

The Polar Regions

There are two polar regions in the world: the South Pole and the North Pole.

Antarctica lies in the South Pole. It consists of tall mountains, icy glaciers, and miles and miles of frozen land. Most of the land is covered by a thick layer of ice. Because of the ice and the cold, very few forms of life can survive in Antarctica.

The North Pole, however, can support some life. In the summer, areas of the North Pole become warm enough for berries and vegetables to grow. In other parts of the North Pole, the ice melts, but the water cannot drain into the frozen soil. Instead, the water remains on the surface. Flowering plants, such as the Arctic poppy, can take root and grow there. These pretty flowers bring color to this white land.

The Arctic Ocean is also in the North Pole region. It has thousands of islands and much of it is covered by ice all year long. But even on the ice, many plants and animals can live.

1. Why are there very few forms of life in Antarctica?
2. What forms of life exist in the North Pole?