3 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 03 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).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

... and the coldest place

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Writing

More words: *Describing places, page 52*

Cherrapunji is one of the wettest places on Earth. Cherrapunji is in India, high in the Khasi Hills. There is a lot of rain in the hills and most of it falls in the summer. In 1974 there were 2,455 centimetres of rain in Cherrapunji. This was the highest annual rainfall ever recorded in one place.

Cherrapunji is a wonderful place to visit. There are lots of hills and valleys, so it is a great place to hike. There are beautiful, high waterfalls and amazing views from the hills and cliffs. You can walk in the lovely, green forests, explore some amazing, old caves or go fishing in the deep, blue rivers.

The rain in Cherrapunji usually falls at night. During the day it is often warm and sunny, but remember to pack an umbrella. The weather can always change.

Use adjectives to make your writing more interesting. When you use more than one adjective, write them in this order:

opinion	size	age	colour	material
amazing	big	old	blue	wooden
funny	deep	new	white	glass

You can explore some amazing, old caves.
You can go fishing in the deep, blue rivers.

7 Put the adjectives in the correct order.

1 I like to visit interesting, old places. — old / interesting
2 We walked across a _____ bridge. — small / wooden
3 The children played in the _____ snow. — white / deep
4 Our school has got a _____ door. — blue / big / wooden
5 Have you seen my _____ trainers? — new / amazing / green

8 Write about Valdez. Use the notes below. Write the adjectives in the correct order.

Valdez (Alaska, USA) = one of the snowiest cities in the world
January 16th 1990 – 116 centimetres of snow = highest daily snowfall ever recorded
mountains (rocky / high) – great place to climb – skiing, snowboarding
temperature (cold) – remember clothes (thick / woolly / nice)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Descriptive Writing

Valdez (Alaska, USA)

Complete the text with the words in the box.

thick woolly clothes – one of the snowiest cities in the world – Alaska, USA – highest daily snowfall ever recorded - very cold – high and rocky mountains – great place to climb – skiing and snowboarding – 116 centimetres of snow –

Valdez is in _____, and it is _____.

In Valdez, there are _____, so it is a _____. You can also go _____ there.

On January 16th 1990, there were _____ in one day. This was the _____.

The temperature in Valdez is _____, so you must remember to wear _____.

Loliepop CLUB

LIVEWORKSHEETS