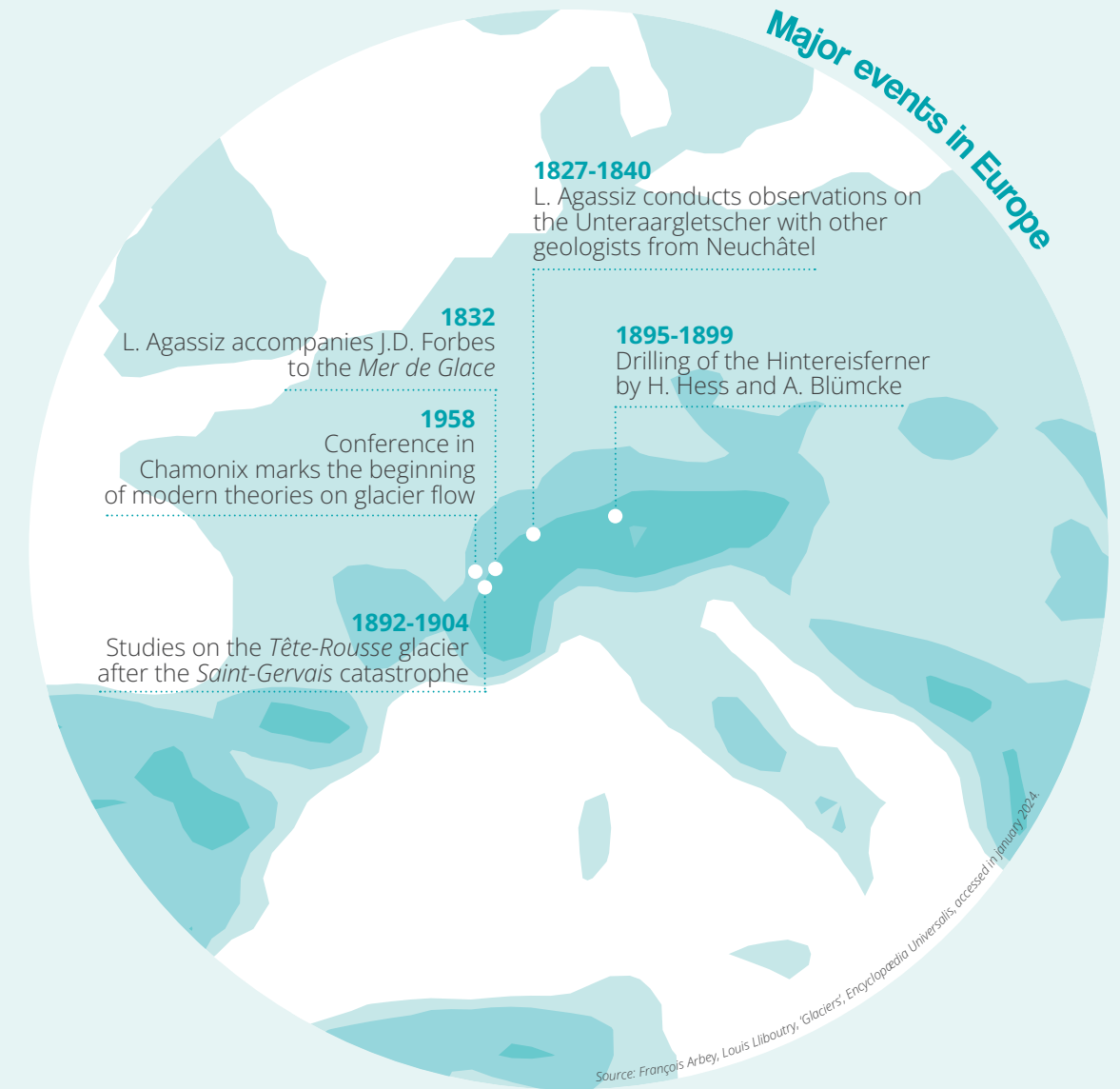
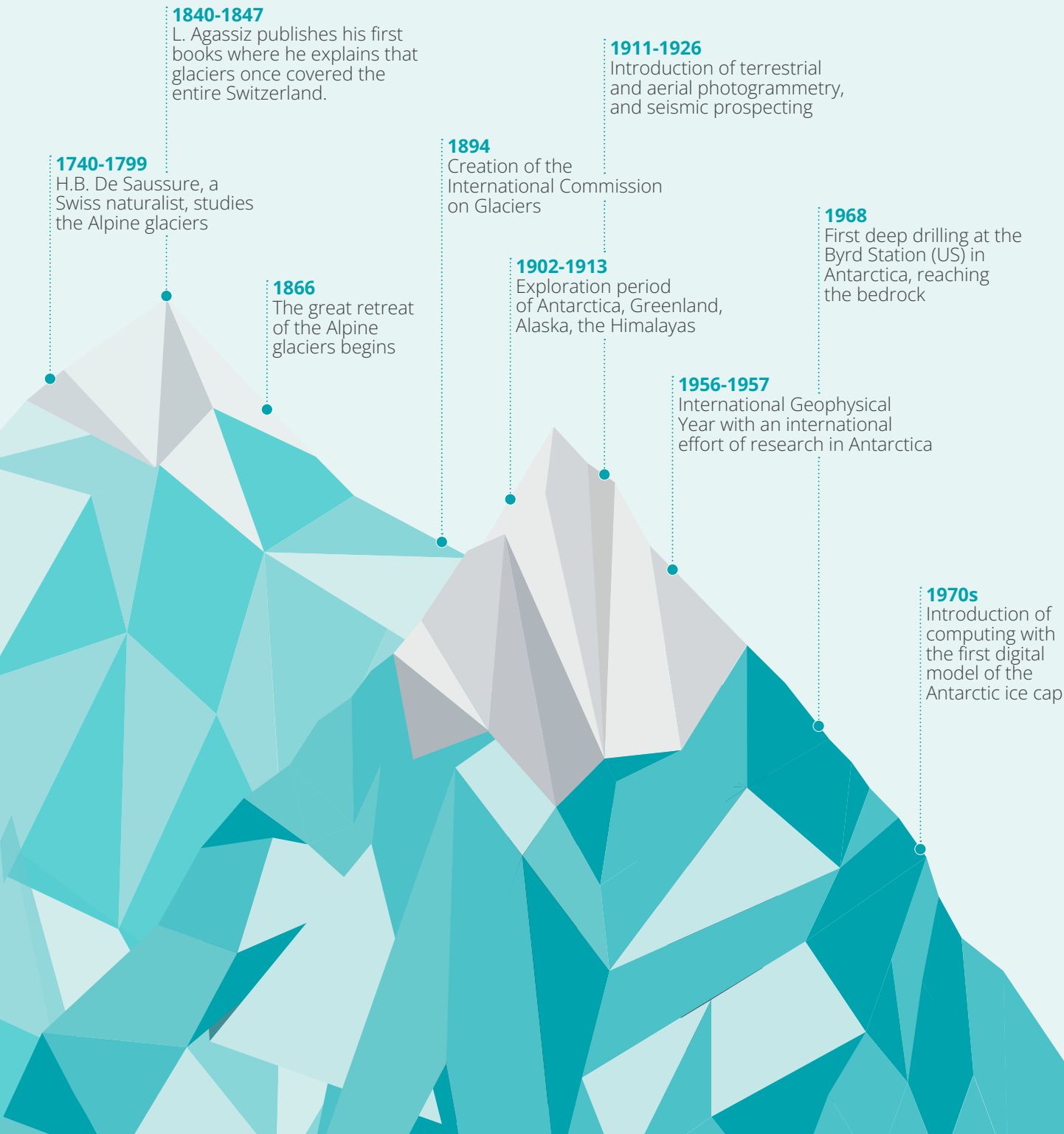


## A visual journey through the history of glaciology



Nowadays, glaciers are inseparable from mountains and their harsh climate. A glacier is a mass of ice formed by the accumulation of snow layers crushed under their own weight. However, the Earth has experienced numerous periods of glaciation since its formation. They have shaped today's landscapes. The last glacial maximum occurred 21,000 years ago. At the time, the Arctic ice sheet covered Scotland and present-day Canada. Glaciology, the science of studying the cryosphere, emerged in Europe in the 18th century. Driven by the influence of naturalists of the time, it was in the 19th century that the discipline really took off.

Today, it is closely linked to climate studies, with the use of ice core techniques in order to record the world climate history. Global warming is endangering glaciers, which are declining year by year, with all the associated risks for ecosystems: rising sea levels, release of greenhouse gas emissions as they melt, soil destabilization, loss of biodiversity. According to a study published in Science in 2023, almost 50% of current glacier masses are doomed to extinction. It's up to us to make sure the rest don't melt into the oceans...