

## 5 The coldest and the windiest!

A Scan the article about Antarctica. In what ways is it different from other places on Earth? Why do scientists work there?

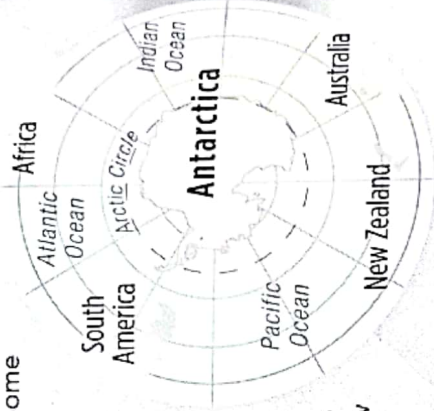


**ANTARCTICA** is the most southern continent in the world. It's like nowhere else on Earth. It's much larger than Europe and nearly twice the size of Australia. It's an icy plateau with the South Pole at its center. Antarctica is the coldest and windiest place in the world, even colder and windier than the North Pole. Although 98 percent of Antarctica is covered in ice, it is considered a desert. Along the coast, annual precipitation is only 200 millimeters (eight inches) a year. Very few plants grow there, but there is some wildlife, including whales, seals, and penguins. In the summer, the sun shines for 24 hours a day, but in the winter, it's completely dark for about three months.

When Captain James Cook sailed around the continent in the 1770s, he found no one living there. Today, a few scientists work in Antarctica, but they only spend fairly short periods of time there. Many of these scientists live and work on the Antarctic Peninsula. This area is the closest part of Antarctica to South America, the continent's nearest neighbor. Many of these scientists are studying the effects of climate change there.

Antarctica has warmed by about 2.5 degrees Celsius since 1950. Some ice is melting in certain parts of the continent. However, unlike the vast melting that is happening in the Arctic, the ice in Antarctica is actually growing in spite of global warming.

Scientists think that this cold and lonely place can teach us a lot about the earth and how to keep it safe.



B Read about Antarctica. Check (✓) True or False.

- |  |                                     |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Antarctica is bigger than Europe.   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2. The North Pole is the coldest place in the world.                           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3. The coasts in Antarctica get a lot of snow.                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. In Antarctica, it never gets dark in the summer.                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5. Captain Cook discovered a few people living in Antarctica.                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Antarctic Peninsula is the closest part of Antarctica to South America. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 7. Ice in Antarctica is melting throughout the continent.                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Use the words in the box. Write questions about the pictures. Then circle the correct answers.

- How big
- How cold
- How deep
- How far
- How long
- How high



Angel Falls

1. How high is Angel Falls?

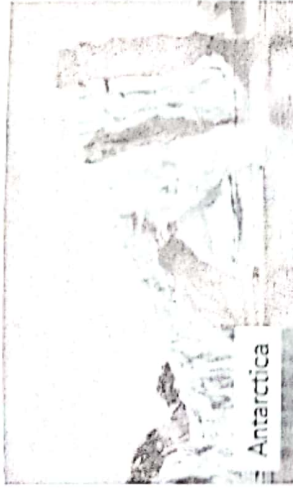
- a. It's 979 meters (3,212 feet) tall.
- b. It's 979 meters high.**

2. How long is Yangtze River?

- a. It's 6,300 kilometers (3,917 miles) long.**
- b. It's 6,300 kilometers high.



the Yangtze River



Antarctica

3. How cold is Antarctica in the winter?

- a. It gets up to -88.3 degrees Celsius (-126.9 degrees Fahrenheit).
- b. It gets down to -88.3 degrees Celsius.**

4. How far is Australia from New Zealand?

- a. It's about 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles).**
- b. It's about 2,000 square kilometers.



Australia to New Zealand

New Zealand



the Amazon Rain Forest

5. How big is the Amazon Rain Forest?

- a. It's 6 million square kilometers (2.5 million square miles).**
- b. It's 6 million kilometers long.



the Grand Canyon

6. How deep is the Grand Canyon?

- a. It's about 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) big.
- b. It's about 1.6 kilometers deep.**