

## The route to Antarctica

**Time:** 1 hour

**Introduction** This activity introduces children to where exactly Antarctica is and how you get there. The children plan their route from their home to the frozen continent and what, apart from clothing, they would take with them.

### Learning Objective:

To understand where Antarctica is, how big it is and how you get there. To prioritise key travel items for a stay there.

### Resources:

1. Atlases to show the world and Antarctica
2. A blank world map for each student (available on [www.2041.com](http://www.2041.com))

- 1** Show the class a map of the World without Antarctica. Look at the continents and key countries, the lines of latitude and longitude. What's missing?

Now show the class a map of the World with Antarctica, the fifth largest continent.

- 2** Ask the children to fill in the blank world map. They should name and complete:

1. All seven continents (see information sheet for sizes)
2. Oceans (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, Arctic - in size order)
3. Equator
4. Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn
5. Arctic and Antarctic Circles
6. North and South Poles
7. Home Country.

- 3** Explain to the children that they are now starting to plan a trip to Antarctica. First, they need to map out their route. Using an atlas, ask them to add in the following key places to the map:

1. Their home town
2. Capital of their home country or place of flight departure
3. Buenos Aires, the Capital of Argentina
4. Ushuaia in the region of Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of South America
5. The Drake Passage, the sea between South America and Antarctica
6. The Antarctic Peninsula.

Children then draw a line from their home town to the place of departure to Buenos Aires, Argentina etc. to show the route. Ask them to think about the different

types of transport they would need to get there.

Could the different journeys be drawn in different colours, linked to the transport they have taken?

- 4** Class discussion: if you were going to Antarctica for six months, apart from lots of clothing to keep you warm, what would you take with you? Think about the fact that it is dark for long periods if you are there in the winter and there is hardly anything to do. What kind of things would you want to do or learn or take? Remember you are not allowed to take any plants or animals onto Antarctica.

- 5** Choose ten items that you think are essential for a stay in Antarctica and draw them onto an outline of a suitcase with a sentence label by each one to say why you chose it. (A suitcase sheet is available on [www.2041.com](http://www.2041.com))

### Differentiation

On the world map, focus just on the continents and the oceans. Make sure the children are clear about where Antarctica is. When adding in the key points, go from the home country to Argentina to the southern tip of South America to Antarctica.

### Success Criteria

1. The children are confident about naming the key continents, oceans, circles and Poles on a world map and they know where Antarctica is.
2. The children are able to plot their journey on a world map.