

UPDATE FROM ANTARCTICA!
News for Students 5-11 yrs.
THE ANTARCTICA TREATY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY!
SIXTY YEARS DEDICATED TO SCIENCE!



Antarctica is a very special place! Unlike any other land on earth, it is not owned by anyone, but it wasn't always this way when early explorers claimed sections of land for their countries. In 1959, scientists worked together to create the Antarctic Treaty, which set aside the entire continent for scientific study and made our work possible today! (L) US South Pole Station, (R) countries participating in International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration, a 5-year research collaboration.



In 1959 twelve countries agreed to the first Antarctic Treaty. Each was involved in scientific research in Antarctica and saw the benefits of working together to study and protect this very special environment. This photo of the countries' representatives was taken at the South Pole.



The flags on this Antarctic image show how many countries have joined together around the treaty since it was first agreed to sixty years ago! Many countries have signed on, and others have agreed to its guidelines



Wildlife is an important part of the protections that are included in the Antarctic Treaty. Antarctica is home to a variety of wildlife including seals, like this crabeater seal, penguins, whales, birds and fish.



The partnership of the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration is an example of the importance of the Antarctic Treaty, with several nations working together to improve scientific understanding of Thwaites Glacier.

Photo credits: Top to Bottom L-R: NSF, ITGC, New Zealand, BAS, M. Turrin, James Kirkham/GHC team.
See More: <https://thwaitesglacier.org/index.php/media/itgc-why-are-us-and-uk-collaborating>