

Frozen Kingdom

Welcome to the planet's coldest lands... vast wilds, hostile territories, incredibly beautiful yet often deadly. Take shelter from the elements or fall prey to icy winds and deepest chill. Trek bravely and valiantly across treacherous terrain to the ends of the Earth, treading deep in snow or pulled by a team of mighty sled dogs. Be alert, for magnificent mammals roam these lands, sometimes hungry or fresh for a fight. Perhaps a hungry polar bear or an arctic fox; hunting rodents and swift as the wind! Research facts and figures of climate, temperature, habitats and eco-systems and compose evocative poems about the Northern Lights. So wrap up well, everyone and settle by the fire. I'm just going outside and may be some time...

Key Vocabulary

Antarctica – Earth's most southernmost continent.

Arctic – A polar region located at the northernmost part of Earth.

Climate change – A change in global or regional climate patterns attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

Continent – Any of the world's main continuous expanses of land.

Explorer – A person who explores a new or unfamiliar area.

Frostbite – Injury to body tissues caused by exposure to extreme cold.

Glacier – A slowly moving mass or river of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow on mountains or near the poles.

Habitat – The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

RMS Titanic – A British passenger liner that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in the early hours of 15 April 1912, after colliding with an iceberg.

Hypothermia – The condition of having an abnormally (typically dangerously) low body temperature.

Iceberg – A large floating mass of ice detached from a glacier or ice sheet and carried out to sea.

Marine mammals – Aquatic mammals that rely on the ocean and other marine ecosystems for their existence.

Polar regions – The regions of the planet that surround its geographical poles (the North and South Poles), lying within the polar circles.

Key People/Key Dates

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton: 15 February 1874 – 5 January 1922. He was a polar explorer who led three British expeditions to the Antarctic,

Robert Falcon Scott: 6 June 1868 – 29 March 1912. He was a British Royal Navy officer and explorer who led two expeditions to the Antarctic.

Roald Amundsen: 16 July 1872 – 18 June 1928. He was a Norwegian explorer of polar regions.



Class Text

Kaspar, Prince of Cats by Michael Morpurgo

Kaspar the cat first came to the Savoy Hotel in a basket – Johnny Trott knows, because he was the one who carried him in. But Johnny didn't expect to end up with Kaspar on his hands forever, and nor did he count on making friends with Lizziebeth, a spirited American heiress. Pretty soon, events are set in motion that will take Johnny – and Kaspar – all around the world, surviving theft, shipwreck and rooftop rescues along the way. Because everything changes with a cat like Kaspar around. After all, he's Prince Kaspar Kandinsky, Prince of Cats, a Muscovite, a Londoner and a New Yorker, and as far as anyone knows, the only cat to survive the sinking of the Titanic...