

Journey to the End of the Earth

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Journey to the End of the Earth is a travel story that takes us to the far and forlorn Antarctica, and unwinds its past and present. We are wonder struck when we come to know that early human civilisations had divested from Antarctica during the time dinosaurs inhabited the planet. The geographical shift that took place 130 millions ago changed the destiny of the continents.

Journey to the earth is an account of displacement, vanishing species and evolution of life on earth.

Let us Reflect and Write

Antarctica is a crucial element in the debate over climate change as there is fear of melting of glaciers in Antarctica because :

- A. Locate references of the above statement given in the text.
- B. Note down the sentences, expressions from the text.
- C. Now elaborate in context of the following points. You can add more points to the following.

Statements

- There is rapid increase in the human population.
- There is aggressive competition to find space to own.
- We are encroaching the habitat of wildlife.
- There is no honest, need based sharing of natural resources.
- For humans the future is not safe.

Discuss

Work in pairs and groups to collect information and discuss the following issues.

- a. Global warming
 - b. Climate change
 - c. Deforestation
 - d. Biodiversity loss.
- The **Paris Agreement** is a pact within the United Nations Framework Convention on **Climate** Change (UNFCCC) between 197 countries that focuses widely on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the impacts of climate change, and to provide financial assistance to developing countries affected by a changing climate. Read more to find more information.
 - Visit the official sites and read about the agreements and conventions on Climate change.
 - While reading take down notes. Share and discuss with the teacher and peers.

The following are some facts about Antarctica, read and add more to prepare questions for Quiz.

1. *The Dry Valleys in Antarctica are the driest places on earth. With such low humidity and moisture on this portion of the continent, snow and ice cannot even accumulate, which leaves the valleys just as a dusty expanse of dirt.*
2. *Antarctica is, on an average, the windiest place on earth. Scientists exploring this southern landmass have reported wind speeds that have reached up to 200 miles per hour.*
3. *The Antarctic Ice Sheet is the single biggest mass of ice in the world. The continent as a whole contains about 90 percent of the planet's freshwater ice and around 70 percent of the total fresh water on earth!*

You can prepare questions for quiz based on the facts. For example;

• Which place on an average is said to be the windiest place on earth?

• What is the highest recorded wind speed in Antarctica?

Creative Initiative

Antarctica is the world's most massive and mysterious landmass that stretches out to cover more than fourteen million square kilometers. It is also the fifth largest continent on earth. The landscape may look desolate to visitors but for the scientific minds there are hidden the most interesting facts in Antarctica.

Antarctica comes alive to the readers as a character that has shaped the destiny of Earth. Suppose yourself as *Antarctica*, write and narrate the story of Antarctica in first person narrative.

You can make use of the following cues for writing and can add more points:

- I am the spectacle-- white sheet of ice on the Earth as pure as divine nature.
- I am hiding within me the mysteries of Earth since time immemorial.
- I am devoid of signs of trees, concrete structures etc.
- My uninterrupted silence is broken by the storms and splitting of ice sheets.
- You can come to me and have the pleasure of the magical walk on the ocean.
- I am the soothsayer so i say- humans cannot always predict the course of nature.
- My ecosystem is simple but all encompassing.
- How would it be if i become a warm place!