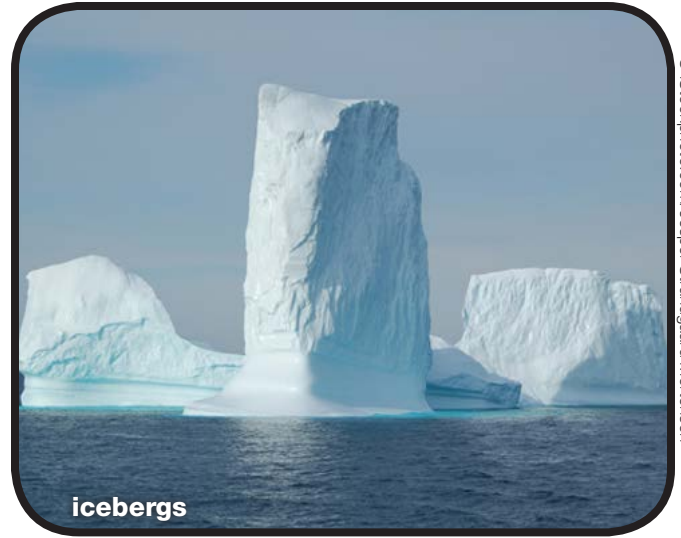


Icebergs

Icebergs are huge blocks of floating ice. They have broken away from ice sheets or glaciers. When they break off, they fall into the water. This is known as **calving**. In the spring and summer months, air and water temperatures rise. This causes ice sheets and glaciers to weaken, and calving happens more often.

Icebergs vary in size. Some are as small as a piano. They are called **growlers**. Others can be the size of small houses. The largest icebergs form near Antarctica. Some measure several square kilometers. Icebergs eventually melt as they drift into warmer water.

Ninety-three percent of icebergs are found around the South Pole. There are fewer icebergs around the North Pole, and they are smaller. But they can drift southward into shipping lanes. This can be dangerous for ships.



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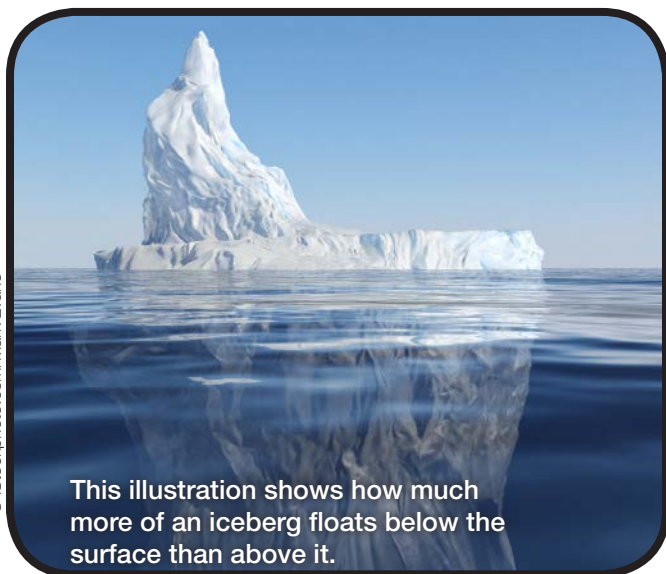
icebergs

WOWSER!

The world's largest iceberg was seen floating in the ocean off Antarctica. It was bigger than the state of Connecticut. Now, that was one big iceberg!

Icebergs are much larger than they appear. Most of an iceberg is hidden below the surface of the water. Only about one-eighth of an iceberg floats above water.

Icebergs have millions of tiny air bubbles trapped in the ice. The air bubbles reflect sunlight and give an iceberg its white color. Some iceberg ice is blue. Blue ice has very few trapped air bubbles. Icebergs are beautiful but also dangerous.



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This illustration shows how much more of an iceberg floats below the surface than above it.

✓ Brain Check

- Where do icebergs occur?
- What is calving?
- Why do most icebergs look white?