

# ALASKA AND THE POLAR REGIONS

YEAR 5 SPRING 1 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

## How is human activity affecting our planet?

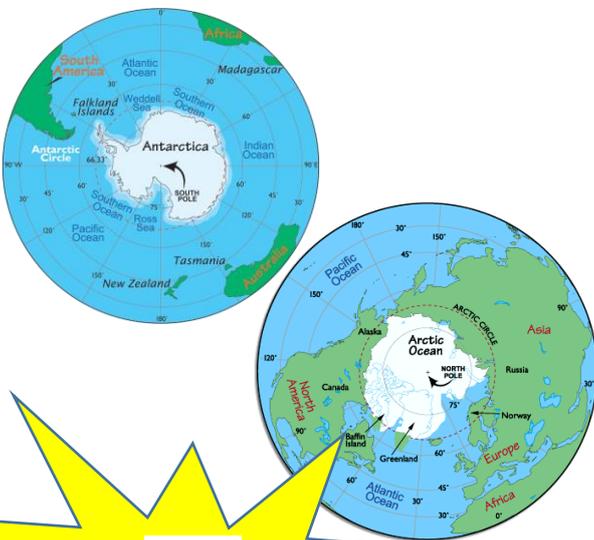
Alaska is the largest state in area in the United States being 663,400 sq miles. It became the 49<sup>th</sup> states of America in 1959. Alaska has the largest amount of glaciers in America. Alaska is the home to many animals including Polar bears, Walruses, Beluga whales, Caribou, Black bears and Wolves. Alaska is also home to more than 40 active volcanoes, more than 3,000 rivers and 3 million lakes and a population of 740,000 Inuits.



**Polar Regions** – These are the north and south poles and they are the coldest places on Earth. **The North Pole** is the most northern point in the world. The area around the North Pole is known as the Arctic. **The South Pole** is the most southern point in the world. The area around the South Pole is known as the Antarctic.

### Key Vocabulary

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Arctic shrinkage</b> | A phenomenon of climate change in the Arctic, including warming temperatures, the melting of the Greenland ice sheet, and a loss of sea ice. |
| <b>Climate change</b>   | The gradual changes in all the interconnected weather elements on our planet.  |
| <b>Global Warming</b>   | The increase in Earth's average temperature over a long period of time.  |
| <b>Glaciers</b>         | A slowly moving mass or river of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow on mountains or near the poles.                       |
| <b>Expedition</b>       | A journey with a specific purpose.   |
| <b>Biome</b>            | A large area of Earth with similar climate, weather and certain types of living things.  |
| <b>Human Impact</b>     | The effect of humans. Particularly on the environment, pollution and animals.  |
| <b>Water Cycle</b>      | The <b>water cycle</b> shows the continuous movement of <b>water</b> within the Earth and atmosphere.  |



Scan the QR code to find out more about Alaska!

### Key People

|                        |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Ranulph Fiennes</b> |  | Ranulph Fiennes is a British adventurer and novelist that is best known today for his various exploits around the world. He is especially hailed for being the first man to cross the Antarctica from one side to the other on foot.         |
| <b>John Rae</b>        |  | John Rae is one of the most successful Arctic explorers of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century. Between 1848 and 1851, he made three journeys along the Arctic coast. On the third time, he explored the whole south coast of the Victorian Island. |

**870 AD**

Floki Vilgerdason, a Norwegian Viking, discovers Iceland.

**1472**

European explorers begin expeditions to the Arctic

**1824**

Parry sails on his third and final voyage to the Canadian Arctic. Encountering shifting ice

**1993**

The first scientific trip to the Arctic by a nuclear-powered submarine is made