

# Ancient Life Discovered in Antarctica

Dale has told us horror stories of tents flying off across the ice.

This is easily the most \_\_\_\_\_ diving I've ever done.

Leaking in water.

Surface, surface.

The **quest** to film \_\_\_\_\_ and **otherworldly** lifeforms on our planet, took the team to Lake Untersee, the most remote dive location on Earth.

Lake Untersee is one of the largest freshwater lakes in \_\_\_\_\_ Antarctica. The ice that covers its surface never melts.

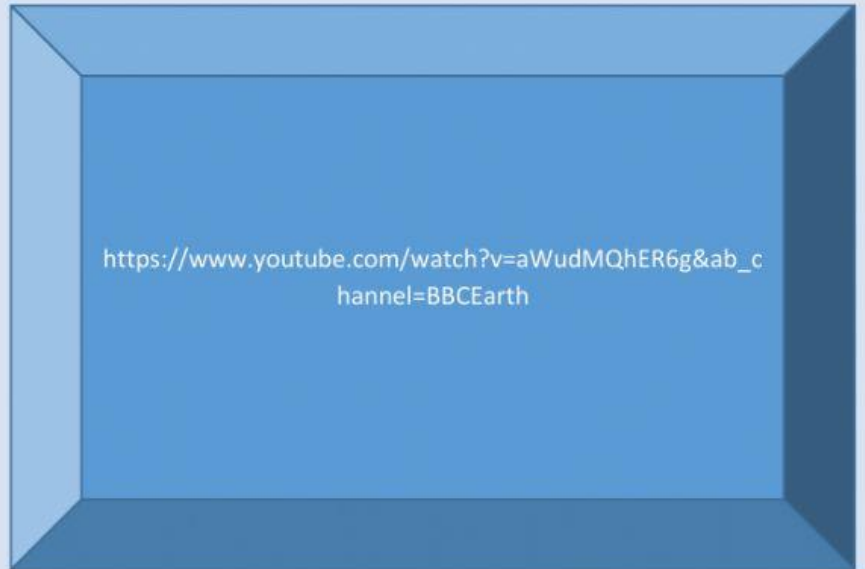
After weeks of trouble just getting to the research base, the team continues for another 140 kilometres transporting almost a ton of specialist \_\_\_\_\_.

More humans have touched down on the surface of the moon, **than have dived in this lake.**

The first task is to \_\_\_\_\_ camp. And the only place for that, is on the frozen surface of the lake.

So, what we're doing now is **putting the tents up** and then **weighting them down**, because the wind can \_\_\_\_\_ within 2 minutes.

No notice, a hundred miles an hour, and **literally** blow the camp down. So, we can't move without securing \_\_\_\_\_.



1:30

Beneath 3 metres of **solid** ice,  
Lake Untersee is \_\_\_\_\_  
living giant Stromatolites.

A life form so **hardy**, it can exist in  
even the most extreme  
conditions.

They have \_\_\_\_\_ freezing  
temperatures here for thousands  
of years.

This is the only place on the  
planet where we have the  
formation of these large, **conical** stromatolites, growing to the \_\_\_\_\_ that they do. This is what  
makes this lake just so wonderful to study.

After 3 days of drilling, the hole is wide enough for the divers. Camera operators Justin and Hugh  
**suit up for** their dive in some of the most dangerous waters in the world. With everything \_\_\_\_\_,  
the team get ready to dive.

Justin and Hugh have special rebreather apparatus to allow them to \_\_\_\_\_ for longer.  
Their **kit** is checked and **double checked**, as defective equipment **could prove fatal**. Finally, they're  
ready.

Are you ready, Justin? - I'm very ready. I've never been so \_\_\_\_\_ to get into really cold water.

The water is just above freezing. The divers are expected to be underwater for 90 minutes. But just  
minutes into the dive, Justin's breather **gear develops a** \_\_\_\_\_.

Three days from civilisation and help, they need to get him out fast.

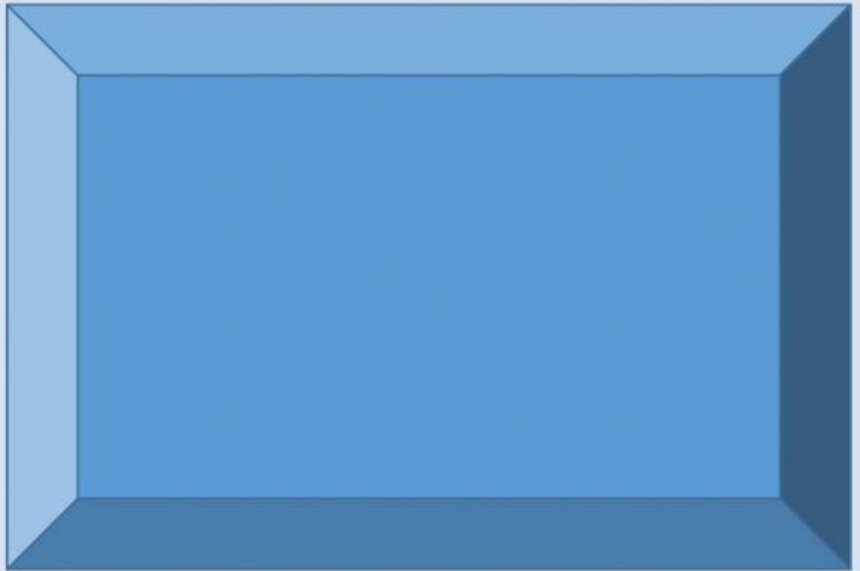
**- We're leaking in water.**

A leak can mix with the equipment and create a \_\_\_\_\_, that could burn Justin's mouth and  
lungs.

**Surface, surface.**

The team on the surface can do nothing \_\_\_\_\_ as calm as possible, and help lead  
Justin back to the hole in the ice.

\_\_\_\_\_ (long) Justin is under, \_\_\_\_\_ (high) his  
chances of **severe injury**.







4:21

You OK? - Yeah, I'm fine.

Justin's been lucky. He **aborted the dive** in \_\_\_\_\_, but they won't be able to dive again today.

- It was totally fine, and then when we started to **descend**, water came forward, into our inhale, and it was spicy, \_\_\_\_\_ water.

It's been a disappointing day, but their troubles are **far from over**.

As the wind **picks up**, it **heralds** a major Antarctic storm. The team **are confined to** their \_\_\_\_\_, and the storm **rages** into the following day for a full 24 hours.

- Dale has told us horror stories of tents flying off across the ice. This could be a really long night.

When the weather clears the next day, the team need to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Our dive hole's filled with snow. And I've got to dig it out.

Finally, conditions are perfect. Justin's gear has been repaired and it's time for another \_\_\_\_\_.

What they finally see below, is beyond their wildest imagination. **Giant stromatolites.**

*Ancient living organisms that have taken thousands of years to grow. They first appeared closer in time to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Earth, three and a half billion years ago, than the present day. Living fossils, thriving in one of the world's most extreme locations.*

- It feels like you're entering a portal to a different world, when you go through that hole in the ice. And then you get down there and it looks like something you've never seen in your \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Scientists hope that studying these giant stromatolites in such a **hostile environment**, will help us understand if there could be life on icy worlds \_\_\_\_\_ our own.



*This small hole in the ice of Lake Untersee could prove to be a window into \_\_\_\_\_ secrets on other planets.*

