

Life on the Cold Continent

Read through these questions before you listen to this week's Shortcut. Then, put your pencil down, and listen really carefully. Don't be tempted to start writing! You might miss information for a following question.

1. Indicate whether the following are true or false by marking "T" or "F" in the box.

- Antarctica contains 90% of the world's ice.
- Antarctica is a desert.
- Snowstorms happen all the time in winter in Antarctica.
- Researchers build igloos sometimes.
- Australia owns three sections of land in Antarctica.
- Absolutely no fresh fruit or vegetables are grown for human consumption in Antarctica.
- The Sahara Desert gets more rain than the interior of Antarctica
- It's possible for humans to swim in Antarctica.

2. What kind of scientific research is being done in Antarctica? Give at least one example of something that expeditioners are studying.

3. In full sentences, explore at least two similarities and two differences between how you live, and how Australians at our Antarctic research stations live.

4. Imagine you were in charge of employing people to work in Antarctica. You interview someone who is a brilliant scientist, but who has a reputation for throwing tantrums when things don't work out the way they want them to. Would you hire them? Why/why not?

5. This is a real question on a quiz given by the Australian Antarctic Program to people considering working in Antarctica. You have just arrived in the trades workshop and taken off all your cumbersome outdoor clothing prior to doing some welding. You are about to start when you realise you have left the welding helmet in another building just 20 metres away. It is windy and snowing outside and it seems that a blizzard is blowing up. What should you do?

- You really cannot be bothered spending 5 minutes getting all your gear back on. It is not far away – only 20 metres – so you make a run for it. You used to be a sprinter anyway!
- You put on all the outdoor gear again: over pants, boots, jumper, jacket, mittens, hat and snow goggles. What is another 5 minutes in the scheme of things anyway?
- It is only a small job that will take 2 minutes. No-one else is around so you put on your sunglasses for some protection and do it quickly.

6. Explain your choice for question 5.

7. Imagine you were going to Antarctica to live for the winter. Which five small items would you bring to remind you of home and keep you entertained? Why?
