

Arctic People

The Arctic region is made up of parts of Canada, Alaska (a state of the USA), Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland and Iceland along with the Arctic Ocean itself. People have lived in different regions of the Arctic for thousands of years and the population is now approximately 4 million. People originally from the Arctic are known as indigenous and many indigenous groups still live in the Arctic. Newer immigrants also make up today's population.



Indigenous groups

Over 40 different indigenous groups of people live in the Arctic. One well-known group are called the Inuit. The early Inuit learnt to adapt and survive in the harsh conditions of the Arctic and became skilled hunters. They developed their own hunting technology and methods, built their own homes and had their own unique language, cultures and traditions. However, many of these traditional skills are being lost as modern life takes over.

Did you know? The Inuit were experts in shelter building. Temporary shelters, called igloos were made from blocks of snow. More permanent shelters, called turf huts were made out of turf, stones and wood.



Today's settlements

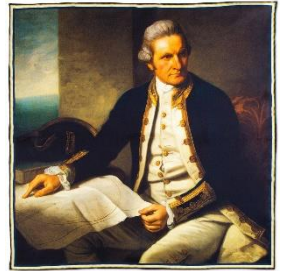
Today, the Arctic is made up of small villages, towns and cities. Some of the towns and cities are very modern, with access to facilities including the internet and satellite televisions. Other settlements are more traditional with few modern-day amenities.

Antarctic people

No human has ever lived in the Antarctic permanently. In fact, it wasn't until the late 1700s that humans began to discover this hostile and mysterious region. Despite having no permanent residents, the Antarctic has fascinated humans since it was first discovered and continues to intrigue people today.

Discovery and exploration of the Antarctic

A British explorer, Captain James Cook, was one of the first explorers to visit the Antarctic region. In 1772, his voyage took him to the Antarctic Circle but he and his crew were forced to turn back because of the severe weather. Later, in 1819, the British explorer, William Smith, discovered some Antarctic islands. Explorers continued to visit the area and a race to reach the South Pole followed in 1911. The race was won by a Norwegian explorer called Roald Amundson.



Today's population

Today, approximately 4,000 scientists and researchers reside in the Antarctic over the course of a year. They analyse and monitor the unique conditions here. There are over 60 research bases for the scientists to stay in, with most staying during the summer months (November to April). Scientists can stay here for a couple of months or up to a couple of years.

The Antarctic has also become a popular tourist destination, but tourism is very carefully managed in this area to help protect the local environment and wildlife.

