



# Knowledge Organiser: The Arctic

The Arctic is located at the northernmost part of our planet. Scientists usually define the Arctic as the area above the '**Arctic Circle**' — an imaginary line that circles around the top of the globe. The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean and parts of Canada, Russia, the USA, Greenland, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Iceland. Despite the freezing-cold temperatures, approximately four million people call this wintery wonderland home! Amongst these are the indigenous people of the Arctic, called the 'Inuits'. They've found ingenious ways to survive in one of the harshest environments on our planet.

The ice of the Arctic contains around ten percent of the world's fresh water.

Animals in polar regions have adapted to survive in these extreme conditions. They have thick fur or feathers, blend in with the white snow, or hibernate during the coldest winter months.

Temperatures as low as  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  have been recorded in northern Greenland. *Brrrrr!*



Who discovered the Arctic?

Why is the Arctic changing?

What can we do to protect the Arctic?



Over recent years, the Arctic region has shrunk due to global warming. This means that animals like the polar bear and Arctic fox are becoming endangered.

Tundra is land that only defrosts a tiny bit on the top during the summer, but below that stays frozen all the time. That always-frozen layer is called permafrost.



Vocabulary	Meaning
Ocean	The vast body of salt water that covers almost three fourths of the earth's surface
Indigenous	originating in and characteristic of a particular region or country; native
Inuit	a member of the Eskimo peoples inhabiting northernmost North America from northern Alaska to eastern Canada and Greenland.
Arctic	located at or near the North Pole: <i>the arctic region</i> .
Global warming	an increase in the earth's average atmospheric temperature that causes corresponding changes in climate and that may result from the greenhouse effect.
Endangered	threatened with extinction
Tundra	one of the vast, nearly level, treeless plains of the arctic regions