

Chapter 25

Amazing Natural Phenomena

Given below are descriptions about some amazing naturally occuring phenomena in nature. Read about them and write their names :

These are amazing ice spikes formed due to the sun's rays that cause dimples on the surface of snow. These are found on the high mountain glaciers. They are like tall thin blades of hardened snow of 1.5-7 metres towards the normal direction of the sun.



1 _____

It is a rare natural phenomenon usually seen in extremely cold countries. It occurs in water bodies like rivers when their surface ice gathers in the centre. The slow moving river current rotates and forms an ice disc. These discs have been found to be of nearly 500 ft in diameter and in groups of different sizes.



2 _____

This beautiful natural phenomenon is also known as the Northern Lights. It occurs on the magnetic poles when the solar wind (a stream of charged particles from the sun) interacts with elements in the earth's atmosphere with a speed of 300-1200 km/sec. This leads to natural light displays in the sky.



3 _____

It is known as an algal bloom (large concentration of aquatic microorganisms). This phenomenon is caused by high levels of phytoplankton (algae) accumulation in water which converts the entire area of an ocean or beach into a blood-red colour. It can be harmful or harmless according to the amount of natural toxins present in it.



4 _____

It is the mysterious movement of stones of the packed-mud desert of the Death Valley. It has been a centre of scientific controversy for decades. Some scientists believe that this is caused due to the combination of strong winds and surface ice. But this fact is not fully supported by physics calculations.



5 _____

It is a continuously rotating thunderstorm (groups) of clouds, strong winds, heavy rain, snow, sleet, hail, sound and lightning caused due to temperature and moisture difference in atmospheric layers. It can occur anywhere in the world but in the United States.



6 _____

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