



Antarctic Facts

Antarctica is the continent at the South Pole. Antarctica is surrounded by three oceans—the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian. It is the fifth largest continent and the coldest place on Earth. Because it is below the equator, winter in Antarctica takes place when it is summer in the United States. Metal shatters like glass in the brutal Antarctic winter. Temperatures drop to 120 below zero; a person without the right clothing would freeze solid in just a few minutes. Winds gusting up to 200 miles per hour come screaming down the ice, tearing into piles of snow.

With the exception of a few insects, Antarctica has no animal life on its land. However, penguins, seals, whales, krill, and seabirds thrive in the oceans around the continent. Likewise, few plants besides mosses grow on the ice-covered land of Antarctica.

No people live permanently on this continent, but Antarctica is known for its scientific stations. Many nations, including the U.S., Chile, Norway, Great Britain, and Australia have large research centers where scientists study earthquakes, gravity, oceans, and weather conditions.

From *81 Fresh and Fun Critical-Thinking Activities* by Laurie Rozakis.
Copyright © 1998 by Laurie Rozakis. Used by permission of Scholastic Inc.



Dear Parents

When students are answering questions about informational articles, it is important that they refer only to the actual article when formulating a response. They should not include background information from a television show or a book they may have read on the same subject unless the question specifically asks them to do so.



TIP OF THE WEEK

Have your child read the passage a second time and use crayons, colored pencils, or highlighters to mark information related to the five categories below; use a different color for each subject. When the time comes to answer the questions, your child should transfer the color-coded words to the proper places. This is a great strategy for organizing information.

The Questions



Write three facts from the story about each of the following topics:

Wildlife in or near Antarctica

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Location of Antarctica

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Climate of Antarctica

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Sciences being studied in Antarctica

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three countries that have scientific stations in Antarctica

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

We have completed this assignment together.

Child's Signature

Parent's Signature