

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 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.