

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

June 23, 2016

Article

“Plane lands at South Pole for daring winter rescue” Wednesday, June 22, 2016 in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, Main, page A2

Pre-Reading:

Can you find the South Pole on a map? What do you think it is like at the South Pole? Write a short journal entry or draw a picture to show/tell what you think.

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today’s article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the “context,” or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

Antarctica

atmosphere

complacent

evacuate

hemisphere

hydraulics

instruments

isolated

logistics

outpost

peninsula

pitch-dark

polar

remote

telescopes

Comprehension:

1. Why was the worker being evacuated from the remote U.S. science station at the South Pole?
2. How far (and how long) was the journey to the South Pole from the British base on the Antarctic peninsula?
3. How long were the plane's crew going to rest and wait before refueling and returning to Rothera?
4. How many emergency evacuations from the Amundsen-Scott station have there been since 1999?
5. Between which months it is too risky for routine flights to the Amundsen-Scott station?
6. When is the next time that the sun will rise in the South Pole this year?
7. How many people are at the station?
8. What was the temperature at the South Pole on Tuesday afternoon?
9. Scientists have had a station at the South Pole since when?

Post-Reading:

Read the following passage from the article and discuss the following questions in a group:

“The National Science Foundation decided last week to mount the rescue operation because a staffer needed care that can't be provided there. The station has a doctor and a physician assistant and is connected to doctors in the U.S. for consults, West said. There are 48 people — 39 men and nine women — at the station.”

What other kind of careers do you think the people that are stationed at the South Pole have? Why do you think these careers are important to have there? What do you think it would be like to live on the South Pole? Would you be interested in going to the South Pole? Why/why not? What do you think would be the most difficult part of living at the South Pole?

Building Language Skills:

Explore the resources available, [here](#), on the National Geographic website about Antarctica or conduct your own research on the south pole. Use what you learn to expand your warm-up exercise. Pretend you are a scientist living at the South Pole, or an explorer who has just discovered the South Pole for the first time. Write a journal describing your experiences at the South Pole. What does it look like? How did you get there? What does an average day at the South Pole look like? Make sure to include all five of your sense to describe what you experience. You might also want to include drawings/pictures.

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. Because the worker was sick and needs care that can't be provided at the station.
2. The journey to the South Pole from the British base on the Antarctic peninsula was 1,500 miles and took nine hours.
3. The plane's crew were to rest and wait for at least 10 hours before refueling and returning to Rothera.
4. There have been three emergency evacuations from the Amundsen-Scott station since 1999.
5. Between February and October
6. The sun will not rise at the South Pole till the first day of Spring in September.
7. There are 48 people – 39 men and nine women – at the station.
8. The temperature at the South Pole on Tuesday afternoon was minus 75 degrees, with a wind chill that made it feel like minus 39.
9. Scientists have had a station at the South Pole since 1956.