Learn and think

Glaciers

1 Can you answer any of these questions?

1 What are glaciers? ☐
2 Where do you find them? ☐
3 How are they made? ☐
4 What happens to them? ☐
5 Why are people worried about them? ☐

2 Texts a–e answer the questions in Activity 1. Read and match the answers with the questions.

a Glaciers often change size. If a glacier gets bigger, it is a healthy glacier. Many people these days are worried because glaciers are getting smaller much more quickly than they are growing. This is a sign that the temperature on Earth is rising.

b You need very special conditions to make a glacier. You need a place that has very cold winters with lots of snowfall and very cool summers that won't melt the ice. All glaciers start life as snowflakes. Billions of snowflakes fall onto the cold ground where they don't melt. As more and more snow falls, the weight of the snow on top presses on the snow below, and it turns into ice. The more the snow falls, the deeper the ice gets. This sheet of ice gets so heavy that it starts to move.

c Glaciers are found all over the world in every continent. They cover about 10% of the surface of the world. There are two different kinds of glaciers: **valley glaciers** are found in high mountains, and **continental glaciers** are found around the North and South poles. These glaciers are also called ice sheets.

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