



DISCOVER  
THE OCEANS

# Arctic Ocean





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# The Smallest Ocean



The Arctic is the smallest and coldest of the five oceans. It covers 5.4 million square miles (14 million square kilometers).

The Arctic Ocean sits at the top of the world. Its icy waters surround the **North Pole**.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Explorers Frederick Cook and Robert Peary both claimed to have reached the North Pole first. However, neither actually made it.
- The North Pole spends six months in darkness and six months in sunlight each year.
- In some places, Arctic ice may drift several miles per day from wind and currents.
- Lion's mane jellyfish live in the Arctic Ocean. They may grow to be 100 feet (30 meters) long!



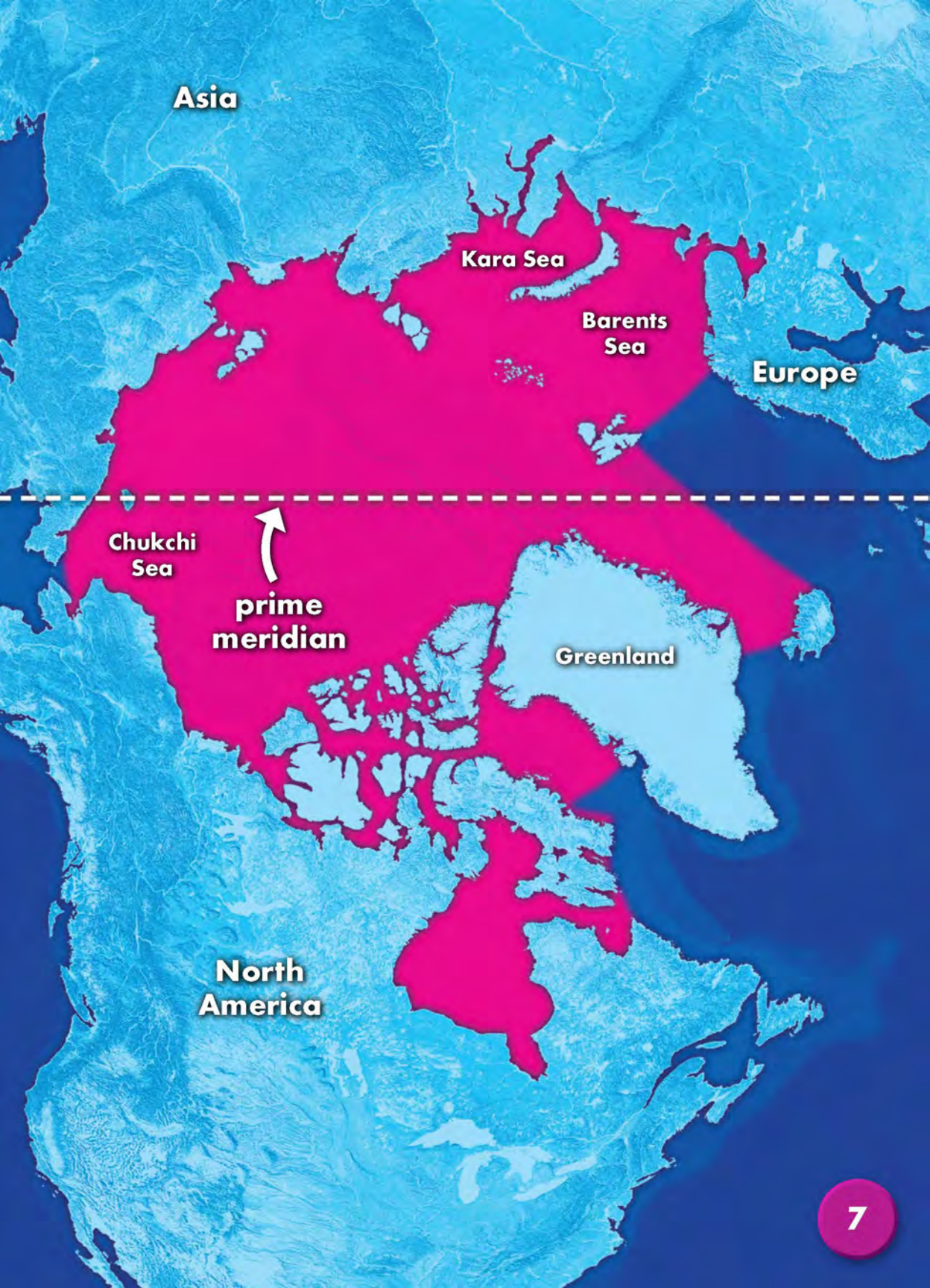
lion's mane  
jellyfish

## Where Is the Arctic Ocean?

The Arctic Ocean lies in the Northern, Eastern, and Western **hemispheres**. Its waters flow into the Chukchi, Barents, Kara, and other seas.

Asia, Europe, North America, and Greenland surround the Arctic. The ocean forms their northern borders.





**Asia**

**Kara Sea**

**Barents Sea**

**Europe**

**Chukchi Sea**

**prime meridian**

**Greenland**

**North America**

## The Climate and Features



Water at the Arctic's surface is ice cold. In winter, its temperature drops to **freezing**, or 28 degrees Fahrenheit (-2 degrees Celsius). Deeper water is slightly warmer.



iceberg



glacier

**Glaciers** line some Arctic coasts. Sometimes chunks of glaciers fall into the ocean. This creates **icebergs**.