

# Brunt Ice Shelf

By: Mario, Lauren, Ethan, and Alexis

Wren Middle School, SC

An ice shelf is a thick and floating landform of ice that forms when a glacier or ice sheet flows down to a coastline and onto the ocean surface. Ice shelves are found only in Antarctica, Greenland and Canada. Brunt Ice Shelf

is a flat land of ice in the north western edge of the Weddell Sea in west Antarctica. It has been breaking up due to calving - to break up or splinter.



The latitude of Brunt Ice Shelf is  $-74.8^{\circ}$  and the longitude is  $-22.5^{\circ}$ . It's assumed that the Brunt Ice Shelf will break up and float out into the Weddell Sea.

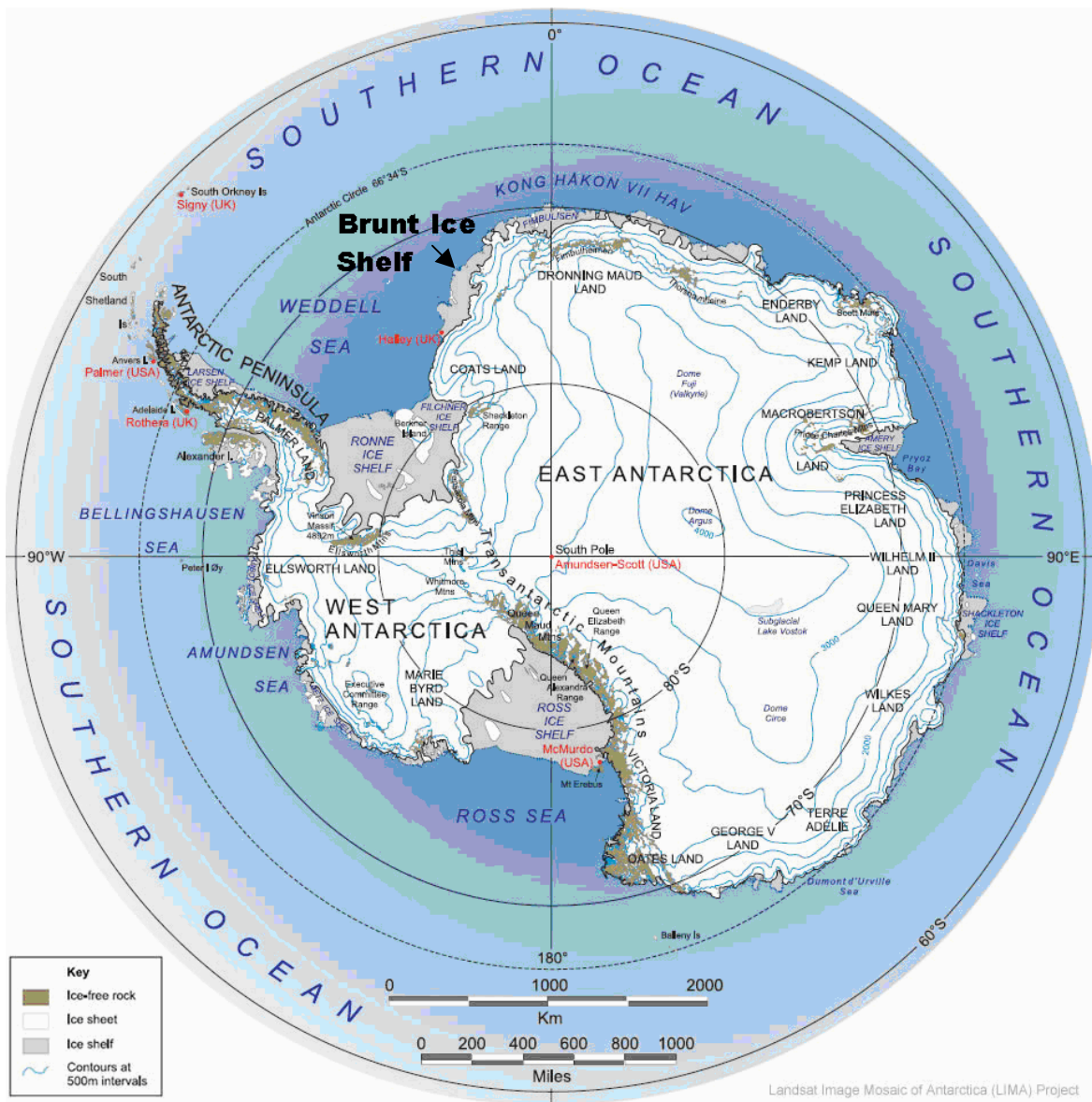
We chose this ice feature because it looks very interesting and we think that it would be good to help the Antarctica researchers. We think it is interesting because they say that it will start to float away because of calving. Every year 1km floats away. So in less than 100 years, it could float all the way out to sea. So far the Brunt Ice Shelf has lost 600 sq. km in massive calving. We also think it is interesting because it would be good to see why and exactly when it is going to float away.

Do you think we should be concerned about ice shelves melting and breaking up? Yes we should be concerned because some of the shelves and glaciers are major to some people's lives. For example, the Himalayan Glaciers are vital to the Chinese people and India's people because the glaciers help feed the rivers and help irrigate the rice and wheat fields.

Scientist mostly uses satellites to measure the thickness and the height of the shelf being monitored. The boundary between the floating ice shelf and the grounded ice that feeds it is called the grounding line. When

the line retreats inward the water flows into the ocean then the sea level rises.

Our Ice feature should be further investigated because we want to see why this ice feature is going to break off and float into the Weddell Sea. We also want to figure out why all the things in Antarctica are happening to the continent.



## Citation

Geology.com- Antarctica map

Dictionary.com- definition of calving

<http://www.photo.antarctica.ac.uk/external/guest>

[http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/living\\_and\\_working/research\\_stations/halley/](http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/living_and_working/research_stations/halley/)