



This term we are going to be looking at **THE ANTARCTIC AND THE ARCTIC!**

There are going to be some great quick builds from penguins and polar bears to icy villages and explorers!

During the second half of the club, the children like to join worlds on the router provided to work in teams on a long build project. This build may span several weeks so it is important that the children get the same tablet each week. Although we have suggested some long build ideas for each week, feel free to jiggle things around or even come up with your own.

The main thing is that the quick builds are done as described on the correct week as this forms the basis of the inter school competition where your school can earn points for the national leaderboard.

## THE QUICK BUILDS

The first half of the club is usually taken up with the quick build. The **Fabretta** video can be used directly from **Youtube** each week or downloaded from **Dropbox** if that is easier. **Fabretta** will cover the basic learning objectives each week along with the rules for the club and a timed quick build for the children to work along with.



Usually the teacher will choose the best from each table and get the children to show their creations at the front. The rest of the children can then vote for who they want to win. You should then upload a picture of the winning build to your “my club” page and get voting!

## WEEK 1- PENGUINS

Antarctica is a frozen continent so remote that nobody permanently lives there! It is bigger than Europe and has been covered in ice for at least 6 million years. Although there are no trees there, more than 100 million birds nest and breed along the coastlines every spring. The most common bird living in Antarctica is the penguin. They live in colonies and can survive very harsh conditions. The biggest of the penguins is the emperor penguin. Penguins are excellent swimmers and have flippers which help them move quickly through the water.



## DID YOU KNOW?

You might see penguins in Christmas scenes but they don't actually live at the North Pole! Penguins live in the southern hemisphere, the bottom half of the planet.

## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...a penguin!



## WEEK 2- ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS



Antartica is cold, harsh and very remote. Nowadays scientists visit to carry out research and you can even hop on a cruise ship to explore this frozen continent but in the past it was a lot more difficult to reach. The first people to discover Antartica were from a Russian Expedition in 1820, almost 200 years ago but they didn't set foot on the ice. It took another 91 years until the first people reached the South Pole, after a dramatic race by boat and by dog sled.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In the past, many explorers tried to reach the South Pole, travelling by boat and by dog sled. They wore special snowshoes to make sure they didn't sink into the soft snow! The first person to reach it was Roald Amundsen from Norway in 1911 followed by British Explorer Robert Scott a month later.

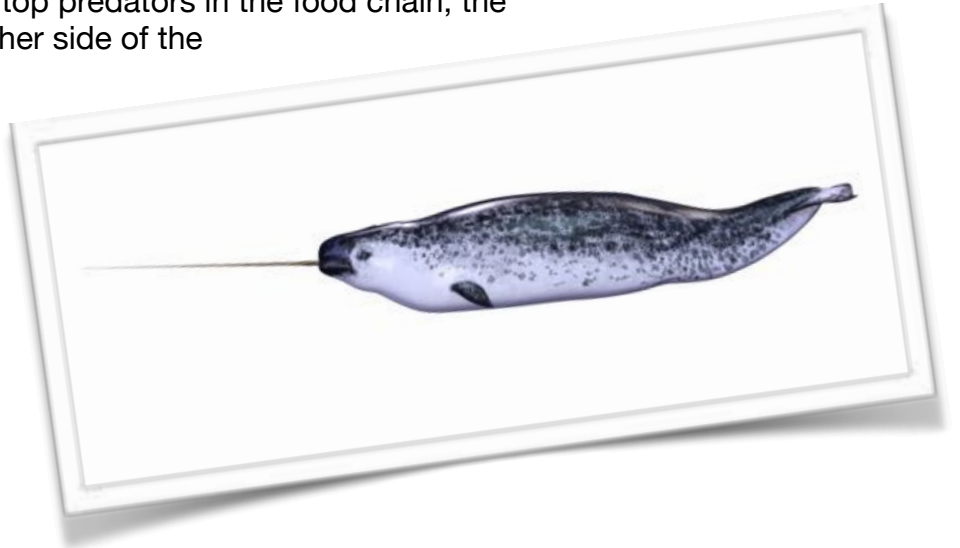
### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...an Antarctic explorer!



## WEEK 3- WHALES OF THE POLAR REGIONS

Lots of animals call Antarctica “home” both on the land and in the oceans and seas including the biggest mammals on earth- whales. There are 6 species of whales living in the chilly waters around the continent from the biggest animal ever to roam the planet, the blue whale, to the top predators in the food chain, the orca or killer whale. On the other side of the earth in the Arctic only 3 species of whales can be found in these waters all year; the bowhead whale, the beluga whale and the narwhal. Narwhals have gigantic tusks on their heads which is thought they use to work out changes their surroundings. It can grow up to 9 feet long!



### DID YOU KNOW?

Orcas are very intelligent animals and can plan attacks with other members of their groups, known as “pods”. They are very fast and can travel at speeds of 33 mph!

### QUICK BUILD

This week’s quick build is...a whale!





## WEEK 4- ANTARCTICA VS THE ARCTIC



The Antarctic and Arctic really are polar opposites for many different reasons. Whilst Antarctica is land surrounded by sea, the Arctic is sea surrounded by land. The Arctic has lots of mountains, plains lakes and rivers and even a gigantic snow forest, the taiga. Antarctica is 98% covered by ice, there are almost no rivers, the lakes are small, the mountains icy and there is very little vegetation.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There have never been native people living in Antarctica but the Arctic is home to people who have lived there for thousands of years. Some people live in igloos which are houses made of blocks of compacted snow. Outside the temperatures may reach as low as -45C but inside the igloos, it may be a toasty 7C or even warmer!

### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...an igloo!



## WEEK 5- THE APEX OF THE ARCTIC

Lots of animals live in the Arctic from the tiny lemming and rare wolverine to the beautiful arctic fox and the cunning arctic wolf. One of its most famous residents however is the polar bear, the top predator of this icy world. As the world's largest land predator they have no natural enemies and sit at the top of the food chain, hunting and feeding on their favourite food of seals and anything they can get their paws on.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Polar bears are actually black! Underneath their thick coats, their skin is black which is best for absorbing the sun's warming rays. Their fur is also transparent which helps the sunlight reach the skin but appears white as it reflects the light and helps to keep the bears camouflaged in the snow. They are very well adapted to life in the Arctic.

### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...a polar bear!



## WEEK 6- REINDEER AND CARIBOU



Reindeer and caribou are iconic Arctic animals and although they are actually the same species, there are clear differences between the two. Caribou are large, wild deer which can be found in Greenland and northern North America. They have never been domesticated. Reindeer are slightly smaller and were domesticated in Eurasia about 2000 years ago.

### DID YOU KNOW?

These hoofed animals are very well adapted to living in the harsh Arctic conditions. Their noses are specially designed to warm the air before it gets to their lungs. Reindeer hooves expand in summer when the ground is soft and shrink in winter when the ground is hard. Some Caribou even have clicking knees so they don't lose each other when walking through blizzards!

### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...a reindeer! You could even build one with a red nose.



## WEEK 7- ELVES

Elves are mysterious creatures found in folklore and fairytales all over the world. These little human like beings are often described as being very mischievous and cunning but also helpful. Some of them are said to repair shoes and make beautiful things but some of them are thought to be mean and bad. There are lots of different types of elves from nature elves and sun elves to elves of the elements and of course Christmas elves who help make toys!



## DID YOU KNOW?

Elves are an important part of Icelandic culture and people even build little houses for them to live in! Elves in Iceland are called Huldafólk or “hidden people” and they can show themselves to people whenever they want. In Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, you can even take a course to learn all about them!

## QUICK BUILD

This week’s quick build is...an elf!

