

## Séquence DNL anglais

### *Le Continent Antarctique : la question des îles Shetland du Sud et des ZEE (1955/2007) dans le cadre de la négociation du « Traité sur l'Antarctique » (1959)*

Points des programmes abordés au lycée :

#### ENSEIGNEMENT DE SPECIALITE - HGGSP

#### Terminale

**Thème 1 Conquêtes, affirmations de puissance et rivalités, Jalon 2** : Vers une nouvelle gouvernance mondiale des océans

#### Thème 1 – De nouveaux espaces de conquête (26-28 heures)

L'étude de ce thème a un double objectif : identifier, au-delà des territoires terrestres, les possibilités d'affirmation et de développement des États liées à la conquête de l'espace et de l'océan ; comprendre les défis et rivalités qui en découlent avec l'entrée en jeu de nouveaux acteurs, notamment les entreprises privées.

Les deux axes sont abordés sous l'angle géopolitique :

- Le premier met en avant les rivalités entre États, en donnant une large place aux enjeux militaires, à la fois dans l'étude de la course à l'espace depuis les années 1950 et dans celle de la dissuasion nucléaire et des forces de projection maritime.
- Le second s'intéresse, à travers les exemples de la station spatiale internationale et de la gestion internationale des mers et des océans, aux négociations diplomatiques qui permettent d'encadrer les rivalités interétatiques ainsi qu'aux coopérations internationales rendues nécessaires par des intérêts communs.

<b>Introduction</b> : Océan et espace : quelles spécificités ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Une connaissance et une maîtrise en constante évolution.</li><li>- Les dernières frontières ?</li></ul>	
<b>Axe 1</b> Conquêtes, affirmations de puissance et rivalités.	<b>Jalons</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Les enjeux géopolitiques d'une conquête : la course à l'espace des années 1950 à l'arrivée de nouveaux acteurs (Chine, Inde, entreprises privées...).</li><li>- Affirmer sa puissance à partir des mers et des océans : la dissuasion nucléaire et les forces de projection maritimes.</li></ul>
<b>Axe 2</b> Enjeux diplomatiques et coopérations.	<b>Jalons</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Coopérer pour développer la recherche : la station spatiale internationale.</li><li>- Rivalités et coopérations dans le partage, l'exploitation et la préservation des ressources des mers et des océans : de la création des zones économiques exclusives (Convention de Montego Bay) à la gestion commune de la biodiversité (conférence intergouvernementale sur la biodiversité marine, BBNJ : <i>Biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction</i>).</li></ul>
<b>Objet de travail conclusif</b> La Chine : à la conquête de l'espace, des mers et des océans.	<b>Jalons</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Une volonté politique d'affirmation (discours, investissements, appropriations...).</li><li>- Des enjeux économiques et géopolitiques considérables pour la Chine et le reste du monde.</li></ul>

Source : BO spécial n° 8 du 25 juillet 2019

Terminale

Mers et océans, entre appropriation, protection et liberté de circulation

- **Thème 1 – Mers et océans : au cœur de la mondialisation (13-15 heures)**

Questions	Commentaire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mers et océans : vecteurs essentiels de la mondialisation.</li> <li>- Mers et océans : entre appropriation, protection et liberté de circulation.</li> </ul>	<p>La maritimisation des économies et l'ouverture des échanges internationaux confèrent aux mers et aux océans un rôle fondamental tant pour la fourniture de ressources (halieutiques, énergétiques, biochimiques...) que pour la circulation des hommes et les échanges matériels ou immatériels. L'importance des routes et les itinéraires diffèrent selon la nature des flux (de matières premières, de produits intermédiaires, industriels, d'informations...). Mais les territoires sont inégalement intégrés dans la mondialisation. Les routes maritimes et les câbles sous-marins, tout comme les ports et les zones d'exploitation, restent concentrés sur quelques axes principaux. D'importants bouleversements s'opèrent, ce qui accroît les enjeux géostratégiques et les rivalités de puissance, notamment autour des canaux et des détroits internationaux. La mise en valeur et l'utilisation des mers et des océans relèvent d'une logique ambivalente, entre liberté de circulation et volonté d'appropriation, de valorisation et de protection. La délimitation des zones économiques exclusives (ZEE) est aujourd'hui la principale cause de tensions entre les États en raison des ressources présentes dans ces zones et de la volonté de ces États de les exploiter.</p>
<p><b>Études de cas possibles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Le golfe Arabo-Persique : un espace au cœur des enjeux contemporains.</li> <li>- La mer de Chine méridionale : concurrences territoriales, enjeux économiques et liberté de circulation.</li> <li>- L'océan Indien : rivalités régionales et coopérations internationales.</li> <li>- Le détroit de Malacca : un point de passage majeur et stratégique.</li> </ul>	

Source : BO spécial n° 8 du 25 juillet 2019

**Problématique possible : Comment les négociations du Traité sur l'Antarctique en 1959 ont-elles gelé les revendications territoriales jusqu'à aujourd'hui ?**

**Notions :** multilatéralisme, ZEE, territoire, droit international, revendications territoriales et territorialisation des mers

**Source des documents :** les documents proviennent du *Centre des Archives Diplomatiques de Nantes*, fonds Londres, Santiago et Buenos Aires, excepté l'article du Guardian, en ligne.

Proposed activities

### 1/ British claim on Antarctica

Analyse the article (*The Guardian*, 2007)

Why is the United Kingdom claiming sovereign rights over a part of the seabed of Antarctica ?

Why could this claim anger neighbouring South American countries ?

### 2/ Researches on your own

In order to prepare an oral presentation, list all official agreements or protocols referred to in the article, in chronological order. Specify their goals and achievements.

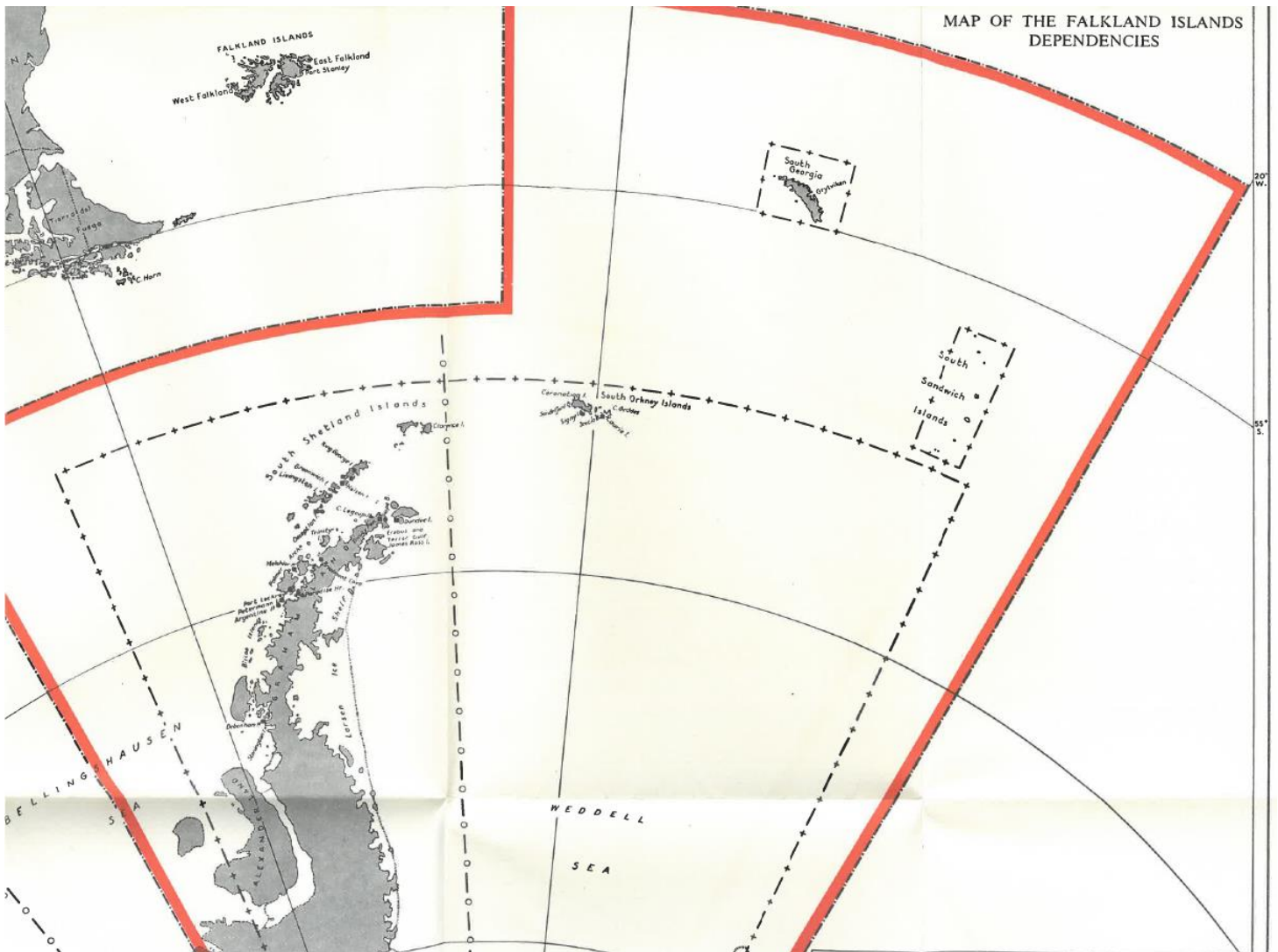
### 3/ Study of archives documents

4/ Prepare an official speech at the UN in 2007 to defend the British claim using the informations in all the documents

**Introduction : Compare maps of the same region, from 2 different sources**



Map of the Buenos Aires Embassy



Map from the London Embassy

### 1/ British claim on Antarctica

Analyse the article (*The Guardian*, 2007)

Why is the United Kingdom claiming sovereign rights over a part of the seabed of Antarctica ?

Why could this claim anger neighbouring South American countries ?

## The Guardian, 2007 : Britain to claim more than 1m sq km of Antarctica

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2007/oct/17/antarctica.sciencenews>

Move would extend UK oil, gas and mineral rights, [Owen Bowcott](#), Wed 17 Oct 2007

The United Kingdom is planning to claim sovereign rights over a vast area of the remote seabed off Antarctica, the Guardian has learned. The submission to the United Nations covers more than 1m sq km (386,000 sq miles) of seabed, and is likely to signal a quickening of the race for territory around the south pole in the world's least explored continent.

The claim would be in defiance of the spirit of the 1959 Antarctic treaty, to which the UK is a signatory. It specifically states that no new claims shall be asserted on the continent. The treaty was drawn up to prevent territorial disputes.

The Foreign Office, however, has told the Guardian that data is being gathered and processed for a submission to the UN which could extend British oil, gas and mineral exploitation rights up to 350 miles offshore into the Southern Ocean. Much of the seabed there is at such a depth that extraction of gas, oil or minerals is not yet technically feasible, but the claim may still anger neighbouring South American countries who believe they have more entitlement to the potentially valuable territory. The Antarctic submission reflects the UK's efforts to secure resources for the future as oil and natural gas reserves dwindle over the coming decades.

Last month the Guardian revealed the UK is working on three other sub-sea claims in the Atlantic: around South Georgia and the Falkland Islands, surrounding Ascension Island and in the Hatton/Rockall basin, west of Scotland. Britain has already lodged a joint claim at the UN - with France, Ireland and Spain - for a large area of seabed in the Bay of Biscay. The Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that the UK was working to extend sovereign territory into new areas. "There are five claims in total that the UK is hoping to put forward," a statement said. "They are in the Bay of Biscay, around Ascension, off the British Antarctic Territory, around the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and in the Hatton/Rockall basin.

"We believe these five meet the geological conditions required. The claims are based on article 76 of the UN convention of the law of the sea."

Karen Sack, head of oceans for Greenpeace International, said little was known about the environmental impact on marine life of drilling and exploration at great depths. "What we don't know is what kind of impact these [prospecting] activities are having right now. We have more maps of the moon than we do of the deep sea. Whenever there's deep-sea fishing there's always new species identified. We would hope [states] would leave the [Antarctic] wilderness as it is."

The British Antarctic Territory, first claimed in 1908, forms a triangular wedge, with its apex at the south pole. It covers 666,000 sq miles and has two permanently-manned scientific stations. It is due to celebrate its centenary next year by issuing its first ever legal tender coin.

A British submersible recently dived to depths of more than two miles in the waters around the edge of the continental shelf. The seas are swarming with krill, shrimp-like crustaceans, brittle stars - which are similar to starfish - and sea cucumbers.

International interest in exploiting the new frontier on the oceans' floors comes as global warming is opening up previously frozen seas at the icecaps and the world's major economies are competing for fresh energy sources. During the summer Russia was subject to criticism for making claims beneath the Arctic Ocean, while France registered a claim to thousands of square miles around New Caledonia, in the Pacific.

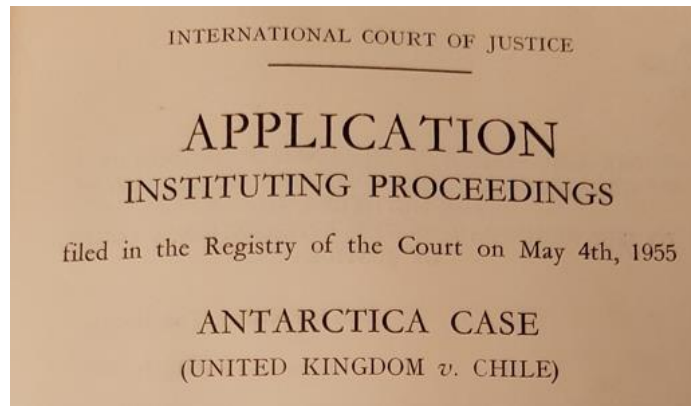
The UK claim on Antarctica will be its most controversial because it depends on proximity to the British Antarctic Territory which overlaps rival land claims by Chile and Argentina. The environmental protocol to the Antarctic treaty, agreed in 1991, currently prohibits all mineral related activity, other than for scientific research.[...]

## 2/ Researches on your own

In order to prepare an oral presentation, list all official agreements or protocols referred to in the article, in chronological order. Specify their goals and achievements.

## 3/ Study of archives documents

### Doc. 1 : International court of Justice, 1955



### Announcement of the United Kingdom Pretensions to the South Shetlands Islands

8. The *South Shetland Islands* were discovered by the English sea captain William Smith on February 18, 1819. Revisiting the islands in October of the same year, he landed, planted the British flag and formally took possession of the group in the name of King George III, calling it New South Britain—(this was afterwards changed to South Shetlands, named after the Shetland Islands, north of Scotland). A few months later, Edward Bransfield, R.N., accompanied by William Smith, proceeded again to the islands and made a survey of the whole group. On January 16, 1820, he landed on the largest island (King George Island) in the centre of the group and took possession formally in the name of King George IV. After a voyage south-westwards between the South Shetlands and Graham Land, to which further reference is made in paragraph 10 below, he returned to the South Shetland Islands. On February 4 he landed on the most easterly island of the group, taking possession formally in the King's name and calling the island Clarence Island in honour of the Duke of Clarence, the brother of the King.

## Announcement of Chile's Pretensions to the South Shetlands and Graham Land on November 6, 1940

26. The Chilean Government, as related in paragraph 24 (3) above, made no protests or reservations in respect of the issue of the British Letters Patent of 1908, or those of 1917, or in respect of the frequent and public display of State authority by Great Britain in and in regard to the Dependencies. For more than 30 years after the issue of the Letters Patent of 1908, no interest was shown by the Chilean Government in the South Shetlands or Graham Land. The only Chilean interest in those territories during this period was that of the whaling company, the Sociedad Ballenera de Magallanes which, as mentioned in paragraph 24 (3) above, took out British whaling licences for the two territories between 1907 and 1914, and conducted their operations under British laws and regulations. Although one of the principal objects of the important international conferences for the regulation of whaling held between 1927 and 1939 was the preservation of the whale stocks in the seas surrounding the Dependencies, and especially in the Bransfield Strait between the South Shetlands and Graham Land, Chile neither took any part in those conferences nor acceded to the resulting conventions, which, if she had had sovereignty over these territories she might

be expected to have done. Nor did she voice any objection to the fact that the United Kingdom took a leading part in those conferences in its capacity as the State responsible for the regulation of whaling in the Dependencies, and especially in the South Shetlands and Graham Land. It was only after the outbreak of the second world war that the Chilean Government, by a decree of September 7, 1939, established a special commission to examine into Chile's interests in the Antarctic. Thirteen months later, the Chilean Government issued the Presidential Decree of November 6, 1940, the text of which is given in paragraph 3 of the present Application, and by this decree laid claim, *inter alia*, to the British territories of the South Shetlands and Graham Land.

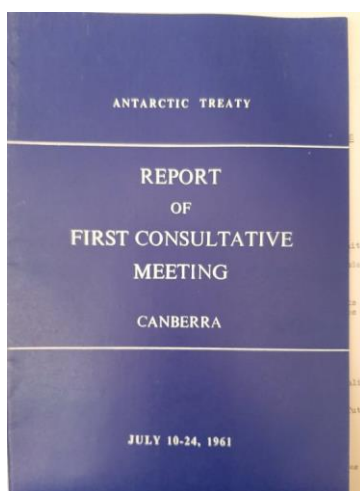


[...] Internationalisation seems the only effective answer to the problem of regulating future activities in Antarctica. It was first proposed in 1939, and on more recent occasions a United Nations trusteeship has been suggested. In 1947 the United Kingdom proposed submitting her dispute with either Argentina or Chile to the International Court of Justice, but no reference to the court has been possible. The General Assembly of the United Nations could, by virtue of its powers, seek an advisory opinion from the court on this vexed problem. Since, however, the International Council of Scientific Unions is preparing to extend the I.Y.G (*International Year of Geophysics*) programme relating to the establishment of Antarctic bases the time is opportune for an international conference on the broader issue of state claims to the whole of Antarctica.[...]

The only basis to sovereignty claims rest upon discovery and occupation. As the United States Secretary of State Hughes declared in 1924 in a well-known statement :

« Discovery of lands unknown to civilisation even when coupled with a formal taking of possession does not support a valid claim of sovereignty unless the discovery is followed by an actual settlement of the discovered country... »

**Doc. 3 : 10/07/1961** : The Report of First Consultative Meeting for the Antarctic Treaty



**SPEECH BY DR. R. E. GUYER, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE  
ARGENTINE DELEGATION, AT THE OPENING SESSION OF  
THE MEETING, 10 JULY 1961**

Mr. Chairman, Delegates,

On behalf of the Argentine Delegation I should like, first and foremost, to express my appreciation of the generous hospitality which the Australian Government has extended to us on this occasion of the First Consultative Meeting on the Antarctic Treaty.

The Antarctic Treaty, incidentally, brings out clearly the fact that we are neighbours at the South Pole. There are many affinities between Argentina and Australia. Both countries are characterized by their agricultural and pastoral resources, by the evolution of their industrial development, by their population, their climate, and their geographical situation in the Southern Hemisphere.

For years men from all parts of the world have been travelling to that region of eternal ice, inspired by a variety of motives, but the hostile environment has always stood as an insurmountable obstacle in the way of utilization of those vast areas for the benefit of mankind. Only a few countries—and Argentina, which since 1904, at the cost of great sacrifice, has carried out there an uninterrupted and continuous scientific programme, is one of them—had given any inkling of the importance which the Antarctic would in time acquire in the march of human progress. With modern scientific and technical advances, however, intense activity is being carried out by the countries gathered here and this has made it more and more vitally necessary to reach an understanding permitting beneficial and widespread co-operation at the international level in an area that is ceasing to be shrouded in mystery, and in an age when man is overcoming one by one the physical obstacles which until recently have stood in the way of his conquest of the earth.

Much negotiation has gone into the formulation of this Treaty, but it has been rewarding. From our point of view four objectives: *inter alia*, have been attained to which we assign the greatest importance: the safeguarding of our rights, the prohibition of nuclear explosions, peaceful utilization and international scientific co-operation.

Because of its geological continuity, its geographical proximity, and the efforts exerted there over many years, the Argentine Antarctic is a part of our national territory. The specific clauses of the Treaty which safeguard our rights will enable us, in reaffirming them, to contribute in a positive manner to the common task we have all undertaken, namely, to carry out with maximum efficiency the activities connected with scientific research.

As one of the countries adjacent to Antarctica we attended the Washington Conference on Antarctica in 1959 with one overriding concern. The possibility of this territory being used as a testing ground for nuclear explosions implied a serious threat to the health of our people. The removal of this threat was imperative, and with the agreement on the prohibition of nuclear explosions and the disposal of radioactive waste material the conclusion of the Treaty became feasible. The implementation of the relevant Article will give back to the inhabitants of the areas adjacent to Antarctica the peace of mind which would otherwise have been perpetually disturbed.

The peaceful use of Antarctica will enable it to be kept isolated from international tensions, present and future, should man be unable to find a suitable formula by which he can live in peace in a world created by Providence for living in peace and not at war.

One of the main aims of the Treaty and the basic aim of this First Consultative Meeting is, primarily, international scientific co-operation and its organization.

The world-wide interchange of scientific knowledge today is a necessity imposed by progress. Widespread acquaintance with the results of research will without doubt contribute to improving and speeding up the development of science. For the same reason the knowledge which this research brings to light should be interchanged in an informative, reliable and effective manner.

4/ Prepare an official speech at the UN to defend the British claim using the informations in all the documents