

FACT FILE

- AREA 14M²
- 1 1/2 X SIZE OF USA
- 98% ICE
- 2% BARREN ROCK
- 87% OF WORLD'S ICE

NO PERMANENT INHABITANTS
 ONLY SCIENTISTS AND SUMMER (DEC-MARCH) TOURISTS

COLDEST AND WINDIEST CONTINENT ON EARTH

A FROZEN DESERT (VERY LOW SNOWFALL/PPT)

GEOGRAPHY OF ANTARCTICA

COLD POLAR WATER SUBSIDES BENEATH WARMER SUB-POLAR WATER, CAUSING OVERTURNING AND UPWELLING



ANTARCTIC CIRCLE 66 1/2°S

ANTARCTIC CONVERGENCE / ANTARCTIC POLAR FRONT 50-60°S

- COLD AIR, AS LOW AS -50°C MEANS IT IS OVERLAIN BY A HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM

- AIR OUTFLOWS FROM THIS CAUSING POLAR EASTERLIES

- FURTHER NORTH IS A STRONG WESTERLY WIND BELT.

- KATABATIC WINDS BLOW DOWN SLOPES IN ANTARCTICA

- PRECIPITATION IS VERY LOW SINCE COLD AIR HOLDS LITTLE MOISTURE AND WINDS DIVERGE FROM THE CONTINENTAL INTERIOR.