

COLD AND HOT LANDS

FIVE important lines are drawn across these maps of the world: the Arctic and Antarctic Circles; the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn; and the Equator. They divide the world roughly into *polar*, *temperate* and *tropical* zones.

The *polar* lands remain cold all through the year, even though the summer days are long and some snow melts.

The *temperate* lands have four seasons: summer and winter, with spring and autumn in between. But these seasons come at different times of the year north and south of the Equator. June is midwinter in southern lands.

The *tropical* lands are always hot, except where mountains or plateaus reach high above sea level. For some of the year the sun is directly overhead at noon (local time). Look at the **red** area on the maps.

The map on **this** page shows the world in June. Hardly anywhere is very cold (except for Antarctica in midwinter, of course). Most of the very hot areas in June are **north** of the Equator.

The December map (opposite page) is very different. Both Canada and Russia are **very** cold. Most of the hottest areas in December are **south** of the Equator, near the Tropic of Capricorn, because December is midsummer.



▲ **Arctic winter.** Winter begins early in Greenland. This fishing boat is frozen in the harbour at Angmagssalik, near the Arctic Circle. There are 24 hours of dark and cold at Christmas. Yet by June, the ice will have melted, and there will be 24 hours of daylight.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children in New Zealand open their Christmas presents on 25th December which is in midsummer!

