Welcome to Our Frozen Planet

The icy realms at the very top and bottom of our planet — the Arctic and Antarctica — are two of the coldest, wildest and remotest places on Earth. But for the past four years, intrepid scientists, researchers and film-makers have been braving freezing temperatures to show us what life is like for the animals and people that call these amazing regions home!

 Presenter and wildlife expert, Sir David Attenborough, tells NG K...about the new TV series Frozen Planet and reveals how surviving in these vast wildernesses takes determination, skill and teamwork...

**Killer Instincts**

“Early polar explorers like Captain Scott [who set off on his fateful expedition to the South Pole 100 years ago] told stories about killer whales trying to knock humans off of ice floes by creating massive waves, ” says David. “Our film crew saw first-hand how cleverly these marine mammals put this trick into practice when hunting seals!”

The team used underwater cameras on poles to film pods of killer whales working together to catch other whales, penguins and seals. “They’re very intelligent,” David tells us. “And employ incredible team tactics like blowing bubbles and creating waves to capture their prey. Amazing!”

**Power of the Pack**

In Canada, wolves work together to hunt one of the Arctic’s largest mammals... the bison. With 25 wolves in the pack, the bison must stick together to avoid becoming prey. But the cunning canines split the herd and a young bison falls victim to the wolves. The kill will feed the pack for days.

Filming these animals was a real challenge for our team, but everybody stuck it out — just like the penguins!

**STAND BY ME**

As temperatures plummeted to -40°C, male emperor penguins huddle together to protect the eggs they are incubating in their feathery pouch above their feet from the freezing winds. They stand here for over two months without food, through the worst of the icy Antarctic winter, while their female mate spends time feeding on fish at sea.

“Emperor penguins survive in the worst conditions you can imagine!” explains David. “But they’re clever. Like humans, they’ll stand near to each other to keep warm, or move behind each other to avoid the wind. Filming these animals was a real challenge for our team, but everybody stuck it out — just like the penguins!”

**HOME SWEET HOME**

Antarctica has no permanent human residents, but many people live in the Arctic, mainly in Siberia. Here you’ll find one of the coldest cities on Earth, Norilsk, where temperatures can drop to a teeth-chattering -50°C. The Arctic tundra (the region’s treeless plain) is also home to many indigenous peoples like the reindeer-herding Dolgan, Nenets and Sami. Life here can be tough, but communities work together to hunt and look after their families. “If you asked these people if they would prefer to live in the city with all our comforts, they would probably say no,” David tells us. “They are perfectly adapted to survive here — and after all, it’s their home!”

**Summary**

Backed by the best team and the latest technology, the Frozen Planet expedition takes us where no one has ever been before — to the wildest and remotest places on Earth. It’s a story about the life and endurance of the animals and people who call these regions home!