

Y2 Knowledge Organiser Geography: North and South Poles and Equator

Planet Earth

The **Earth** is a special place as there is no other known planet which has life. People who look for new planets call Earth the Goldilocks planet, because it is neither too hot nor too cold, and it is neither too wet nor too dry. The conditions for life are just right.

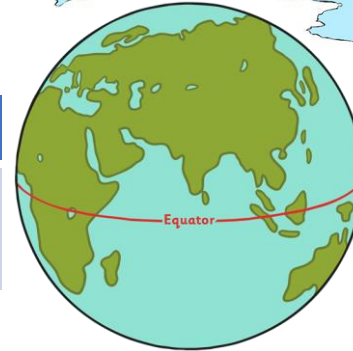


Photo of planet Earth from space



Equator

The **equator** is an imaginary line that divides the Earth in half. The weather on the equator is hot all year round.

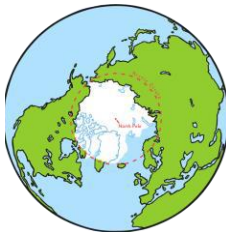


Key Vocab

North Pole	The northernmost point on Earth
South Pole	The southernmost point on Earth
Equator	An imaginary circle around the middle of the Earth
Earth	The planet we live on
Atlas	A book of maps
Continent	A large solid area of land
Ocean	A huge body of salt water

North Pole

The North Pole is the northernmost point on Earth. There is no land at the North Pole, only ice.



South Pole

The South Pole is the southernmost place on Earth. It is located on land topped with solid ice. The South Pole is much colder than the North Pole.



No one owns the North Pole. In summer, the sun never sets.

There is a scientific base at the South Pole where between 50 and 200 scientists live and work.

Penguins at the South Pole



Polar bears at the North Pole



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Continents

Earth can be split up into 7 continents:

Asia – the biggest **continent**

Africa

North America

South America

Antarctica

Europe

Australia – the smallest continent

Europe

The United Kingdom is part of Europe.

There are around 50 countries in Europe, including England, France, Croatia and part of Russia. Most countries use the Euro as their currency.



Africa

Africa is the second largest continent in the world. Africa is home to the largest desert in the world (the Sahara) and one of the world's longest rivers (the Nile).

Because Africa lies on the equator, this means that the continent gets lots of direct sunlight throughout the year.



Asia

Asia is the largest continent on Earth. It has over 48 countries. Half of the world's population (people) lives in Asia – that's over four billion! Mount Everest, in the Himalayan mountain range between Nepal and China, is the highest mountain in the world.



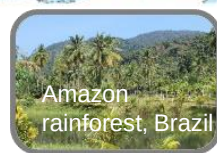
North America

The largest countries are the USA, Mexico and Canada. North America is home to some of the world's technology giants such as Google, Apple and Microsoft.



South America

South America has the widest river in the world – the Amazon. Brazil is the largest country in South America. The Amazon rainforest is in 9 different countries but most of it is in Brazil. Football is the most popular sport in South America.



Australasia

Australasia is the smallest continent. It consists of only 14 countries. Australasia's biggest and most populated city is Sydney, Australia. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world, spanning 1,242 miles.



Antartica

Antarctica is the highest, driest, windiest, emptiest, coldest place in the world. Antarctica has no cities or villages. The only settlements that exist are research bases where scientists go and find out what the Antarctic is like.



Oceans

There are 5 oceans on Earth:
Pacific ocean
Atlantic ocean
Indian Ocean
Arctic Ocean
Southern Ocean

