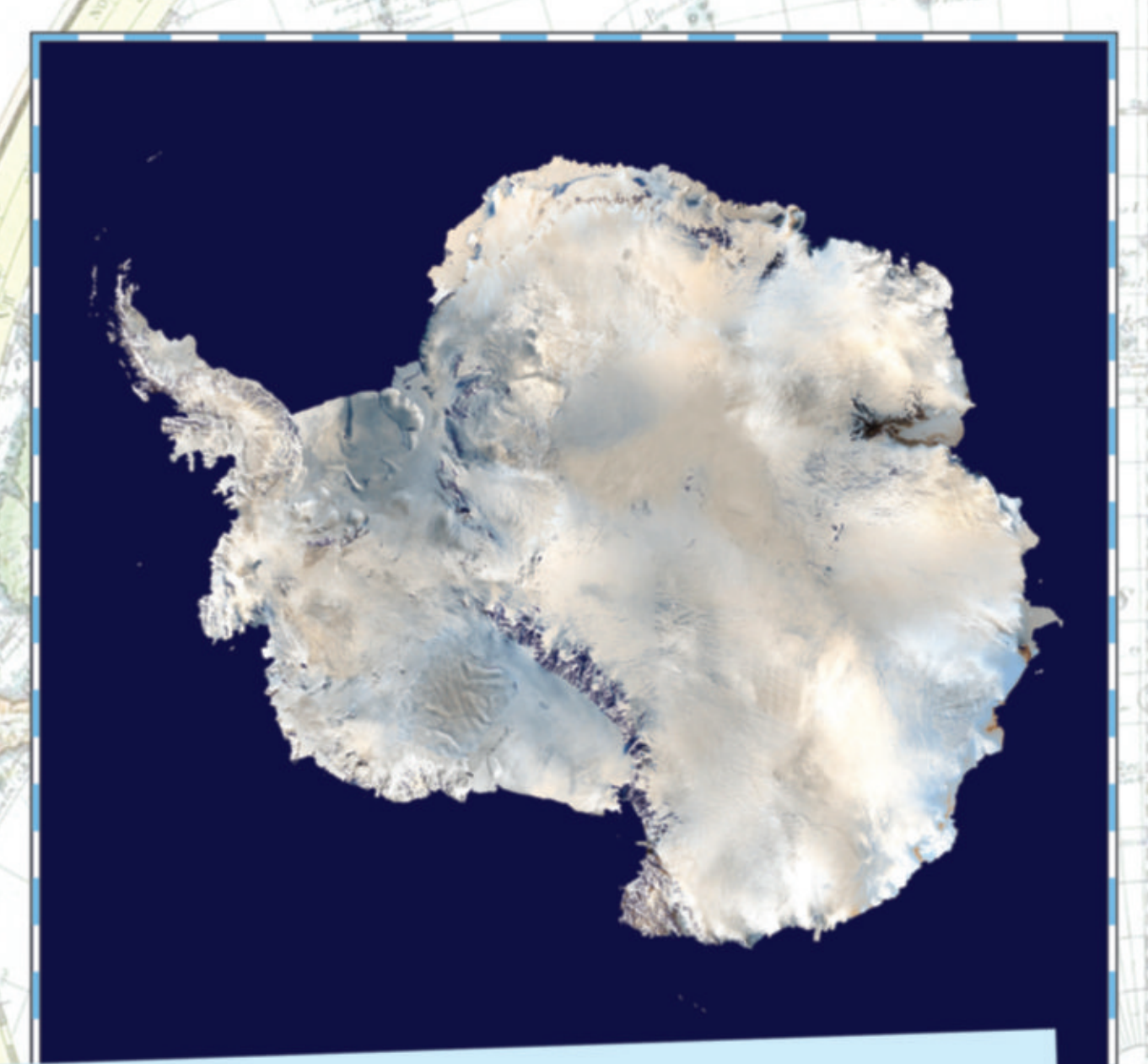




Antarctica: the world's wildest continent

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Antarctica is like no other continent. It is a wild place. No people have settled there permanently. A few thousand scientists visit Antarctica every year. They live in research stations. Some are seasonal and only open during the summer months. Others are permanent and remain open all year.



At the bottom of the world

Antarctica is located at the South Pole. It is the coldest place on Earth. Even in summer the temperature, in most areas, is below freezing. One winter, scientists recorded a temperature of -89°C .

Antarctica is also the driest and windiest continent. The air temperature is usually too cold for rain. Only a few centimetres of snow fall there each year. Scientists call the continent a 'cold desert'. Wind reaches speeds of 320 km/h, which makes the air feel even colder.