

Name _____

Word Count: 186

Antarctica

Sometimes called the “last great wilderness,” Antarctica is 8
 special. It is one of the harshest, coldest, and most beautiful 19
 places in the world. The planet’s southernmost continent is 28
 unlike any other area on Earth. 34

Antarctica is the world’s highest, coldest, and driest 42
 continent. There are mountain ranges on both the mainland 51
 and the surrounding islands, and Antarctica also has active 60
 volcanoes. Temperatures are incredibly cold, falling below 67
 -100 °F in the winter. Although it looks nothing like the 78
 deserts of the Sahara or the American Southwest, Antarctica 87
 is also a desert. The continent receives very little rainfall 97
 and surprisingly little snow. 101

Even though Antarctica is a desert, it holds most of the 112
 world’s fresh water. This water is stored in an ice sheet 123
 about a mile thick that covers the land. 131

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Desert conditions and extreme cold make life in 139
Antarctica difficult. Antarctica is famous for its wildlife, 147
including penguins and seals, that have adapted to its harsh 157
environment. No humans live permanently in Antarctica, 164
although scientists and tourists visit every year. People from 173
all over the world come to study, explore, and protect this 184
special place. 186

Page 2 of 2

Number of Errors

1	2	3	4	5	6

Accuracy (%):

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Reading Rate (Words Per Minute):

