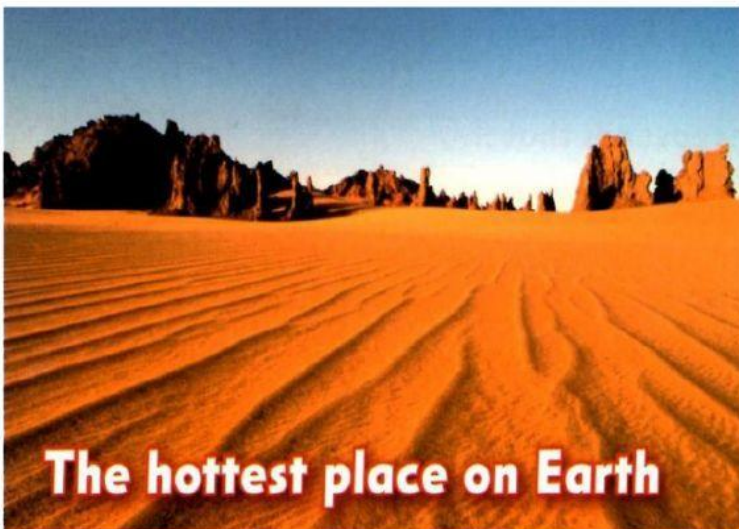




Read these texts about extreme weather

## High and low



### The hottest place on Earth

On September 13th 1922, scientists in El Azizia in Libya **recorded** a temperature of  $57.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This is the hottest temperature ever recorded.

El Azizia is near the Sahara Desert. Scientists believe that the temperature in the desert is even hotter than the temperature in El Azizia, but there are no weather stations in the desert to record the temperature.

Libya is one of the hottest places in the world because a hot, sandy wind blows across the country in the spring and autumn. The wind can raise the temperature by  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  in just a **couple** of hours. Also, there is very little water in the desert and it **hardly** ever rains. In some parts of Libya, ten years can pass without rain. In Uweinat on the **border** between Libya and Egypt, the last rain was recorded in 1998.

The **temperature** changes all the time. Summer is hotter than winter, and days are usually warmer than nights. If we want to know the correct temperature, we look at a **thermometer**. Thermometers show us the temperature in **degrees**. For example, if the temperature is 30 degrees **Celsius** ( $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), it is a nice, warm day. However,  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  is hot and uncomfortable.

If the temperature is  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , it is a cold day. Water freezes at  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but in very cold places the temperature falls below **zero**. Very cold temperatures are measured in negative numbers, for example, minus five degrees Celsius ( $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).





In 1983, Russian scientists working in Antarctica recorded a temperature of  $-89^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This is the coldest temperature ever recorded.

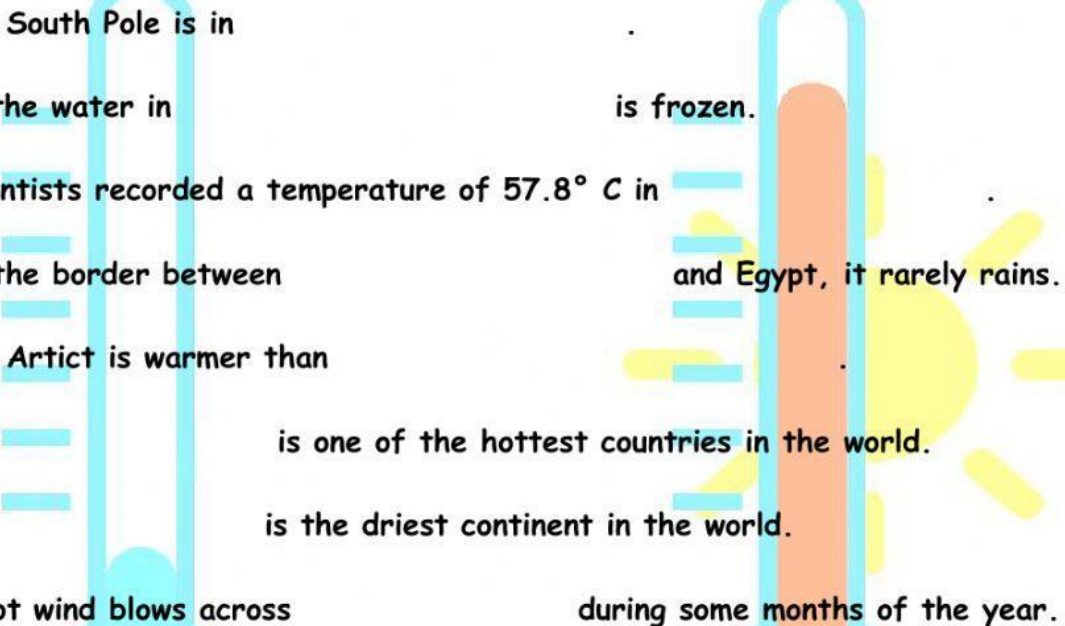
Antarctica is colder than the Arctic because the snow surface in Antarctica is higher than in the Arctic. Also, the North Pole is in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. Although most of the sea is frozen, it is not as cold as the South Pole in Antarctica. Under the snow in Antarctica there is land, not ocean. Land

can get colder than a frozen sea, so Antarctica is colder than the Arctic.

Antarctica is also the driest continent on Earth. It gets less than ten centimetres of rain every year. This means that Antarctica is a desert, because a desert is a place where there is less than 25.4 centimetres of rain every year. There is a lot of water in Antarctica, but it is all frozen in huge ice sheets. However, you can still get **sunburn** in Antarctica, because the snow reflects the sun.



### Choose Libya or Antarctica

- 
1. The South Pole is in .
  2. All the water in . is frozen.
  3. Scientists recorded a temperature of  $57.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  in .
  4. On the border between . and Egypt, it rarely rains.
  5. The Arctic is warmer than .
  6. . is one of the hottest countries in the world.
  7. . is the driest continent in the world.
  8. A hot wind blows across . during some months of the year.

### Choose the correct word to make true sentences

- 1 We use scientists / thermometers to show us the temperature.
- 2 A temperature of  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  /  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  isn't very comfortable.
- 3 When the temperature falls below zero /  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the weather is very cold.
- 4 El Azizia is in Russia / Libya.
- 5 Scientists believe / don't believe that some places are hotter than El Azizia.
- 6 In Libya it's hot / cold and windy in the autumn.
- 7 Russian scientists in Antarctica / the Arctic recorded the coldest temperature ever.
- 8 There is lots of / isn't much rain in Antarctica.