Penguins live in Antarctica. Emperor penguins in Antarctica. Photo courtesy of Glenn Grant, National Science Foundation.

Animals live in both places. Seals and whales live in the oceans. Polar bears, reindeer, wolves, and foxes live on land in the Arctic.

Polar animals include Weddell seals, Arctic foxes, and polar bears. Photos courtesy of Steven Profaizer, National Science Foundation, istockphoto.com, Wikimedia Commons.

The Arctic and Antarctica: Are They the Same, or Different?

BY JESSICA FRIES-GAITHER

Issue 1: A Sense of Place (March 2008)
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Jessica taught at the elementary level (grades 4-6) and middle school (grades 5-8 math and science) in Memphis, TN and Anchorage, AK. Her work with Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears involves creating and managing content for the magazine and blog.

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Flesch-Kincaid RL = 2.4
The Arctic and Antarctica: Are They the Same, or Different?

There is ice and snow in both places. Both places are cold all year. But Antarctica is much colder than the Arctic.

How are the Arctic and Antarctica the same?

No one lives in Antarctica. Scientists work there, but they leave when their work is done.

Scientists in Antarctica. Photos courtesy of Dr. Stacy Kim National Science Foundation (left), NASA (center), John Goodge, National Science Foundation (right).
Have you heard of the Arctic? How about Antarctica? Both places are cold and covered with ice. But they are very different.

In the Arctic, small plants grow on flat land called the tundra. Most of Antarctica is too cold for plants to grow. There are not trees in either place. It is too cold.

In the Arctic, small plants grow on flat land called the tundra. Most of Antarctica is too cold for plants to grow. There are not trees in either place. It is too cold.
Do you know where these two places are? The Arctic is at the top of the world. It is a large ocean with land around it. The Arctic is at the North Pole. The Arctic Ocean is around the Arctic. Did you know these two places were so different? How are these two places different from the place where you live? How is your home different from these places?

Antarctica is at the bottom of the world. It is a large continent, or piece of land. The Southern Ocean is around Antarctica.

**The Arctic and Antarctica: Are They the Same, or Different?**

Diagrams and photos of the Arctic and Antarctica are included. Photos courtesy of Madhav Pai, Flickr (left) & Zee Evans, National Science Foundation (right).