

## **NEWS BREAK**

**Article: Antarctica growing into a trendy vacation spot**

**Section: MAIN, A6**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, February 11, 2018**, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.*

### **Standards:**

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1**

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2**

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### **Objectives:**

Students will read an article about increasing tourism in Antarctica and how it's impacting the environment. Students will discuss how tourist-based activities are influencing Antarctica's environment. They will also debate whether China's new rules will help minimize the human footprint on Antarctica?

### Pre-Reading Discussion:



- Do you recognize this animal? What is it? Where does it live? What can you infer?
- What do you think the article will be about? Are there clues in the picture?

### Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“But in Antarctica, a remote and increasingly **vulnerable** continent whose primary residents are researchers, tourism comes at an environmental cost. The cruise ships bringing travelers from Chilean and Argentine ports, for example, also carry air pollutants that can further devastate the region.”

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

**Vulnerable Guess:**

**Vulnerable Definition:**

### Comprehension Questions:

1. What incident in Antarctica sparked a sense of urgency among tourists eager to check the continent off their travel bucket lists?
2. That’s especially the case for Chinese tourists, so much so that the Chinese government on Thursday established a new list of rules for people visiting Antarctica. What are the new rules?

3. Though it's the coldest, driest and windiest place on Earth, what does Antarctica offer tourists?
4. Its beauty and the threat of increasing Antarctic ice loss are enough to get tourists to pay at least \$\_\_\_\_\_ to visit the world's only continent without cities or time zones.
5. Tourism in Antarctica has risen from fewer than 2,000 visitors in the 1980s to more than \_\_\_\_\_ visitors from around the world last year.
6. As far as tourism numbers go, Antarctica's might not seem high, especially compared with the tens of millions of people each year visiting countries such as France, Spain and the United States. But in Antarctica, a remote and increasingly vulnerable continent whose primary residents are researchers, tourism comes at an \_\_\_\_\_ cost. The cruise ships bringing travelers from Chilean and Argentine ports, for example, also carry air pollutants that can further devastate the region.
7. Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration officials first announced the new set of rules for behavior in Antarctica in September, after realizing it was one of four countries that had signed the Antarctic Treaty but had not established regulations for its citizens, the South China Morning Post reported. What are three other countries that signed the Antarctic Treaty?
8. There weren't any tourists visiting Antarctica in \_\_\_\_\_, when the treaty was created and signed by a dozen nations that supported peaceful scientific study there. Since then, the number of signatory countries has grown to 53.
9. Chinese citizens last year made up 12 percent of Antarctica's visitors, with about 5,500 people making trips that typically include chartered flights or cruises that cost at least 100,000 yuan, or almost \$\_\_\_\_\_.
10. In addition to protecting the continent, China's rules are meant to support what else?

**Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

- What did you know about Antarctica prior to reading this article?
- Would you be interested in visiting Antarctica? Why or why not?

**“What used to be Antarctic tourism in the late '80s through the '90s was generally people of middle age or older going on cruises and small ships where they went ashore at a few locations and they looked at wildlife, historic sites and maybe visited one current station,” Alan Hemmings, a polar legal expert who once commanded a British base in Antarctica, told USA Today in 2013.**

**“But there's an increasing diversification of the activities now so it's much more action orientated. Now people want to go paragliding, water skiing, diving or a variety of other things,” he said.**

- How is more tourist-based activities influencing Antarctica's environment?
- What is your opinion? Should Antarctica turn into more of a tourist attraction, or should tourism be limited and focus be returned to mainly research? Why or why not?

**China's new regulations mandate that tourists and tour groups minimize their footprint on Antarctica's environment, and bans them from taking part in any activities that could harm or disturb wildlife. Inspectors will watch tourists' actions, and those who violate the policy will be banned from visiting Antarctica for up to three years, the Post wrote.**

- Do you think the new rules will help minimize the human footprint on Antarctica? Why or why not?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2018 The Seattle Times Company

## **Newsbreak Answer Key: February 11, 2018**

### **Pre-Reading Discussion:**

Answers will vary

### **Vocabulary Building:**

**Vulnerable:** Susceptible to physical or emotional attack or harm: "We were in a vulnerable position."

### **Comprehension Answers:**

1. Last summer, a behemoth iceberg detached from one of Antarctica's largest floating ice shelves.
2. No hunting. No leaving behind solid waste. And no touching or feeding the penguins, according to the South China Morning Post.
3. It offers an adventure to tourists unlike any other: camping on glaciers, seeing king penguins up close, kayaking around icebergs and attending world-class scientific lectures.
4. \$5,000
5. 45,000
6. Environmental
7. The other countries are India, Poland and Ecuador, according to the Post.
8. 1959
9. \$16,000
10. Its sustainable development in Antarctica, the Post reported. China has four Antarctic research sites and last week began working on a fifth, which is expected to be ready by 2022.

### **Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay**

**Questions:** Answers will vary