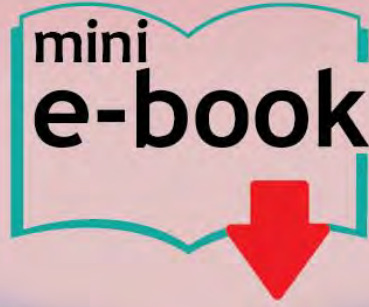


Geography

Antarctica



For Upper Primary



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Antarctica - A Unique Environment

Read the information, then complete the activity sheets which follow.

Antarctica, also known as the South Pole, is a very special ecosystem that we must look after. It covers 14 million square kilometres of the Earth's surface and is approximately twice the size of Australia. It has a unique climate, with winter comprising six weeks of complete darkness and summer comprising 24 hours of continuous daylight. The Sun's rays are so intense during summer that you cannot go outside without wearing special UV protective sunglasses or you may burn your eyes or risk sun-blindness. In winter, the lowest ever recorded temperature was $-89.2^{\circ}\text{Celsius}$. Due to the harsh climate, nobody permanently lives in Antarctica, although it does attract tourists.

Working In Antarctica

Geologists, marine ecologists, astronomers and meteorologists are some of the people who work in Antarctica. When there, they live in and work from permanent scientific bases and research stations. Due to the harsh climate, scientists only work for short stints before returning home. Read below to find out what these people do in Antarctica.

Geologists

Collect rock samples from beneath the ice to determine things like Antarctica's past climate and former volcanic activity.

Marine ecologists

Study Antarctic aquatic ecosystems that species inhabit.

Astronomers

Study solar activity. Antarctica is one of the driest and clearest spots on Earth from which to view space.

Meteorologists

Study weather patterns such as air pressure, winds and the climate.

Who Owns Antarctica?

Unlike any region in the world, Antarctica is co-owned by seven countries! There is a part of Antarctica which is not owned by any country.



Protecting Antarctica

The Antarctic Treaty was established in 1959 and was designed to protect Antarctica from environmental threats and ensure it is only to be used for peaceful purposes. Any military bases, military manoeuvres, weapons testing, nuclear explosions and the disposal of radioactive waste are prohibited under this Treaty. Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States were among the first countries to join the Treaty.

Use the information on page 3 to complete this activity sheet.

Antarctica is one of the most unique places found on the planet. It is a fascinating continent to learn about.

Complete the true or false quiz.



1. Antarctica is also known as the North Pole. T F

2. Antarctica covers 14 million square kilometres in area. T F

3. Antarctica is three times the size of Australia. T F

4. It is completely dark for six weeks of the year in Antarctica. T F

5. During summer it does not get dark in Antarctica. T F



6. The climate is harsh in Antarctica because of the extremes of temperatures. T F

7. People travel around Antarctica by car. T F

8. Antarctica has no permanent residents. T F

9. Antarctica is a holiday destination for some. T F



10. Antarctica is one of the best places in the world from which to view space. T F

11. The French own the majority of Antarctica. T F

12. People have holiday homes in Antarctica. T F



13. There is a part of Antarctica which is not owned by any country. T F

14. The Antarctic Treaty was created in 1985. T F

15. Fifteen countries initially joined the Antarctic Treaty. T F

Use the information on page 3 to complete this activity sheet.


1. Complete the pros and cons chart about working in Antarctica.



Pros	Cons

2. Write a short diary entry from the point of view of a researcher working in Antarctica. Capture a typical day.

Dear Diary _____



Antarctic Animals

3. Note down some of the animals that inhabit Antarctica.

Use the information on page 3 to complete this activity sheet.

1. After reading the information about the Antarctic Treaty, jot down four possible consequences of not having an Antarctic Treaty in place in Antarctica.



2. You are off on a trip to visit Antarctica. Write down what you are going to take inside the suitcase below and why.



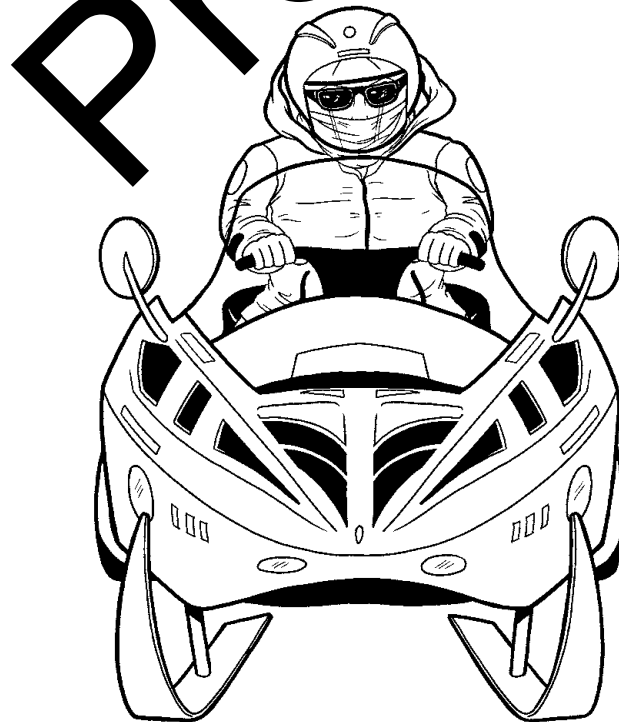
Use the information on page 3 to complete this activity sheet.

1. Use the pie chart to explain in your own words who owns Antarctica.



Transportation In Antarctica

2. Use the picture, to say what is a method of transportation in Antarctica and why you think it is used. You may want to do some research.



Answers

P4 Antarctica 1

1. false; true; false; true; true; true; false; true; true; true; false; false; true; false; false.

P5 Antarctica 2

1. Pros: unique environment and experience; naturally beautiful; interact with unique species; meet like-minded people; fulfil sense of adventure; a way to save money
Cons: harsh climate; must work away from home for long periods; can feel isolated; dangerous conditions; long hours; shared accommodation
2. Students' own response
3. penguins; seals; whales; albatross

P6 Antarctica 3

1. Possible responses: could become a place to dump waste; could become a place of conflict; species could be harmed and threatened; human pollution may occur
2. Possible responses: camera to take pictures of unique environment; warm clothes; eye protection

P7 Antarctica 4

1. Antarctica is divided up a bit like a piece of cake which has been sliced from the middle. Seven countries have a claim on parts of Antarctica. There is a part of Antarctica that nobody owns. Australia owns the greatest part.
2. Possible response: some people in Antarctica travel on snowmobiles. Snowmobiles have special tracks which grip the ground and do not slip on the snow or ice. Snowmobiles can also travel over long distances and this is useful because Antarctica is so vast.

Preview