

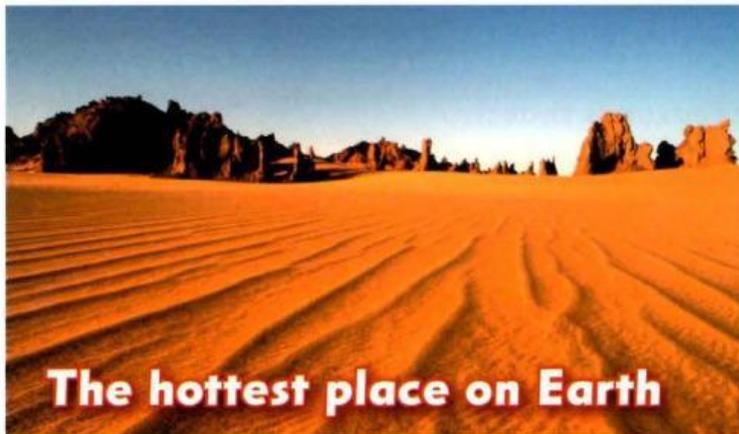
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Extreme weather

Reading

Before reading

- 1 Look at the photos. Discuss these questions.
 - 1 Where do you think these places are?
 - 2 What do you think the weather is like in these places?
 - 3 Would you like to visit these places? Why or why not?
- 2  Read and listen.



The hottest place on Earth

On September 13th 1922, scientists in El Azizia in Libya recorded a temperature of 57.8°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°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.

High and low

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°C), it is a nice, warm day. However, 40°C is hot and uncomfortable.

If the temperature is 5°C, it is a cold day. Water freezes at 0°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°C).



In 1983, Russian scientists working in Antarctica recorded a temperature of -89°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.

Vocabulary

3 Use the words from the text to complete the sentences.

- 1 El Paso is on the border between the United States and Mexico.
- 2 In El Paso it _____ ever rains in the summer.
- 3 In winter in Russia, the temperature is often below _____.
- 4 One hundred degrees _____ is written as 100°C .
- 5 The _____ on the moon is about 107°C in the day.
- 6 At night, the temperature on the moon falls to about -153°C . That's a difference of 260 _____.
- 7 Scientists in Libya _____ a temperature of 57.8°C in 1922.
- 8 In the desert, the temperature can change a lot in a _____ of hours.
- 9 If you want to know the temperature, look at a _____.
- 10 You will get _____ if you lie in the sun for too long.

Reading comprehension

4 Write *Libya* or *Antarctica*.

- 1 The South Pole is in Antarctica.
- 2 All the water in _____ is frozen.
- 3 Scientists recorded a temperature of 57.8°C in _____.
- 4 On the border between _____ and Egypt it hardly ever 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 _____ for some of the year.

5 Circle the correct words to make true sentences.

- 1 We use *scientists* / thermometers to show us the temperature.
- 2 A temperature of 40°C / 20°C isn't very comfortable.
- 3 When the temperature falls below zero / 30°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.

6 Answer the questions.

- 1 What does C mean in 30°C? Celsius
- 2 What are measured in negative numbers? _____
- 3 Are there any weather stations in the desert? _____
- 4 When was the last rain recorded in Uweinat? _____
- 5 What was the coldest temperature ever recorded? _____
- 6 What is in the middle of the Arctic Ocean? _____
- 7 What is under the snow in Antarctica? _____
- 8 How much rain does Antarctica get? _____

7 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

- 1 What clothes do you wear on hot days and on cold days?
- 2 What is the hottest place you have been to? What is the coldest place?
- 3 How many hot countries can you name? How many cold countries?
- 4 Would you prefer to live in a very hot or a very cold country?