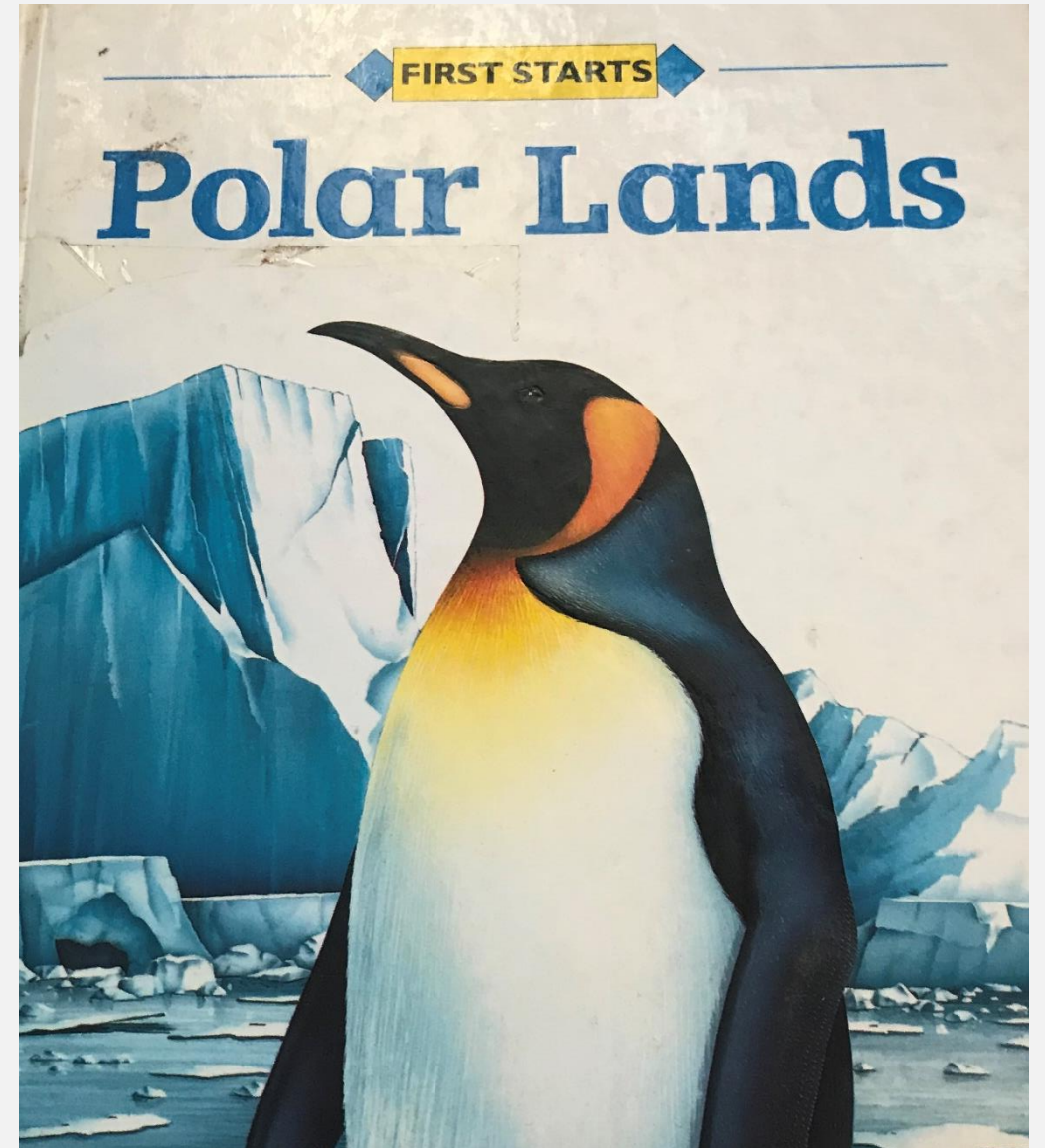
sequence

Today we will be using these skills:

RETRIEVE
INFER
EXPLAIN

New vocabulary we will need:

North Pole
South Pole
Arctic
Antarctic
Blizzard
Blubber



What are polar lands?

The polar lands are the coldest places in the world. For much of the year the polar lands are frozen. Most of the land is covered in snow or ice. Few animals live here all year round. The winters are dark with hardly any daylight. In summer it is warmer and much brighter.

▽ The thick ice stretches as far as you can see.



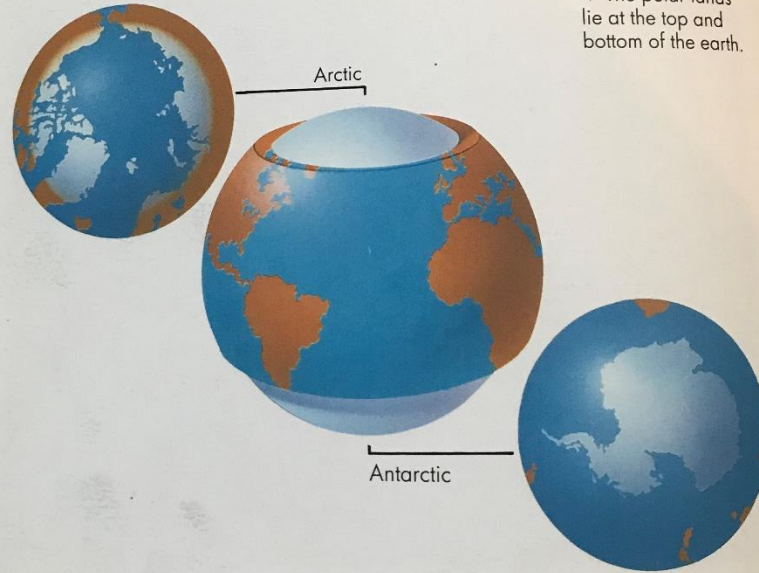
How are the polar lands different to where we live?

Where are polar lands?

The polar lands lie near the North Pole and the South Pole, at the ends of the earth. The **Arctic** is the most northern part of the world. It is mainly frozen ocean. The **Antarctic** is the area around the South Pole. Antarctica is the land around the South Pole, surrounded by cold seas.

▷ There is no land under the North Pole, only ice.

▽ The polar lands lie at the top and bottom of the earth.



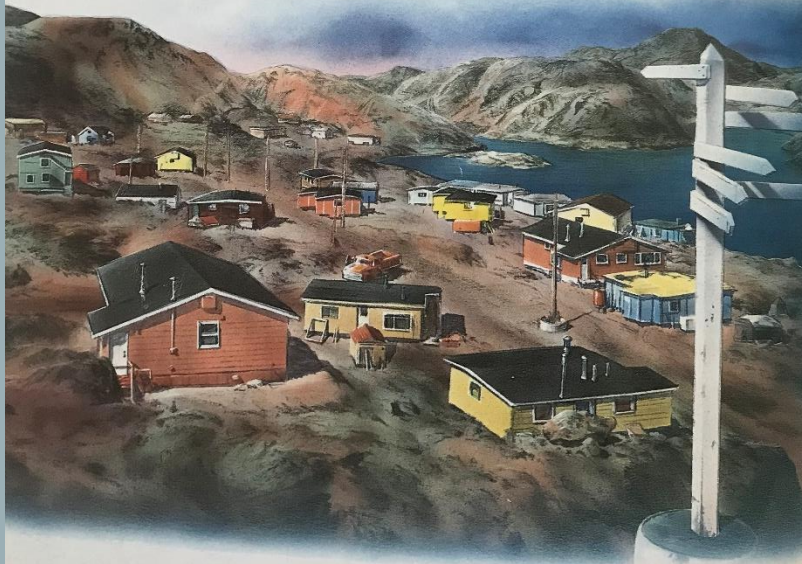
Can you find the polar lands on a globe?

What are polar lands like?

Both the Arctic and the Antarctic are almost completely covered in ice or snow for most of the year. During the summer the snow and ice begin to melt. People have learnt to live on the icy land around the Arctic. Recently people have gone to live at the Antarctic too.

▷ In summer the snow begins to melt in the Antarctic and the land shows beneath the ice.

▽ People in the Arctic have learnt how to survive in harsh weather.



Why do you think the snow and ice begin to melt in summer?

Why is it cold?

The North and South Poles are cold because of the way the earth moves around the sun. The sun's rays are not very strong at the poles. In winter, the weather becomes even colder and more of the oceans freeze. Strong winds drive snow over the land in storms called **blizzards**.

▷ In mid-summer the sky is bright all day and night in the Arctic.

▽ As winter arrives, the sun never rises very high in the sky. The sun sets only a few hours after rising in the sky.



What is a blizzard?

Plants

Few plants are able to grow in polar lands because of the cold. The seeds of some plants are very strong. They may live for years under the snow, then burst into life during a warm enough summer. Tough grass and plants such as **moss** and **lichen** grow in the Arctic. Many lie close to the ground to survive the cold.

▽ The Arctic buttercup grows and flowers during the summer.



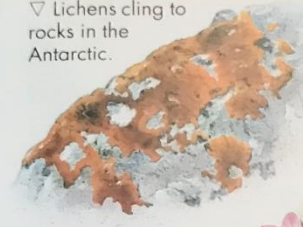
▷ Tussock grass grows on many islands in the Antarctic.



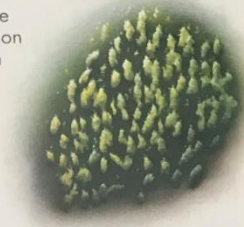
▽ The Arctic willow plant is a tiny tree.



▽ Lichens cling to rocks in the Antarctic.



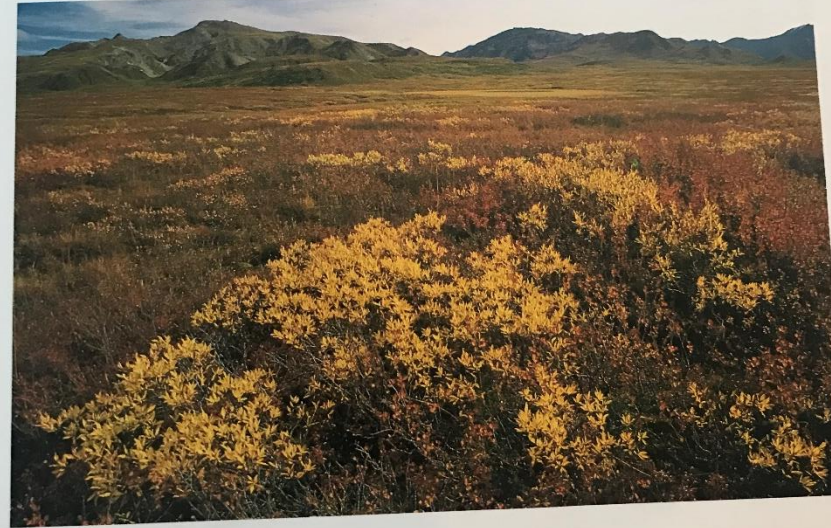
▷ Mosses are one of the most common plants growing in the Arctic.



▷ The saxifrage plant has purple flowers and lies very close to the ground.



▽ Brightly coloured plants burst into life during the short Arctic summer.



Why do you think not many plants grow in the polar lands?

Think about what plants need to grow!

Animals of the Arctic

Animals live in the Arctic all year round, but some only come when the weather is warmer. Most polar animals have short legs and thick fur to help them survive the cold. Seals have a thick layer of fat, called **blubber**, to protect them from the cold.

▷ Musk oxen in the Arctic have long, thick hair to keep them warm.

▽ The Arctic fox sheds its brown coat in winter and grows a white coat.



△ Walrus have long white tusks and thick crinkly skin.



◁ The ringed seal is just one of the many kinds of seal living in the Arctic.



◁ Caribou have large feet which help them to move across the ice.



▽ Polar bears spend their lives on the Arctic ice.



Can you remember the names of the animals that live in the Arctic?

What is the layer of fat called that seals have?

Animals of the Antarctic

The oceans around Antarctica are home to many different animals, but few animals spend all year on the ice covering Antarctica. Whales make their home there during the summer. Many kinds of seals and birds live on the edge of the ice. They dive into the sea in search of food.

▽ Giant orange sea spiders live on the sea floor.

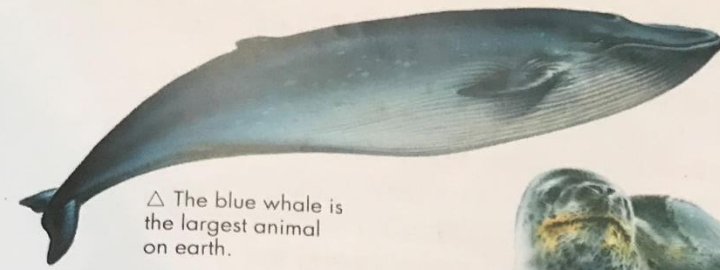


△ Ross seals live on the ice, far out to sea.



◁ Weddell seals live under the ice during the dark winter months.

▷ The fin whale traps krill in comb-like plates inside its mouth.



△ The blue whale is the largest animal on earth.



▷ Leopard seals hunt other seals and eat penguins.

▽ Krill are tiny sea creatures which look like shrimps.



Can you remember the names of the animals that live in the Antarctic?