

**What's happening  
in the news this week?**



**Let's have a look at this week's poster!**

**27th November - 3rd December 2023**



**Who is responsible for  
Antarctica?**



## Let's look at this week's story

Scientists have found more flowering plants, moss, and algae in Antarctica in the last 10 years than usually grow in 50 years, and the extent of floating sea ice there has hit record lows. Polar explorer and environmentalist, Robert Swan, has been so concerned about the radical changes to Antarctica that he founded the 2041 Foundation, with the aim of ensuring the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy, and sustainability to combat the effects of climate change. The charity, 2041 School, encourages young people to learn more about the initiative.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).  
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).  
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



# How does it make me feel?



<b>sad</b>	<b>angry</b>	<b>happy</b>	<b>confused</b>	<b>excited</b>	<b>worried</b>	<b>shocked</b>	<b>afraid</b>
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

# This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information below, which provides more detail about what's happening to Antarctica and the 2041 School charity.

## What is happening to Antarctica?

It has been noted that the west coast of Antarctica has been one of the most rapidly warming parts of the world over the last half-century. Ocean temperatures in the area have increased by more than 1°C since 1955.

The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is causing changes to Antarctica's environments and habitats. Where penguins are choosing to live has changed as sea ice conditions alter, and the melting of snow and ice covers has resulted in more plants growing.



Jenny and Olive from the 2041 School charity with 2041 Foundation founder Robert Swan. **Source:** 2041 School.

## What is the 2041 Foundation and the 2041 School?

2041 School aims to inform and inspire champions, who will help Antarctica remain a natural reserve for science and peace. Robert Swan is the founder of the 2041 Foundation. Over 30 years ago, French ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau gave Robert a 50-year mission to save Antarctica from the realities of climate change. Robert Swan, along with Jenny and Olive Cooke, founded 2041 School to extend the mission to younger generations and to encourage them to be ambassadors of the future.

2041 School is a charity with the aim of informing and educating young people. They say, 'Between 2041-2048 the current environmental protection that surrounds Antarctica may come up for review. Today's children will be young adults by then, the decision-makers of the future. We're inviting pupils, teachers, and whole schools to join our special mission – to become Champions of Antarctica.' 2041 School charity offers schools and young people free educational films and learning resources.

**Share your thoughts on the campaign and its aims.**



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about Antarctica.

Antarctica is a continent in the Southern Hemisphere. It is the coldest, driest and windiest continent on the planet. Its average temperature is  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



The South Pole, which is the southernmost point on Earth, is in Antarctica.

No one lives in Antarctica permanently, but some stay in science or research stations for parts of the year.



Antarctic research station.

Antarctica has two seasons: summer and winter. In the summer, there is a time when the sun doesn't go down and it is light for 24 hours a day. In the winter, there is a time when it doesn't rise so Antarctica is in complete darkness.



Antarctic Peninsula in the summer.



Weddell seal



Blue whale



Wandering albatross



Emperor penguin

Antarctica is home to many animals including several different species of penguin!

**What are the similarities and differences between Antarctica and where you live?**



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about Robert Swan.

Robert Swan was born in 1956 and raised in Yorkshire, England. At age 11, Robert's dream was to journey to both the North and South Pole. After 22 years, he achieved it with a team. He is the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles.

On both expeditions he experienced the impact climate change has on the Polar icecaps. This was the beginning of his lifetime mission – the preservation of Antarctica.



Photo credit:  
Trenton Branson.

### Did you know?

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 1986, Robert Swan arrived with his team at the South Pole. They walked the 900-mile journey, the longest unassisted march in history.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March 1989, Swan and his team reached the North Pole.

In 1992, he was appointed as the United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Youth.

In 1995, he was awarded the high distinction of an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II.

In December 2017, Robert and his son, Barney Swan, undertook the mission, known as the South Pole Energy Challenge, to reach the South Pole using only renewable energy. Sadly, Robert had to turn back halfway through the 600-mile journey after an injury, leaving Barney to complete the challenge – becoming the first person in history to walk to the South Pole powered solely by renewable energy.



Robert Swan and Oddizzi live streaming. Photo credit:  
Trenton Branson.



Robert Swan pictured with Jenny from Oddizzi. Photo credit:  
Oliver Wheeldon.

In 1984, Robert Swan founded the 2041 Foundation. The mission of 2041 Foundation is:

*'to engage businesses and communities on climate science, personal leadership, and the promotion of sustainable practices'.*

In 2022, Oddizzi launched the 2041 School charity in support of the 2041 Foundation, where they invite children, teachers and schools to become Champions of Antarctica and a 2041 School.

**Does anything surprise you? Is there anything else you would like to know?**





# Who is responsible for Antarctica?

# Reflection



The landscape of Antarctica is changing; the rate of the melting ice is impacting the animals that live there, and the rising sea levels are having a negative impact on the wider world. All our actions combined can make a positive difference.





## **Individual Liberty**

I am responsible for my actions. It is important to remember they can have an impact on people, places and things. We can choose actions that can help preserve and protect Antarctica.

# Protected Characteristics



Robert Swan's beliefs about the importance of protecting and caring for Antarctica form part of how he lives his life. We should never be treated unfairly because of our beliefs.





# UN Rights of a Child



As part of our education, we should be taught to live peacefully and protect the environment.



# Useful vocabulary



## Combat

Take action to reduce or prevent something.

...with the aim of ensuring the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy, and sustainability to **combat** the effects of climate change.

## Combined

Unite for a common purpose.

All our actions **combined** can make a positive difference.

## Environmentalist

A person who is interested in or studies the environment and who tries to protect it.

Polar explorer and **environmentalist**, Robert Swan, has been so concerned about the radical changes to Antarctica that he founded the 2041 Foundation.

## Preservation

The act of keeping something the same or stopping it from being damaged.

...with the aim of ensuring the **preservation** of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy, and sustainability to combat the effects of climate change.

## Radical

Extreme or far-reaching.

Polar explorer and environmentalist, Robert Swan, has been so concerned about the **radical** changes to Antarctica that he founded the 2041 Foundation.

## Sustainability

Causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time.

...with the aim of ensuring the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy, and **sustainability** to combat the effects of climate change.

**Can you use them in your writing this week?**



## Who is responsible for Antarctica?

Scientists have found more flowering plants, moss, and algae in Antarctica in the last 10 years than usually grow in 50 years, and the extent of floating sea ice there has hit record lows. Polar explorer and environmentalist, Robert Swan, has been so concerned about the radical changes to Antarctica that he founded the 2041 Foundation, with the aim of ensuring the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy, and sustainability to combat the effects of climate change. The charity, 2041 School, encourages young people to learn more about the initiative.



- Look at this week's poster image and describe what you can see. Where in the world do you think it could be?
- This week's story is all about Antarctica and how it is changing. Share any prior knowledge you have about Antarctica. Where in the world is it?
- Read the assembly resource and watch this week's useful video, which both provide more information about what's happening to Antarctica and the 2041 School charity. Share your thoughts on the campaign and its aims.
- Following his explorations to both the North and South Poles, Robert Swan developed a strong interest in Antarctica; so much so he has dedicated much of his life to its protection. Share how you can use your voice and your actions to make a difference to Antarctica and other causes and global issues that are important to you.

## Reflection

The landscape of Antarctica is changing; the rate of the melting ice is impacting the animals that live there, and the rising sea levels are having a negative impact on the wider world. All our actions combined can make a positive difference.



## KS1 focus

### What do we know about Antarctica?



- Write 'Antarctica' on the board. Share anything you already know about Antarctica. Record any questions you have about it or anything you would like to find out more about.
- Look at resource 1, which shares some information about Antarctica. What are the similarities and differences between Antarctica and where you live? Discuss the seasons, the temperature, and the animals living there.
- Antarctica is located in the Southern Hemisphere. The UK is in the continent Europe, in the Northern Hemisphere. If possible, use a globe to locate Antarctica, Europe and the UK. Does it surprise you to learn that our actions and choices can impact Antarctica?
- There are over 200 different species of animal living in Antarctica. Does this surprise you? Do you think these animals could survive where you live? Why? How important do you think it is for us to care for and protect Antarctica?
- 1<sup>st</sup> December is Antarctica Day. It celebrates the anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. This is an agreement between countries saying they will take care of it, use it peacefully and not try to rule it. Can you make a list of ways you could celebrate Antarctica Day? Would you like to celebrate it this year?

## Reflection

Antarctica is a continent in the Southern Hemisphere. Although it is in an entirely different part of the world, our actions, choices and how we live our lives can affect it.



## KS2 focus

### Who is Robert Swan?



- Look at resource 2, which shares some information about Robert Swan. Does anything surprise you? Is there anything else you would like to know?
- Robert Swan is an explorer and environmentalist. Discuss what you think each of these is. Is being an explorer or an environmentalist something you think you would enjoy? Why?
- Robert has been passionate about the North and South Pole since he was 11 years old. Is there anything you feel strongly about now? Is there a place you hope to visit? A goal you hope to achieve? A change you would like to make happen? A dream you have for the future?
- Robert's mission to save Antarctica from the realities of climate change is a 50-year mission. Can you imagine having a mission for 50 years? What personal traits or characteristics do you think someone needs if they are to embark on a 50-year mission? Determination, resilience?
- Between 2041 and 2048, the current environmental protection that surrounds Antarctica may come up for review. How old will you be then? Should the environmental protection be reconsidered?
- Swan promotes recycling, renewable energy and sustainability to combat the effects of climate change to preserve Antarctica. Discuss each of these terms and explore how your actions affect each.

## Reflection

Robert Swan had a dream. His dream became reality and his mission has helped and continues to help make a difference to Antarctica and our world.



## KS2 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Robert Swan's mission is to help preserve Antarctica. He said, 'It's the last great wilderness on Earth and we must look after it. And on any mission in life, you've got to know as much as you can before you take on that mission.'

- Do you agree you need to know as much as you can before taking on a mission? Why?
- How could you find out more about Antarctica?

Discuss how we can use secondary sources such as books, articles from the internet or primary sources such as hearing/reading accounts from people who have actually been to Antarctica, photographs. Use this opportunity to find out more about Antarctica. Think about:

- Where is it?
- How large is it?
- What is the climate like?
- What animals live there?
- What is life like for scientists visiting in Antarctica?
- When was it first discovered?

**Challenge** – write a letter to an explorer, researcher or scientist who has visited Antarctica.

### Option 2

Explore seasons and daylight hours in the UK and Antarctica.

- Name the seasons in the UK and Antarctica.
- How many hours are in a day?
- When are the longest and shortest days in Antarctica and the UK? What season is this?
- How many daylight hours are there on the shortest day in the UK/Antarctica?
- How many daylight hours are there on the longest day in the UK/Antarctica?
- Compare the daylight hours of the longest and shortest days in both places.



## KS1 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Find out about some of the different species of animal that live in Antarctica.

- Can you name them?
- Can you draw them?
- Do you know what size they are?
- Do you know what they eat?

Many people believe polar bears and penguins live in the same place but this is not true! Penguins are found in Antarctica and polar bears are found in the Arctic!

- Can you locate Antarctica and the Arctic on a world map or globe?

### Option 2

Watch the first minute of the online video found [here](#).

- What words does the presenter use to describe Antarctica? Beautiful, majestic, overwhelming.
- Can you explain what these words mean? Would you describe Antarctica this way?

Watch the first minute of the clip again and share your words to describe it.

- What is the water like? Does it ripple or is it still?
- Can you describe the shape of the ice and snow?
- What do you think you will be able to smell/hear?

Make a class word bank on the board to help you create your own Antarctica setting description using pictures, words or sentences.



## This week's useful websites

### This week's news story

<https://a-z-animals.com/articles/flowers-are-blooming-in-antarctica-is-this-good-or-bad/>

### Teaching resource pack for 2041 Schools

[www.oddizzi.com/features/2041-schools/](http://www.oddizzi.com/features/2041-schools/)

### This week's useful video

Champions of Antarctica - Introduction  
[www.oddizzi.com/features/2041-schools/2041-films-7-11/](http://www.oddizzi.com/features/2041-schools/2041-films-7-11/)

### This week's Virtual Picture News

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

### This week's vocabulary

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## UK's Kind Hero for 2023



**Pictured:** Sebbie Hall, the UK's kind hero for 2023 with his statue.  
**Source:** KIND Snacks Facebook page.

Sebbie Hall has been celebrated as the UK's kind hero for 2023! KIND Snacks, who launched a campaign to find the UK's kindest people, have recognised him as a hero and erected a statue of him wearing a superhero cape near Tower Bridge in London. Sebbie says, 'kindness is my superpower'. He set up The Sebbie Hall Kindness Foundation, to help vulnerable young people and for the last three years, has committed himself to surprising strangers with random acts of kindness every day. Sebbie, who was born with a rare chromosome anomaly, began spreading kindness in 2020. He started by

washing cars to raise money to help his classmates, who did not have a computer to use during lockdown. He has also donated 400 coats and blankets to homeless charities and gifted 800 toys to children's homes. 'Sebbie's story in particular highlights the importance of kindness and its transformative power in driving positive changes for others. Honouring Sebbie's kindness with a statue felt like the right way to celebrate such an outstanding person,' said Sam Wainwright, KIND spokesperson.

**Do you think kind people should always be rewarded?**

## Attenborough's long-beaked echidna rediscovered

Researchers working on Expedition Cyclops have rediscovered a species that has not been seen by science for over 60 years. Attenborough's long-beaked echidna (*Zaglossus attenboroughi*) was spotted on camera in Indonesia's Cyclops Mountains in the Province of Papua. The international research expedition team, set up by Dr James Kempton from the University of Oxford, was ecstatic to find the egg-laying mammal. The creatures are incredibly difficult to locate as they are nocturnal, live in burrows, and are very shy. Dr Kempton described the unique appearance of mammals that were named in honour of Sir David Attenborough by saying, 'Attenborough's long-beaked echidna has



**Pictured:** Short-beaked echidna - one of four living species of echidna. **Source:** Canva.

the spines of a hedgehog, the snout of an anteater, and the feet of a mole. The reason it appears so unlike other mammals is because it is a member of the monotremes - an egg-laying group that separated from the rest of the mammal tree-of-life about 200 million years ago.' Dr James Kempton went on to explain the experience of spotting the rare creature on the team's recordings, 'I was euphoric, the whole team was euphoric. I'm not joking when I say it came down to the very last SD card that we looked at, from the very last camera that we collected, on the very last day of our expedition!'

**Do you think it is important to try to rediscover lost animal species?**



**Pictured:** Attenborough's long-beaked echidna. **Source:** Merton College, Oxford @MertonCollege X page.

# Pink Pond!

A pond in Hawaii has turned bright pink! Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, a coastal salt marsh along the south-central coast of Maui, has received an increase in visitors to see the brightly coloured water, with volunteers at the refuge stating they have never seen the pond turn pink before. Researchers have collected samples for analysis and, using laboratory tests, have ruled out toxic algae as the cause. Biologists now believe that the colour could be the result of a single-celled organism called Halobacteria, which thrive in salty environments and are present in

red/orange colonies. The area has been experiencing a drought and because of this, the pond water has become very salty – it is currently twice as salty as the sea. Pictures of the brightly coloured water have appeared on social media, causing an influx of visitors. 'We prefer that they come to hear about our mission conserving native and endangered waterbirds and our wetland restorations. But no, they're here to see the pink water,' joked Bret Wolfe, the refuge manager. 'If that's what gets them there, it's OK. It is neat.'

**Would you like to visit a bright pink pond?**



**Pictured:** The pink water at Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge.  
**Source:** Visiting South Maui (Kihei, Wailea and Makena) Facebook page.

Last week's topic:

## Are there some jobs robots could never do?



I think robots could not do every job like being a teacher and carers.

**Kaiden**

I think that robots can do every job as time goes on, because there will be more knowledge to program them well enough to do every job.

**Jackie**

Robots are very useful, they can do many different things, like clean stuff, help put stuff away and much more. The only jobs I think robots might not be able to do is an artist, because it involves a big mind and creativity.

**Huda**

## Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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 Picture News Ltd,  
Colber Lane,  
Bishop Thornton,  
Harrogate,  
North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR

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# TAKEHOME



## In the news this week

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### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share any prior knowledge you have about Antarctica. Is it a place you would like to visit? Why?
- > Do you believe individuals have a part to play in protecting places such as Antarctica or should world leaders do more?



### Who is responsible for Antarctica?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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