

Antarctic Research Log



Location	
Topography (features of the landscape)	
Seasons	
Climate	Temperature
	Precipitation
Vegetation	
Wildlife	Land
	Sea
Humans	

Antarctic Research Log Answers

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South of the Antarctic Circle (66.5°S).
Topography (features of the landscape)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of 14 million km² 98% covered by ice and is surrounded by ocean. Most of the landscape, apart from the coast, is ice covered mountains, glaciers or smooth ice sheets. Very few rivers. Lakes are permanently frozen. Small areas of tundra on the Antarctic Peninsula and some islands. Sea ice in winter (doubles area of Antarctica). Enormous icebergs form when ice sheets and glaciers break up.
Seasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long cold winters and short, cold summers. Six months of daylight from 21st September to 21st March. Six months of darkness from 21st March until September.
Climate	<p>Temperature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Pole in winter: -62°C to -55°C. South Pole in summer: up to -12.3°C. Lowest temperature ever recorded was -89.2°C on 21st July 1983. <p>Precipitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average precipitation of 166mm per year (Antarctica is classified as a desert). As little as 50mm precipitation in the interior. Almost all of Antarctic precipitation falls as snow. Very low humidity causes problems of dry skin and cracked lips.
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very little vegetation, with no grasses, shrubs or trees. Small areas of tundra on the Antarctic Peninsula and some islands. Vegetation is mainly moss and lichen. Southern Ocean is rich in phytoplankton – microscopic algae which support the Antarctic food web.
Wildlife	<p>Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest land animal in the Antarctic is a wingless midge (insect). No flying insects as winds are too strong. Penguins, seals, birds such as albatrosses and petrels – all feed in the sea but spend most of their lives on land. High density of penguin and seal populations on land.

	<p>Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marine wildlife in the Southern Ocean includes Antarctic cod, krill and orcas.• Krill play a vital role in the Antarctic food web.
Humans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No indigenous population.• No permanent population, only scientists.• 35 000 tourists visit each summer.