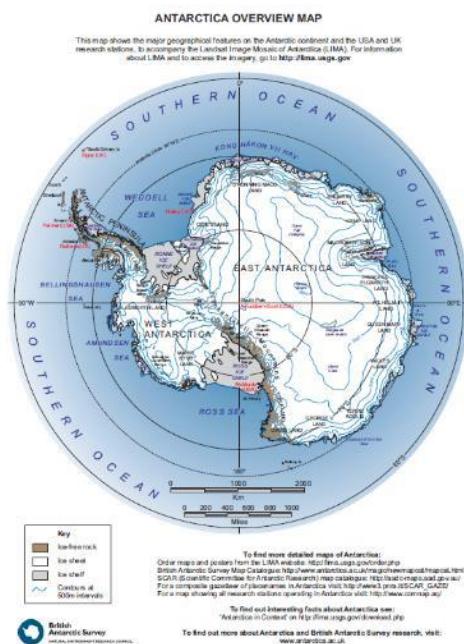


# The geography of the Weddell Sea

Information overview for teachers:

The Weddell Sea marks the northern most part of mainland Antarctica. Bordered to the east by Coats Land and the west by the Antarctic peninsula, it forms part of the Southern Ocean. At 73° S, 45° W, it covers an area of approximately 2,800,000 square km.

Average surface temperatures are usually below freezing, with the Antarctic Bottom Water temperatures ranging from -0.8 to 0 degrees Celsius. The sea is usually heavily packed with ice; however, the temperature range allows for a summer melting season, which provides the opportunity for a unique ecosystem to thrive, and the potential for exploration beneath the ice.



NB Map is for reference only. Larger version available on [www.rgs.org/wse](http://www.rgs.org/wse)

Suggested activities to accompany this document:

KS2 – Locate the ship on the map – use a small image of the S.A. Agulhas II ice-breaker and ask pupils to stick it on the map of Antarctica supplied with the WSE poster to locate the Weddell Sea.

KS3 – How far from...? Activity using GoogleEarth to measure distances between different countries and the Weddell Sea