

Polar Comparison Answer Key

(Answers will vary. The key below provides core expected ideas.)

1. Arctic Ocean is at the North Pole and surrounded by continents. Southern Ocean surrounds Antarctica at the South Pole.
2. Arctic Ocean is bordered by land; Southern Ocean borders an icy continent.
3. Arctic wildlife includes polar bears and Arctic foxes; Southern Ocean wildlife includes penguins and leopard seals.
4. Both are cold, but the Southern Ocean has stronger winds and larger waves.
5. Arctic has Indigenous communities and shipping routes; Southern Ocean is mainly used for research.
6. Southern Ocean has the Antarctic Circumpolar Current; Arctic currents are smaller and influenced by surrounding land.
7. Arctic threats include melting sea ice and shipping impacts; Southern Ocean threats include warming waters and changes in krill populations.
8. Unique Arctic feature: sea ice over ocean. Unique Southern Ocean feature: vast circumpolar current.

Teacher's Guide

- Grades 6 to 8 can work in pairs to complete each prompt with evidence from class readings.
- Grades 9 to 12 can develop multi paragraph responses comparing systems, climates, and ecosystems.
- Encourage students to support comparisons with specific examples.

Differentiation Tips

- Provide sentence frames for students who need writing structure.
- Offer a short fact sheet outlining basic Arctic and Southern Ocean information.
- Allow oral discussions before writing for language learners.