



## Year 1 Knowledge Organiser – Geography

### Why can't a meerkat live in the North Pole?

#### Declarative Knowledge:

Meerkats live in the Kalahari **Desert**, which is on the Southern tip of Africa. They are **mammals**, which means they have warm blood, are covered in fur and feed their babies with milk. They live in groups called 'mobs' with up to 50 members. Meerkats make their homes in underground **burrows** which keep them safe from **predators**. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals.

The Kalahari Desert is in southern Africa and covers parts of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. It covers 350,000 square miles. There is a variety of plant and animal life in the Kalahari, including meerkats, lions, elephants, leopards and cheetahs. People known as the Bushmen have lived there for over 20,000 years. The Kalahari has two main seasons, Summer and Winter, and has a river flowing through it called the Okavango.

The Polar regions are located at the two ends of the Earth – the **Arctic** to the north and **Antarctica** to the south. These regions have just two seasons, summer and winter, and have very cold **climates**. There is some plant and shrub life on the **tundra**, but parts of the polar regions, known as the **ice caps**, are frozen all year round. Arctic animals include the Arctic fox, Beluga whales, polar bears and reindeer. Antarctic animals include penguins, seals and the Orca whale.

#### Maps



#### Key Vocabulary:

**Arctic** - the regions around the North Pole

**Antarctica** - the regions around the South Pole

**Burrow** - a hole or tunnel dug by a small animal

**Climate** - the weather conditions of a place

**Desert** - an area of land with little water, usually covered with sand

**Habitat** - the natural home of an animal or plant

**Ice cap** - a covering of ice over a large area

**Mammal** - a warm-blooded animal covered in hair or fur, which feeds its babies with milk

**Meerkat** - a small southern African animal of the mongoose family

**Predator** - an animal that naturally preys on others

**Temperature** - a measurement of how warm or cold a place is

**Tundra** - a part of the Arctic region which is flat, treeless and where some of the soil is frozen all the time



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### Why can't a meerkat live in the North Pole?

#### English

In English we will be reading and studying the book 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett. We will learn to retell and sequence events from the story.

We will create our own postcards, lists story maps and animal fact files.

We will be focusing on orally composing sentences before writing and checking our work makes sense.

#### Maths

In Maths we will be building on our knowledge and understanding of place value. This will include sorting, ordering numbers, reading and writing numerals and counting onwards and backwards.

We will also develop our reasoning skills and learn how to explain our mathematical thinking.

#### Science

'Why are humans not like tigers?'

Our Science focus this term is 'Animals Including Humans.'

We will be learning about the five main types of animals, which are mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish.

We will make comparisons between different kinds of animal and their characteristics.

We will also be learning about the human body and the five senses.