

The journey of a lifetime

We talk to two soldiers from Sirius, Denmark's military force in Greenland, about the incredible journeys that they've made there.

Hello, Rolf and Magnus. You've travelled all around Greenland with Sirius. Tell us about it.

Rolf: Magnus has worked for Sirius for one year, and I have worked for Sirius for two years. Our job is to patrol Greenland's coast. We travel about 30 km a day. It's very hard, but we love it.

How do you travel in Greenland?

Magnus: Greenland is covered with ice and snow, so we always travel by dog sledge.

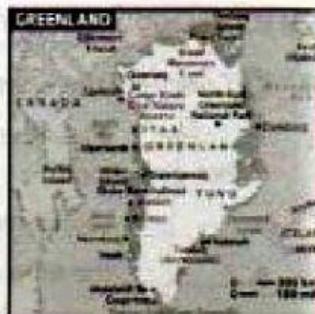
Rolf: Unlike cars, dogs don't break down in the cold. In temperatures of -31°C degrees, if your vehicle stops, you'll die!



Magnus: Thirteen dogs pull our sledge. They've worked for Sirius for three years. They're like our family now!

Rolf: And they protect us. If a polar bear is near, they make a special noise, so we know to be careful.

Magnus: We've seen a lot of polar bears. But luckily, only from a distance!



Where do you sleep?

Rolf: Sirius has built a lot of cabins along the coast, so we sometimes sleep there. But we usually sleep in our tent.

Have you ever had an accident?

Magnus: I haven't, but Rolf has. Once he fell off the sledge, and cut his leg badly. However, he hasn't had frostbite.

Rolf: You've had it four times!

Magnus: It's very painful. It's when a bit of skin on your fingers or face freezes and dies!

Reading

1 Read and listen. What type of text is this?

a) a story b) an advert c) an article

2 Match the words with the definitions.

1 patrol	a) small, simple houses, often made of wood
2 break down	b) to move around an area to keep it safe
3 protect	c) to stop working
4 cabins	d) to defend from attack

3 Read the text again. Circle T (true) or F (false).

1 Rolf and Magnus are police officers.	T F
2 Rolf and Magnus have travelled around Denmark with Sirius.	T F
3 Rolf and Magnus's job is very difficult.	T F
4 They travel around the mountains in Greenland.	T F

4 Answer the questions. Write complete sentences.

1 What is Rolf and Magnus's job?

2 What's the weather like in Greenland?

3 Why don't they travel by car?

4 How do the dogs protect them?

5 How did Rolf hurt himself?

6 What is frostbite?