

Where in the World is Antarctica?

Integration: Geography

Grade Levels: K-2

Time: 1 class period

Materials:

- World map
- Map of Antarctica
- Globe (optional)

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Locate Antarctica on a globe or world map.
2. Identify the location of their own country, state, town, etc.
3. Use the compass directions to locate places on a map or globe.
4. Identify bodies of water close to where they live.

Lesson:

1. Using a globe (preferable) or world map:
 - a. Have students identify the location of their own country.
 - b. Have students identify the location of their state.
 - c. Have students identify the location of their town or city.
2. Ask if any student knows where Antarctica is located. Have students point it out on the globe.
3. Ask students to describe Antarctica's location (at the bottom of the Earth).
4. Explain to students that there are four directions.
 - a. Toward the top of the Earth is north.
 - b. The opposite of north is south, which is toward the bottom of the Earth.
5. Ask students if Antarctica is located north or south of the country they live in (south).
 - a. Tell students that Antarctica is south of everything else on Earth and that the South Pole is the southernmost part of Antarctica.
Tell students that the South Pole is marked by an actual pole that is placed in the ice.

6. Explain to students, using the map or globe, that moving left on the map means they are moving west and moving right on the map means they are moving east.
7. Have students point to countries that are east, west, north, and south of where they live.
 - a. Older students can make lists of countries and their direction.
8. Ask students if Antarctica is larger or smaller than their country. (Antarctica is slightly less than 1.5 times the size of the United States.)
9. Ask students what they notice surrounding Antarctica (younger children may need it pointed out to them) (Water).
 - a. Tell students that Antarctica is completely surrounded by water.
 - b. The water that surrounds Antarctica is from three oceans: the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.
10. Ask students what bodies of water are close to where they live (oceans, rivers, lakes, creeks, etc.)
11. Have students draw or color maps of Antarctica and the country they live in.
 - a. Have younger students color the land and the water different colors.
 - b. Have older students label the land and bodies of water.

EXTENSION: Initiate a discussion on the concept of continents. Antarctica is one of the seven continents.

Assessment:

Teachers will assess:

1. Student's ability to identify Antarctica on a map or globe.
2. Student's ability to identify their country, state, city/town, etc. on a map or globe.
3. Student's ability to compare the size of Antarctica to their country by looking at a map or globe.
4. Student's understanding of compass directions.
5. Student's ability to use compass directions to locate places on a map or globe (older students).