

Name _____



Frozen Frontier

Directions: Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

Journey to the Coldest Place on Earth

Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, and driest continent on the planet, even though it is covered by a massive sheet of ice. During winter, temperatures can drop far below zero as long nights stretch for months. In summer, the sun never truly sets, but the air still stays chilly. Because the land is so cold, almost nothing grows there except small mosses and tiny patches of hardy plants.

Even though Antarctica looks empty, it is full of life. Penguins gather in large colonies along the icy coast where they raise their chicks. Seals rest on floating ice, diving into the water to hunt for fish and squid. Above the ocean, giant albatrosses soar for hours without stopping, riding the strong winds that circle the continent.

Scientists from around the world travel to Antarctica to study its unique environment. They investigate melting ice, freezing temperatures, and wildlife that must adapt to extreme conditions. Their research helps people understand how Earth's climate is changing and how this remote continent affects oceans and weather across the globe.

1. What are two reasons Antarctica is considered an extreme environment?
2. What do penguins use the coastline for?
3. Name two animals mentioned in the passage that live in or around Antarctica?
4. Why do scientists travel to Antarctica?
5. Using details from the passage, explain how Antarctica influences the rest of the world.