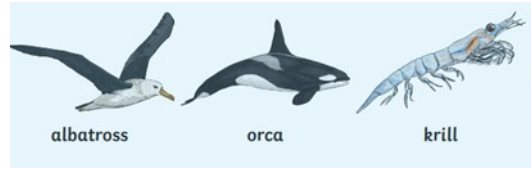




Year 6- Knowledge organiser  
Autumn 1: Antarctica



The Blue Whale is native to the Southern Ocean, which surrounds Antarctica. The fastest underwater penguin also lives here.

**Key Enquiry Questions....**

***Which countries are located in the Southern Hemisphere? How is climate change altering the landscape of Antarctica? How does the position of Antarctica affect the climate and seasons? Why is the time different in different countries?***

Conditions are so ferocious that no human lives here permanently; instead, scientists go for a few months at a time, living in specialist research stations. **Antarctica can be called a desert** because of its lack of precipitation (this is the amount of rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls from the sky). It has less precipitation than any other desert region in the world.

Two seasons instead of four

Antarctica has two seasons; winter and summer, and these take place at the opposite times of the year than we're used to in the UK. Antarctic summers happen at the same time as UK winters, and Antarctic winters happen at the same time as UK summers. This is because Antarctica is in the southern hemisphere, which faces the Sun during our winter time. For around two weeks of the winter, the Sun doesn't rise and Antarctica has long periods without any sunlight. Likewise in the summer, there is a period where the Sun doesn't go down and it's still shining at midnight.

**Vocabulary**

<b>Antarctica</b>	The coldest and most southern continent.
<b>Ernest Shackleton</b>	A famous explorer who set out with his crew on his ship Endurance to reach Antarctica.
<b>Glacier</b>	A slowly moving mass of ice formed by the accumulation/ compaction of snow on mountains or
<b>Mount Erebus</b>	The highest active volcano in Antarctica.
<b>Polar Regions</b>	The regions of the planet which surround the North and South Pole.
<b>Meridians</b>	Lines of longitude which mark out the world's time zones.
<b>Prime Meridian</b>	Also known as Greenwich Meridian, it is the line of longitude which goes through London and serves as the basis for the world's time zone system.