

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Information Report

ANTARCTICA

Classification

Antarctica is the coldest, windiest and loneliest of all the seven continents. It also has the highest mountains.

Temperature

In the coldest parts of Antarctica the temperature is usually between -40° and -70° Celsius during winter.

Description

Amount of daylight

In Antarctica, day and night are different from what we are used to. During the coldest time, it is dark all day as well as all night.

Ice shelf

Antarctica is so cold that some of the oceans around it freeze as well. This is called an ice shelf. Because of the ice shelf which forms, ships cannot reach the coast. Sometimes bits of the ice shelf break off. These are called icebergs.

Background information

Travellers to Antarctica

Icebergs are very dangerous for ships because usually an iceberg is very big and only the peak is seen on top of the ocean, with the rest underwater. Travellers to Antarctica need special ships which can sail through the ice-covered waters. The ships need to be very strong to get through the thick ice. Special ships called ice-breakers are needed if the ice is extra thick.

Language Features

Use of general nouns, e.g. Antarctica

Use of timeless present typical of much scientific writing, e.g. break, freeze

Use of relating verbs, e.g. is, has

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. during winter, between -40° and -70° Celsius, during the coldest time

Use of adjectives, e.g. cold, dangerous, big, windiest - note the superlative - iest and - est endings which show it is the strongest form

Use of action verbs, e.g. sail, freeze

Sentences and statements used throughout

Coherence of text. First phrase in sentences (Grammatical theme) relates directly to Antarctica in all sections except the last. This keeps the focus of information on the topic

Use of complex sentences, e.g. Because of the ice shelf which forms, ships cannot reach the coast.(Makes the reason the focus of the sentence, because it comes first as the grammatical theme)