Reading

Read the blog entry and mark the statements as *T* (true) or *F* (false).

Dean has already been there for a month. .....

2 He is in Antarctica. .....

3 The very cold and dry climate forms a polar desert. .....

4 The sun doesn't shine in the winter months. .....

5 There's a great variety of plant life in the Arctic. .....

Dean from the Land of the Midnight Sun
Life in the Arctic



Week 2 – Already adjusting to the Arctic

Hi, I'm back online!

Everyone at the research station is really friendly and helpful. There are biologists and scientists here from several universities doing their own research. It's early June and the weather is mild, with an average temperature of 3° F and humid. They say the temperature can rise to a "warm" 26° F during the summer months. I have learned quite a few things during my first week here that I want to share with you.

The Canadian Arctic is home to some of the largest ice caps and glaciers in the world. It also has a polar desert which consists not of sand but gravel and rock. That is because the climate is very cold and dry with temperatures rarely going over 50° F in the summer months. There is little rain, and when there is it turns to snow which covers the hard ground. The winter months are long and dark. It is only during the summer months that we have sunshine or the *midnight sun**. On a clear day it is visible for 24 hours. This continuous light, however, makes it difficult to fall asleep.

The research station is next to a beautiful Arctic lake which we use as a water source. Apart from that there is little plant and wildlife up here. Very little grows here due to severe drops in temperature and the hard rocky ground. What does grow, are tiny plants that manage to find shelter during the freezing winter months. As temperatures continue to rise due to global warming, new plant life will form and the existing life will adapt or become extinct. That is what I'm going to study with our team of biologists for the next few months.

I have to get ready now. We're going on a hike to a nearby glacier. There is a light drizzle outside and it's quite foggy today, which should make the trip exciting and possibly slippery. Well, bye for now. I'll write an update as soon as I get back.

Dean

*the sun which remains in the horizon at midnight

LIVEWORKSHEETS