

What Lives in Antarctica?

by Linda Haas Manley

What Lives in Antarctica?

by Linda Haas Manley

Antarctica is the icy **continent** that contains the South Pole. Of all the continents, it is the coldest and the driest. In fact, because it gets less than 10 inches of rain and snow each year, Antarctica is a desert.

Surprisingly, there are plants and animals that can live in this cold, dry place. While much of Antarctica is covered in snow and ice, some areas are rocky, and in those places, various types of plant and animal life can survive.

Amplify Atlas™

Amplify Education, Inc.
55 Washington Street
Suite 800
Brooklyn, NY 11201
www.amplify.com

© 2014 Amplify Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, transmitted, transcribed, stored in a retrieval system, or translated into any other language in any form or by any means without the written permission of Amplify Education, Inc.

What Lives in Antarctica?

Level X

Author: Linda Haas Manley

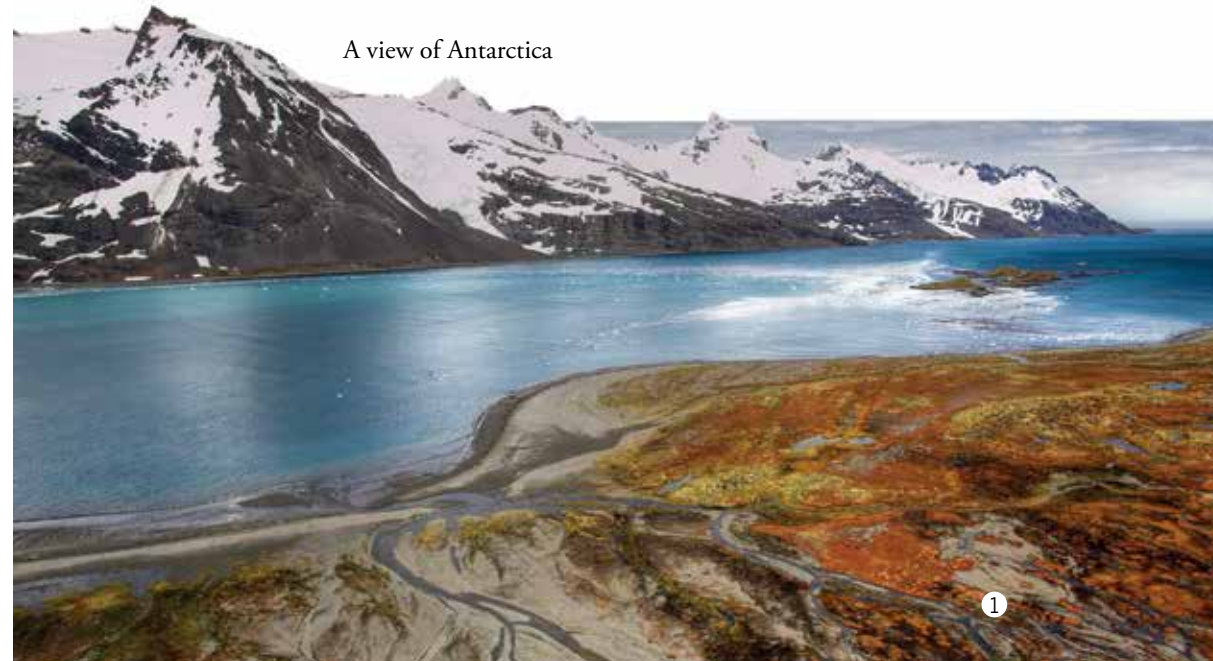
Image Credits

Cover: Tui De Roy/Corbis/Image Library; p. 1: Andy Rouse/Corbis/Image Library; p. 2: Bob Gibbons/Science Photo Library; p. 3: National Geographic/Getty Images; p. 4: Doug Allan/The Image Bank/Getty Images

ISBN: 978-1-941554-71-5

Printed in the United States of America

A view of Antarctica





Pearlwort is one of the flowering plants that grow in Antarctica.

Plants

Some tiny plants in Antarctica **survive** by living just under rocks, which protect them from drying out. Other plants in the continent are able to go **dormant**, or fall into a type of sleep. Mosses are one kind of Antarctic plant that can do this. Mosses go dormant and dry when there is not enough water, and they come back to life when water returns. They grow in groups, which helps them gather water.

Two kinds of **flowering plants** are able to grow in the warmest and wettest part of the continent. These plants can also go dormant in order to survive.

Small Animals

Some insects and other small animals, such as worms, snails, and spiders, are able to live in Antarctica's cold weather. They warm up and get active when temperatures are above freezing, and when temperatures fall below freezing, they slow down to save energy. Many of these tiny animals live in the feathers of birds, while others, such as worms, make their home in the soil.

This small Antarctic animal is called a midge.



Birds

A few birds live on this cold continent, and some, like penguins, live in both the water and the land. A layer of fat under the skin and densely packed feathers help to keep penguins warm. The six different kinds of Antarctic penguins give birth to their young on land, but they eat ocean animals such as fish and **krill**. Penguins also serve as **prey**, or food, for mammals that live in the water surrounding Antarctica, such as seals and whales. There are other types of birds here, too, such as seagulls.

It is amazing how many plants and animals can live in the desert of Antarctica!

Adult and baby emperor penguins huddle together for warmth.



Glossary

continent (n.): one of Earth's large land masses. The seven continents are Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia.

dormant (adj.): not active, but able to become active

flowering plants (n.): plants that can grow flowers

krill (n.): very small creatures in the ocean that are the main food of some whales

prey (n.): an animal that is hunted by another animal for food

survive (v.): to be able to live

Level X

Informational

What Lives in Antarctica?

Total Running Words: **355**

Lexile: **1010L**



Published and distributed by **Amplify.**

