

~~★ STRATEGY~~

• read questions first  
• which ones do I have to go into the passage for?  
READING

NAME:

Read the following passage about Antarctica. Then answer the questions that follow.

• Cross out bad answers

• mark text evidence w/ a # that matches the question!!

## Antarctica—Frozen Desert

by Elise Forier

More than 2,000 years ago, early Greek geographers wrote about a giant continent at the bottom of the world. Although no one had actually seen it, they called it Anti-Arktikos, or "opposite of the Arctic." Centuries passed, and no one found this "great southern continent." In the 1800s, explorers finally reached the legendary land. Among them was American sea captain Nathaniel Palmer, who sighted Antarctica from his ship.

Most of Antarctica is a desert. This may seem strange, because we often think of deserts as hot places filled with sand. Almost all of Antarctica is covered with snow and ice, and the average annual temperature is far below freezing. But on the whole, Antarctica receives very little precipitation (rain or snow)—and this is what makes it a desert.

Plants and animals that live in Antarctica have to be tough. A few kinds of plants—some mosses, for example—grow in the 2 percent of Antarctic land that is free of ice. Some grow only during the summer months and only on the warmer parts of the continent. Animals that survive year-round on the mainland are small and stay close to the ground—tiny insects such as mites, and microscopic worms. (Penguins and seals live on Antarctica only part of the year.)

Some early visitors to the continent were hunters. Although Antarctica is a harsh, nearly empty land, the seas surrounding it are rich with marine life. Six species of seals, more than 12 species of birds—including penguins—and many whales live near Antarctica. Throughout the 1800s, whale and seal hunters sailed to the Antarctic oceans by the hundreds. The hunters sold sealskins and whale and penguin blubber. (Blubber is the thick layer of fat below the skin of marine animals.) So many seals were killed that several species almost became extinct. Today, Antarctic seals are protected by international agreement, and their populations have increased again.

Other people to visit Antarctica included explorers, scientists, and adventurers. Explorers rushed to claim pieces of Antarctica for their nations. In the interests of preserving the land and avoiding war, the international Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959. It ensures that Antarctica will remain a peaceful place and will be protected from harmful activities.

More than 3,000 people from around the world—scientists and people who help the scientists—work in Antarctica today. It is not a very easy place to live, but it is a perfect laboratory for scientific study. Astronomers like the cold, clean, dry air because it allows their telescopes to see clearly into deep space.

## READING

Biologists study life on and around Antarctica to learn about how animals and plants adapt to extreme temperatures and harsh conditions.

Geologists dig in Antarctica to find out what the land was like millions of years ago.

Glaciologists (scientists who study the great masses of ice called glaciers) drill in the ice to trace climate changes throughout the ages.

Some scientists study animals and plants on Antarctica to find out more about what life might be like on other planets.

With its huge icebergs, blue and silver landscape, whistling winds, and chilly seas, Antarctica can seem like another planet. The land and its icy cover have been compared with the Moon, Mars, and Jupiter's moon, Europa. Possibly no place on Earth is stranger or wilder—or more beautiful—than Antarctica. Certainly, there is no other place we know of that is quite like it.

## READING

### A.2.3.1

1. Plants and animals in Antarctica have to be tough because of
- A hunters and scientists.
  - B large populations of people.
  - C too much rain during the year.
  - D very cold weather conditions.

### A.2.4.1

2. Which best describes the main idea of the passage?
- A Hunters caused much of the marine life in Antarctica to disappear.
  - B Antarctica's climate makes it an unusual continent.
  - C Three thousand people live in Antarctica today.
  - D Geologists in Antarctica dig for clues from the past.

### A.2.4.1

3. How is Antarctica similar to other deserts?
- A It receives very little moisture.
  - B The average temperature is below freezing.
  - C Sand covers most of the continent.
  - D It has weather conditions that keep changing.

### B.3.1.1

4. Which of these is an opinion?
- A "Some early visitors to the continent were hunters."
  - B "Possibly no place on Earth is stranger or wilder ..."
  - C "... the international Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959."
  - D "Six species of seals, more than 12 species of birds ... live near Antarctica."

## READING

A.2.4.1

5. According to the passage, who reached Antarctica first?
- A scientists
  - B geographers
  - C explorers
  - D hunters

A.2.4.1

6. According to the passage, many scientists are drawn to Antarctica because
- A they can study frozen plants and animals.
  - B they enjoy the hunting and fishing there.
  - C it is an excellent laboratory.
  - D it is an easy place to live.

A.2.4.1

7. Which sentence best supports the main idea of the passage?
- A "... Antarctica can seem like another planet."
  - B "Penguins and seals live on Antarctica only part of the year."
  - C "Glaciologists ... drill in the ice to trace climate changes throughout the ages."
  - D "More than 3,000 people from around the world ... work in Antarctica today."

A.2.3.1

8. The great number of hunters traveling to Antarctica in the 1800s indicates that
- A few animals used to live in Antarctica.
  - B Antarctica used to have a hot climate.
  - C Antarctica used to be overpopulated with people.
  - D many people used to want sealskins and animal blubber.

# Narrative Plan

## EXCITING BEGINNING (INTRO) :

- RESEARCH TEAM STUCK IN BLIZZARD
- WILL THEY SURVIVE THE NIGHT / POLAR BEAR SEEN LURING AROUND (FORESHADOWING)

## SETTING DESCRIPTION (5 SENSES)

- \* ANTARCTICA
- \* TOUCH: Frosty freezing fingers of death
- \* TASTE: Fresh clean air "taste"
- \* HEAR: Detect an empty silence
- \* SMELL: burning embers from camp fire
- \* SEE: Endless horizons / wall of snow

## RISING ACTION / LEADS TO PROBLEM (CLIMAX)

- \* Research team studying glaciers
- \* Snowmobile breaks down
- \* Storm comes / all supplies are lost
- \* One volunteer goes out into storm to save team / find help  
↳ polar bear / falls in ice (climax)

## FALLING ACTION / SOLUTION = HOW IS PROBLEM FIXED

- \* Finds old research base / calls for help
- \* Helicopter comes in to save team
- \* In old research base that is discovered, team find all kinds of great data to make a report

## REFLECTION / WHAT WAS LEARNED / POSE A QUESTION

- \* Research scientist records in notebook what it took to survive. w
- \* What would you do to stay alive and save your team?

\* DIALOGUE  
\* STRONG VOCAB.

\* FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE  
\* SHOW DON'T TELL

