

# British Science Week: Our Diverse Planet

## What Is Science?

Science is all about studying things to see how they work. In a science lesson, you might carry out an investigation.

Science has inspired people to invent lots of amazing things. Without science, we would not have cars, computers or even electricity.



## What Is British Science Week?

British Science Week is an exciting event which lasts for ten days. Each year, over a million people across the country take part in different activities.

This year, the theme for British Science Week is 'Our Diverse Planet'. The theme was chosen to get people to think about how much variety there is in the world around them. This could be looking at how animals, plants and people can all be different.

## Diverse Places

This year, it has been 200 years since the continent of Antarctica was first seen and recorded. Antarctica is a place where many scientists and engineers work. Antarctica is home to a wide variety of interesting animals including penguins and seals.

Scientists who work in Antarctica need to wear thick, insulated clothes to keep them warm. Most people who work in Antarctica live in places called research stations. These buildings are cleverly designed so that people can live in such a cold place. Some even have libraries inside them!

## Diverse Animals

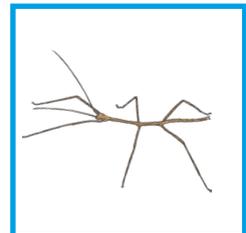
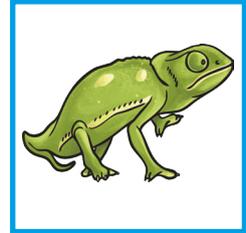
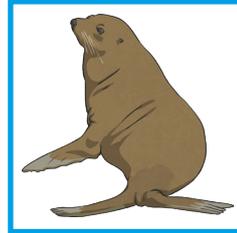
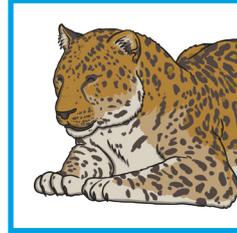
Some of the animals which are found in Antarctica have adapted to blend in with the snowy ground. This is called camouflage. Different types of camouflage can be seen all over the world.



### Clever Camouflage Activity

Try this activity to investigate different types of camouflage.

1. Find pictures of different animals and print them out.
2. Put the animals in different places. Look for places that are inside and outside.
3. Make a list of places where it is hard to see some of the animals.
4. Think about what it was that made those animals so hard to see. Were they a certain colour or did they have a special pattern?



Remember, science is an amazing subject where you can learn about many different things. You can explore science all the time – not just in British Science Week!



# Questions

1. How long does British Science Week last for? Tick one.

- seven days
- eight days
- nine days
- ten days

2. Number the instructions from 1-4 to show the order that you should do them in.

- Put the printed animals in different places.
- Think about what made some animals so hard to see.
- Make a list of places where the animals were difficult to see.
- Print out pictures of different animals.

3. Which of these are you **not likely** to find in Antarctica? Tick one.

- a scientist
- a tiger
- an engineer
- a penguin

4. What is the theme for this year's British Science Week? Tick one.

- Our Distant Planet
- Our Divided Planet
- Our Diverse Planet
- Our Delightful Planet

5. How many years has it been since Antarctica was first seen and recorded?

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6. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.

People who work in \_\_\_\_\_ live in special buildings called \_\_\_\_\_ stations.

7. Would you like to visit Antarctica? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How long does British Science Week last for? Tick one.

- seven days
- eight days
- nine days
- ten days**

2. Number the instructions from 1-4 to show the order that you should do them in.

- 2** Put the printed animals in different places.
- 4** Think about what made some animals so hard to see.
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- Our Distant Planet
- Our Divided Planet
- Our Diverse Planet**
- Our Delightful Planet

5. How many years has it been since Antarctica was first seen and recorded?

**It has been 200 years since Antarctica was first seen and recorded.**

6. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.

People who work in **Antarctica** live in special buildings called **research** stations.

7. Would you like to visit Antarctica? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to visit Antarctica because you can see penguins and seals there and they are two of my favourite animals.**

# British Science Week: Our Diverse Planet

## What Is Science?

Science is the study of everything around us in an attempt to learn about how things work. During science lessons, many children get the chance to explore and investigate.

Science has inspired people to create wonderful inventions and discover new plants and animals. Without science, we would not have access to cars, computers, effective medicines and so much more.



## What Is British Science Week?

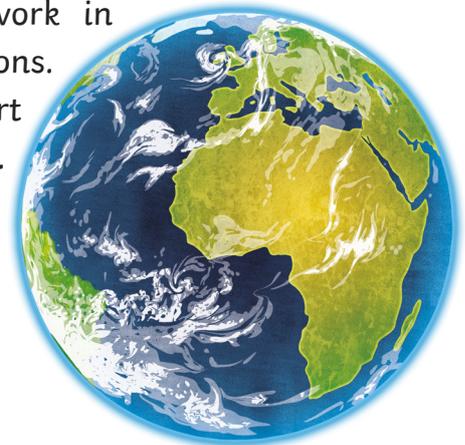
British Science Week is an exciting event which lasts for a total of ten days. British Science Week celebrates science, maths, engineering and technology. Each year, over a million people across the country take part in different activities.

This year, the theme for British Science Week is 'Our Diverse Planet' and people are being asked to think about the variety in things around them. The theme was chosen to encourage people to think about how amazing diversity is. This covers everything from the diversity seen in animals and plants to the diversity between people and their interests.

## Diverse Places

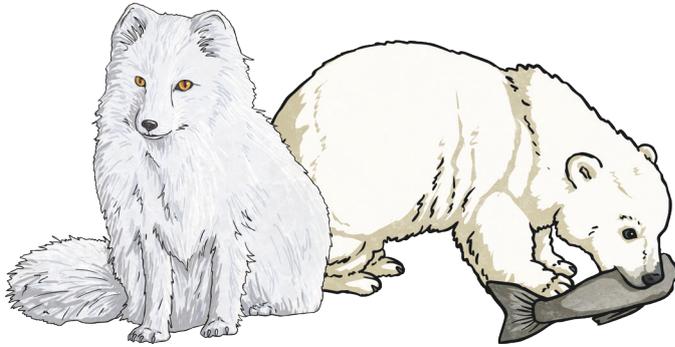
One of the diverse places that British Science Week are focusing on this year is Antarctica. This is because it has been 200 years since the first recorded sighting of the continent! Antarctica is an amazing place where many scientists and engineers work. Although it is very cold and isolated, Antarctica is home to lots of interesting animals including penguins and seals.

Unlike these animals, humans are not as well-adapted to living in the cold. This means that people who work in Antarctica need to wear insulated clothes to keep them warm. Most people who work in Antarctica live in places called research stations. These buildings are cleverly designed to support people who are working in such a harsh environment. Some of these research stations include places to sleep, kitchens, a gym and even libraries!



## Diverse Animals

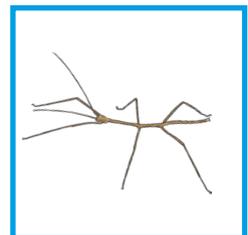
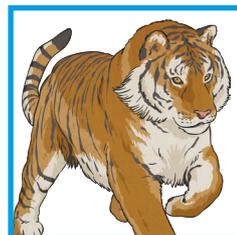
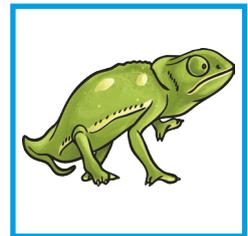
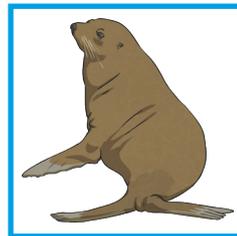
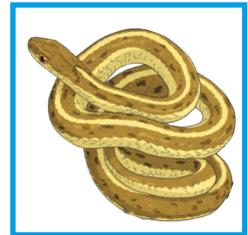
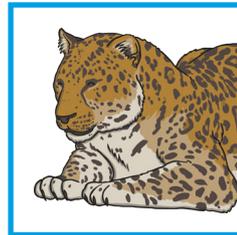
Some of the animals which are found in Antarctica have adapted to be camouflaged against the snowy ground or thick ice. This means that they can easily hide from anything or anyone. Different types of camouflage can be found all over the world.



### Clever Camouflage Activity

To investigate what makes a good camouflage, try this activity in your classroom.

1. Find pictures of different animals and print them out.
2. Try putting the animals on different surfaces. Look for places that are inside and outside.
3. Do any of the animals blend in? Are some easier to see than others?
4. Make a list of what you think makes a good camouflage. Think about things like patterns, brightness and the shape of the animal.



Remember, science is an amazing subject where you can learn about many different things. You can explore science all the time – not just in British Science Week!



# Questions

1. Which of these subjects is **not** celebrated during British Science Week? Tick one.

- maths
- English
- technology
- engineering

2. Draw four lines to complete each sentence.

British Science Week celebrates...

penguins and seals.

People who work in Antarctica  
need to wear...

gyms and libraries.

Antarctica is home to...

technology and engineering.

Some research stations include...

insulated clothes.

3. Tick the closest definition for the word **camouflage**.

- The name given to a camel which is coloured to blend in with its surroundings.
- The colouring or shape of an animal which allows it to blend in with its surroundings.
- A type of cake which is designed to be eaten while still hot.
- The name given to a specially designed building which allows engineers and scientists to work in Antarctica.

4. How many years has it been since the first recorded sighting of Antarctica? Tick one.

- 40 years
- 100 years
- 200 years
- 240 years

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **One of the diverse places...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **remote**.

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6. Why do people in Antarctica need to wear insulated clothing?

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7. **You can explore science all the time – not just in British Science Week!**

Why do you think that the author has chosen to include this sentence?

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8. Imagine that you have been asked to organise the theme for next year's British Science Week. What theme would you choose? Explain your answer.

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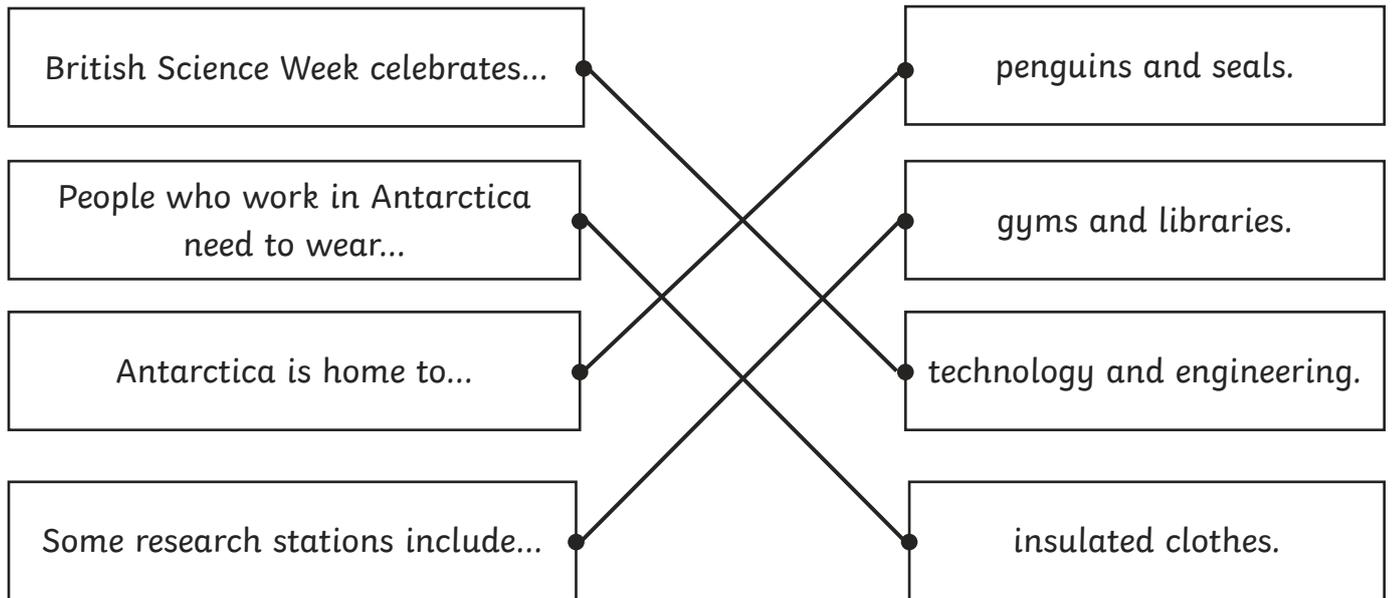
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# Answers

1. Which of these subjects is not celebrated during British Science Week? Tick one.

- maths
- English**
- technology
- engineering

2. Draw four lines to complete each sentence.



3. Tick the closest definition for the word **camouflage**.

- The name given to a camel which is coloured to blend in with its surroundings.
- The colouring or shape of an animal which allows it to blend in with its surroundings.**
- A type of cake which is designed to be eaten while still hot.
- The name given to a specially designed building which allows engineers and scientists to work in Antarctica.

4. How many years has it been since the first recorded sighting of Antarctica? Tick one.

- 40 years
- 100 years
- 200 years**
- 240 years

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **One of the diverse places...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **remote**.  
**isolated**

6. Why do people in Antarctica need to wear insulated clothing?

**People in Antarctica need to wear insulated clothing to keep them warm.**

7. **You can explore science all the time – not just in British Science Week!**

Why do you think that the author has chosen to include this sentence?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author has chosen to include this sentence to encourage more people to get involved in science by saying that they can explore it at any time.**

8. Imagine that you have been asked to organise the theme for next year's British Science Week. What theme would you choose? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would choose the theme of Climate Change because it is very important and British Science Week can be used to raise awareness of things we can do to help.**

# British Science Week: Our Diverse Planet

## What Is Science?

Science is the study of the world around us in an attempt to learn about how things work. During science lessons, many children get the chance to explore and investigate.

Science can be found all around and has inspired people to create wonderful inventions and discover new plants and animals. Without science, we would not have access to cars, computers, effective medicines and so much more.



## What Is British Science Week?

British Science Week is an annual event which, despite its name, lasts for a total of ten days. British Science Week celebrates science, maths, engineering and technology. Each year, over a million people take part in different events across the country. In 2020, British Science Week will be taking place between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

This year, the theme for British Science Week is 'Our Diverse Planet' and young people are being encouraged to think about the variety in the world around them. The theme was chosen to encourage people to think about how amazing diversity is. This could be the diversity of plants and animals around us, the diversity of people's tastes and interests or the diversity of places where people live.

## Diverse Places

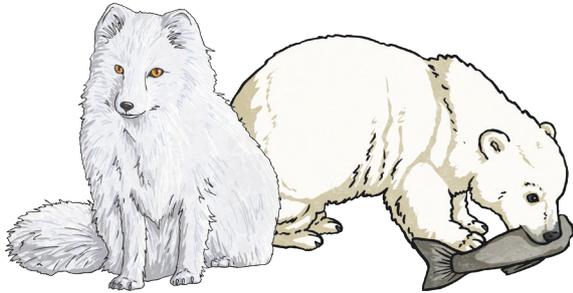
One of the diverse places that British Science Week are focusing on this year is Antarctica. This is because 2020 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> year since the first recorded sighting of the continent! Alongside being home to the South Pole, Antarctica is also a place where many scientists and engineers work. Although it is very cold and isolated, Antarctica has a wide variety of interesting animals including penguins, seals and albatrosses.

Unlike these animals, humans are not as well-adapted to living in the cold. This means that people who work in Antarctica need to ensure that they wear thick, insulated clothes. Most people who work in Antarctica live in places called research stations. These buildings are cleverly designed to support people who are working in such a harsh environment. Some of these research stations include places to sleep, kitchens, a gym and even libraries!



## Diverse Animals

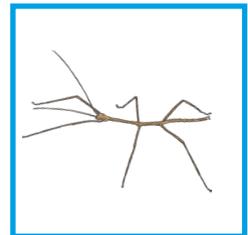
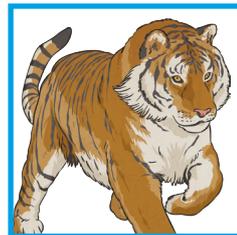
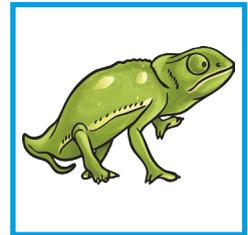
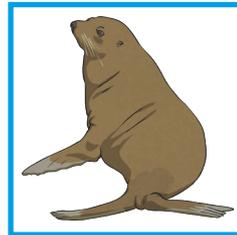
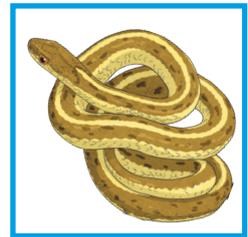
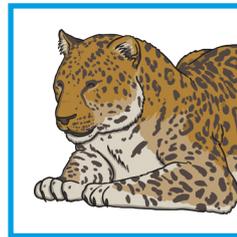
In addition to thick fur and waterproof feathers, some animals in Antarctica have adapted to be camouflaged against the snowy ground or thick ice. This means that they can hide from predators or sneak up on their prey more easily. Different types of camouflage can be found all over the world.



### Clever Camouflage Activity

To discover how effective camouflage can be, try this activity in your classroom.

1. Find pictures of different animals and print them out.
2. Try putting the animals on different surfaces. Look for places that are inside and outside.
3. Do any of the animals blend in? Are some easier to see than others?
4. Make a list of what makes a good camouflage. Think about things like patterns and brightness. Are there any other ways that animals can conceal themselves?



Remember, science is an amazing subject where you can learn about many different things. You can explore science all the time – not just during British Science Week!



# Questions

1. Which month does British Science Week take place in? Tick one.
  - January
  - February
  - March
  - April
  
2. Why do people have to wear thick, insulated clothes when they visit Antarctica? Tick one.
  - to be camouflaged against the snow
  - to keep warm in the cold environment
  - to show whether they are a scientist or an engineer
  - to blend in with the seals and penguins
  
3. Look at the sentence beginning **British Science Week is...**  
Why has the author used the phrase **despite its name**?

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4. Look at the **Clever Camouflage Activity**.  
Find and copy one word which means the same as **hide**.

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5. Why was the theme 'Our Diverse Planet' chosen?

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6. Do you think that it is important to celebrate British Science Week? Explain your answer.

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7. ...Antarctica is also a place where many scientists and engineers work.

What challenges might someone who was working in Antarctica face? Use the text to support your answer.

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8. Read the section **What Is Science?**

How do you think the author feels about science? Fully explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. Which month does British Science Week take place in? Tick one.
  - January
  - February
  - March**
  - April
  
2. Why do people have to wear thick, insulated clothes when they visit Antarctica? Tick one.
  - to be camouflaged against the snow
  - to keep warm in the cold environment**
  - to show whether they are a scientist or an engineer
  - to blend in with the seals and penguins
  
3. Look at the sentence beginning **British Science Week is...**  
Why has the author used the phrase **despite its name**?  
**The author has used the phrase 'despite its name' because British Science Week is actually ten days long.**
  
4. Look at the **Clever Camouflage Activity**.  
Find and copy one word which means the same as **hide**.  
**conceal**
  
5. Why was the theme 'Our Diverse Planet' chosen?  
**The theme was chosen to encourage people to think about how amazing diversity is.**
  
6. Do you think that it is important to celebrate British Science Week? Explain your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it is important to celebrate British Science Week because science inspires people to create incredible inventions and this week could inspire someone to invent the next best thing.**

7. ...Antarctica is also a place where many scientists and engineers work.

What challenges might someone who was working in Antarctica face? Use the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Humans are not well-adapted to living in the cold so someone working in Antarctica might find it difficult to keep warm. The text says that Antarctica is very isolated which could be challenging if you need urgent medical treatment or if you are missing your friends and family.**

8. Read the section **What Is Science?**

How do you think the author feels about science? Fully explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author feels that science is amazing because they use words like 'inspired' and 'wonderful'. They also list lots of useful inventions which would not be around if it weren't for science.**