

WORKSHEET - ANTARCTICA

Read the passage. Ask yourself some questions. Then answer the questions below.

ANTARCTICA



The coldest place on the planet earth is Antarctica. It is so cold that a steel bar can snap in two and a pair of rubber gloves can be broken crisply to bits. Besides being extremely cold, Antarctica is also very windy. The biting winds usually blow at about eighty kilometers per hour. That is sufficiently strong to blow off some of our roofs. The few buildings in Antarctica are therefore built close to the ground.

At the South Pole or “the bottom of the world” there are only two seasons. The two seasons, summer and winter, are very cold. The difference is that summer is in fact six months of daylight. The sun never sets. During the summer months, the cloudless sky is blue, and you can see dazzling field of snow stretching as far as your eyes can see. It looks like a frozen desert. You

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cannot rely on the sun to give you an idea of time the sun is as bright as midnight as it is at midday. In fact, Antarctica is often referred to as “the land of the midnight sun“. Winter or darkness in Antarctica begins on March 21st and ends in September. During the six months of winter, Antarctica is a dark wilderness of bitter cold and howling winds.

Questions

1. Select the word or phrase that best explains the words “**biting winds**”.

- winds with teeth
- gentle winds
- freezing winds
- angry winds

2. Select the word or phrase that best explains the words “**bottom of the world**”.

- seat of the world
- the rear of the world
- under the world
- the south pole

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3. Select the word or phrase that best explains the words “**dazzling field**”.

- glittering expanse
- gloomy expanse
- dull expanse
- dismal expanse

4. Select the word or phrase that best explains the words in heavy type “**midnight sun**”.

- sun comes out at midnight
- the sun sets at midnight
- the sun shines for 24 hours a day
- it is dark all the time

5. Select the word or phrase that best explains “**dark wilderness**”.

- gloomy wasteland
- infertile region
- barren desert
- cold desert

6. Why can't you determine what time it is by looking at the sun?

- the sun never dies
- there's sunlight for six months
- the sun is bright even at midnight
- all of the above

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7. Why do rubber and steel break easily in Antarctica?

- they have lost their strength
- they are frozen and brittle
- they have decayed
- they have become useless

8. What is the difference between summer and winter in Antarctica?

- the change in temperature speed
- light and darkness
- the strength of the wind
- cloudless skies