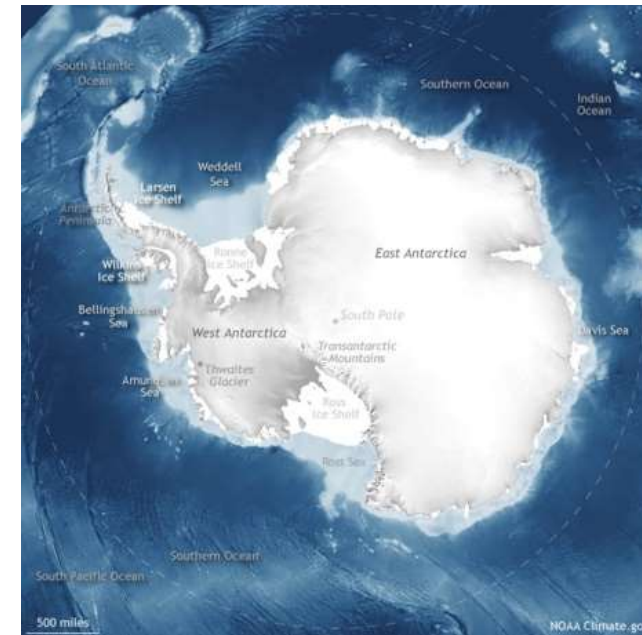




# Antarctica Knowledge Organiser

Key vocabulary	Definition
continent	A main landmass
weather	The state of atmosphere with respect to wind, temperature, cloudiness, moisture
climate	Weather conditions of a region over a long period of time (many years)
glacier	An extended mass of ice formed from snow falling and accumulating over years and moving very slowly.
research	Systematic investigation into a subject in order to find facts.
sustainability	Not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources.
trade	the action of buying and selling goods and services





## Antarctica Knowledge Organiser

<p>Antarctica is the <b>fifth largest continent</b> of our planet. The continent is almost double the size of Australia!</p>	<p>Antarctica is an <b>ice covered continent surrounded by the Southern Ocean</b>. Almost all of the continent's land is covered by a thick layer of ice. On average the ice is 1.9 km deep. The inland ice-sheet has a thickness of up to 4 km.</p>	<p>Antarctica is the driest continent of the seven continents. <b>Antarctica is an icy desert</b> with very little rainfall throughout the year.</p>	<p><b>Antarctica is the windiest place</b> on the earth where windspeed of more than 350 kilometres per hour/218 miles per hour have been measured.</p>	<p>Antarctica is the <b>least populated continent</b>. There are no residents living permanently here. Only around 1,000 people (in winter) and 10,000 people (in summer) live on the continent. These people are mainly based there for one year to live and work in the research stations. The research stations are scattered all around the continent.</p>
<p>The Antarctic Treaty, which came into force in 1961 is now signed by 53 countries. The treaty regulates the international relations between all countries to support scientific operations on the ice. Article 1 of the Antarctic Treaty states that <b>'The area is to be used for peaceful purposes only'</b>.</p>	<p><b>Highest continent:</b> Antarctica has the highest average elevation of all continents. Most of the continent is higher than 3,000 m/9,900 ft. above sea level. The highest mountain on Antarctica is Mount Vinson at 4,900 metres/16,000 ft.</p>	<p><b>Antarctica Facts - Flora:</b> The few areas where there is no or only little ice throughout the year are located in the most northern parts of the continent. There one will find also the typical <b>Tundra vegetation</b>. Typical Tundra plants are small scrubs, grasses and mosses.</p>	<p><b>Antarctica Facts - Fauna/Wildlife:</b> There are not many species living on the Antarctic continent. Whales, and seals live in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. The Emperor penguins are the only penguin species breeding on Antarctica.</p>	<p><b>Antarctica Climate - Coldest Place:</b> Antarctica is the coldest continent of our planet. The coldest air temperature ever measured in Antarctica was - 89.2°C /-128.6 °F at Vostok Station in 1983.</p>
<p><b>The geographic South Pole</b> is located more than 1,235 km/767 miles from the coast on a plateau 2,800 metres/9,100 ft. above sea level.</p>	<p><b>Antarctica Facts - Famous explorers:</b> British explorer James Cook was the first to cross the Antarctic circle and to circumnavigate the Antarctic continent as early as 1773 Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first to reach the South Pole in 1911 British polar explorer Ernest Shackleton undertook three Antarctic explorations and was the first to cross South Georgia in Antarctica in 1916</p>	<p>In 1985, scientists described a huge <b>ozone hole</b> which grew in the atmosphere over Antarctica. It had formed in less than ten years as ozone values had sank every Springtime in the Antarctic. Man-made chemicals were destroying the ozone layer. The thinning ozone layer was understood as a warning sign. The ozone hole shows how sensitive our planet is to our activities.</p>	<p>About <b>40,000 tourists from around the world</b> visit Antarctica every year on polar cruises and exploration trips.</p>	