

Living on 'The Ice'

1. Give one example of a way in which the Arctic and Antarctica are different.

2. Give two general facts about the weather in Antarctica.

3. Who is Emilio Marcos Palma and why is he famous?

4. What is the Antarctic Treaty?

5. How have some of the research stations been adapted for use in this most unforgiving environment?

6. What leisure activities do people take part in on Antarctica?

7. Which survival skills are taught at the 'Happy Camper School'?

8. Name two ways in which the natural conditions of the continent might affect human beings.

Living on 'The Ice' Answers

1. Give one example of a way in which the Arctic and Antarctica are different.

The Arctic is an ice mass while the Antarctic is a land mass. The Antarctic ice is made up of fresh water. The Arctic is generally much warmer. People have lived in the Arctic for thousands of years. The creatures living around Antarctica are different from those living in the Arctic.

2. Give two general facts about the weather in Antarctica.

Students might mention the temperatures (-60°F), the katabatic winds, the summer and winter solstices, the sea ice causing the continent to double in size in winter.

3. Who is Emilio Marcos Palma and why is he famous?

An Argentinian national, Palma was the first child born within the borders of Antarctica (1978).

4. What is the Antarctic Treaty?

The treaty signed in 1959 by 12 countries agreeing to use the Antarctic collaboratively for scientific research purposes only.

5. How have some of the research stations been adapted for use in this most unforgiving environment?

This question relates to the information about the South Pole Station which mentions the use of hydraulic stilt legs for the station so that it can be raised above the blowing snow. The stations are equipped with their own generators which use a fuel mixed with anti-freeze. This is stored in special containers to prevent freezing. Stations also make use of solar power and have their own greenhouses.

6. What leisure activities do people take part in on Antarctica?

Football, Skiing and sledding are mentioned in the article as is the 'Race Around the World' at Christmas time and 'Icestock' at New Year.

7. Which survival skills are taught at the 'Happy Camper School'?

Students are taught how to survive in the extreme weather conditions. They learn how to keep hydrated, build emergency shelters, and avoid the natural dangers of the continent such as crevasses.

8. Name two ways in which the natural conditions of the continent might affect human beings.

The article mentions altitude sickness, sunburn and snowblindness, hypothermia and frostbite. There is also mention of depression (or SAD) from the dark days.